



Bible Point ▶

Jesus gives us new life.

Bible Verse

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- play a game to learn that the tomb was empty,
 - hear about Jesus' resurrection,
 - understand that spring reminds us of the new life Jesus brings, and
 - discover that the sadness of Jesus' death turned into something wonderful.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus rises on the third day.



**Mark
16:1-8**

One of the saddest statements in the whole Bible is Mark 14:50. Jesus had poured himself into the 12 disciples for three years. But when he surrendered to the authorities, “all his disciples deserted him and ran away.” Jesus, the Son of God, was left to face an agonizing and undeserved death alone.

Fortunately, the story doesn't end there. Easter changed everything!

Why do we celebrate Easter? The Apostle Paul eloquently tells us, “If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins...For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:17, 56-57). What more could we ask? “Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Prayer

- Read John 11:25.
- How can you thank Jesus this week for his gift of salvation?
- How can you pass on the joy of this gift to the children?
- Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for giving your life up for me. Please help me to understand the message behind your action. Help me to pass this on to the children by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Garden Mural —Make coffee filter butterflies to add to the garden mural.	Paper loops, spray bottle, water, coffee filters, washable markers, tape	
	Option 2: Heavy Stones —Take turns pushing each other in a cardboard box to see what it would be like to push a heavy stone.	Cardboard boxes	
	Option 3: Angels —Dress up as angels and tell people good news.	Old bedsheets or towels, Christmas tinsel, aluminum foil	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Smell spices, and learn that women took spices to Jesus' tomb.	Vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, lotion	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear what happened when three women visited Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.	Bible, scissors, glue stick, craft sticks	
	Do the Bible Story —Play a singing game and celebrate Jesus' resurrection.	Bedsheet, CD player	
Closing 	Right in the End —Teach Whiskers that God can make things turn out better than we can imagine.		
	New Life Mural —Hang their butterflies on the mural, and thank God that Jesus gives us new life.	Butterflies from Option 1, garden mural from Lesson 6, tape	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. "How did you celebrate that Jesus gives us new life?" or "Why can we be happy at Easter time?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► *Jesus gives us new life.***
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What do you think angels look like?" or "What do you like best about Easter?"

■ Option 1: Garden Mural

SUPPLIES: paper loops, spray bottle filled with water, coffee filters, washable markers, tape

Before class, make loops by taping the ends of 1x2-inch strips of paper together. Using a spray bottle filled with water, dampen coffee filters. Give each child a dampened coffee filter and a paper loop. Encourage children to use washable markers to scribble on the coffee filters. Point out how the colors run and make pretty designs on the damp paper. Show them how to push their coffee filters through the paper loops and then fan out the edges of the filter to create "butterfly wings."

As children work, make comments such as "Butterflies remind us of new life in the spring" or "Butterflies come out of a cocoon just as Jesus came out of the tomb." Remind children that ► *Jesus gives us new life.* Set the finished butterflies aside to dry.

teacher tips

Each child will need a butterfly to put on your garden mural during the closing activity. In case some of your children do not choose this option, either make some extra butterflies at home or ask volunteers to make some to use during the closing activity.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



■ Option 2: Heavy Stones

SUPPLIES: 1 or 2 cardboard boxes

Set out one or two large cardboard boxes. Have children take turns sitting in a box as two or three other children carefully push the box across the room. Explain that in today's Bible story, they'll hear about a heavy stone that was pushed away from Jesus' tomb.

■ Option 3: Angels

SUPPLIES: old bedsheets or towels, Christmas tinsel, aluminum foil

Set out dress-up items children can use to make angel costumes, such as towels and bedsheets, Christmas tinsel, and aluminum foil. Invite children to dress up like angels and tell everyone, “I have good news.” Explain that today they’ll hear how an angel told people that Jesus was alive again. Remind children that ► Jesus gives us new life.



When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, lotion



Tell children you’ll shake the *clapper* to get their attention. Explain that when you shake it, the children are to stop what they’re doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Made butterflies; pushed each other in a box; dressed up like an angel.)

Say: **If you made butterflies or dressed up like angels, stand up and wave; then sit down.** Pause for children to respond. **If you took turns sitting in a box or pushing a box, stand up and show your muscles; then sit down.** Pause.

You were all learning important things about today’s Bible story. Today we’re learning that ► Jesus gives us new life. We’ll review how Jesus died on the cross, and then we’ll hear how Jesus came back to life! I brought something with me that will help us learn even more about our Bible story.

Pass around the spices and vanilla you’ve brought. Have children take turns smelling them.



Ask: • **What do these smells remind you of?** (Christmas; cookies.)

Put a small dab of fragrant lotion on each child's hand. Have children smell the lotion and rub it into their hands.

Ask: • **Why do we use lotion?** (Because it feels nice; to make our skin feel good.)

Say: **In today's Bible story, we'll hear about some women who had spices and oils that smelled sweet and good like these. After Jesus died, they brought the spices and the oil to care for Jesus' body. But something happened when they got to the place where Jesus' body was. Let's bring out our Bible and find out what happened.**

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *cross and crown stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the CD (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."

teacher tips

You can also choose children to be the Bible Replacer (to put the Bible away) and the Cheerleader (someone who can encourage everyone to take part in the lesson). Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week, so each child gets a chance to feel special.

teacher tips

During the preschool years, children tend to play with friends of the same gender. They prefer short group experiences, which often includes dramatic play.

**SING**

I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors, glue stick, craft sticks



You'll need the "Emotion Faces" from the Learning Lab. Before class, cut out each face and glue it to a craft stick so you can hold it up like a sign. The tired face will not be used in this activity.

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: The Miracle of Easter*. Have children gather around you. Open your Bible to **Mark 16**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Open the *Bible Big Book* to page 1, and ask:

• **Why did Jesus' friends bring him a donkey?** (So Jesus could ride it; because he asked them to.)

Turn to page 2, and ask:

• **What did the people do when they saw Jesus coming into town?** (Waved branches; said "Praise God!")

• **Why did the people love Jesus?** (Because he was God's Son; because he did wonderful things.)

Turn to page 4, and ask:

• **What did Jesus want his friends to remember when they ate their special meal?** (That he loved them; he wanted them to remember him.)

Show children page 5, and ask:

• **Where did Jesus go to pray?** (To a garden.)

• **What did Jesus' friends do while Jesus prayed?** (Fell asleep.)

Turn to page 6, and ask:

• **Why did mean people hang Jesus on a cross?** (Because they didn't like him; they didn't think he was God's Son.)

• **Did Jesus ever do anything wrong?** (No; not ever.)

Say: **That's right. Jesus never did anything wrong. He was God's perfect Son. Jesus died for the wrong things people do—people like you and me.**

- **How would you have felt on the day Jesus died?** (Sad; I would have cried.)

Hold up the emotion faces from the Learning Lab, and tell the children that as they hear the story, they should listen for the emotions people were feeling.

Encourage them to act out the emotion of the face that you hold up. Hold up each emotion face, and let children practice how they will act.

Say: **Early on Sunday morning, just as the sun peeked over the trees, three women went to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to put sweet-smelling oils and spices on Jesus' body. They were very sad and a little scared.** Hold up the sad face and the scared face, and encourage children to act out the emotions. **They missed their friend Jesus!**

"How will we move the heavy stone from the tomb?" one of the women asked. "Even if all three of us pushed, we'd never be able to move it."

The women worried and wondered all the way to the tomb. Hold up the worried face, and encourage children to act out the emotion. **But the women were in for a big surprise!** Hold up the surprised face, and encourage children to act out the emotion. **When the women got to the tomb, the stone was already pushed away! And the tomb was empty! Jesus' body was nowhere to be seen.**

Suddenly the women noticed a young man dressed in a shining, white robe. He was an angel! The women didn't know what to do—they'd never seen an angel before. They were a little scared. Hold up the scared face, and encourage children to act out the emotion.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said, "You're looking for Jesus. He has risen! He's not here. Go tell his friends that Jesus will see them soon."

The women were so happy and excited to hear this good news! Hold up the happy and excited faces, and encourage children to act out the emotions.

Set the *Bible Big Book* aside, and say: **Isn't that amazing? Jesus came back to life! Let's shout with joy to the Lord!** Lead children in happy clapping and cheering as you hold up the happy face. Then ask:

- **What surprises did the women find when they went to Jesus' tomb?** (An angel; it was empty.)
- **How did the women feel when they saw a bright, shining angel?** (Scared; surprised.)

Say: **The angel said Jesus had come back to life. Only Jesus could do that. And because Jesus came back to life, ► Jesus gives us new life, too!**



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: bedsheet, CD player



Lay a bedsheet over a small table so the sheet touches the ground on all sides. Have the children stand in a circle near one end of the table. Choose one child to crawl under the sheet. Lead children in singing "The Heavy Stone" with the CD (track 6) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." Encourage children to march in place as they sing.

**SING**

The heavy stone was rolled away,
 Rolled away, rolled away.
 The heavy stone was rolled away
 'Cause Jesus is alive!

Jesus gives us new life, too;
 New life, too; new life, too.
 Jesus gives us new life, too.
 He rose for me and you!

When the song ends, have the child under the sheet crawl out. Let a volunteer lift the edge of the sheet to reveal the “empty tomb.” Have everyone clap to celebrate the empty tomb.

Have the child who was under the table join the circle. Then have the child who lifted the sheet take the next turn under the table. Repeat the game until everyone has had a chance to be in the “tomb.”



Say: **The empty tomb is why we celebrate at Easter time. Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. But then he came to life again. Jesus wasn't in the tomb when the women went there because he was alive.**
 ► ***Jesus gives us new life, too.***

Say: **Let's tell Whiskers about what we've learned today.**

Closing**Right in the End**

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: Hi, everyone! I heard all of you singing. It sounded pretty, but I was too worried to listen to the words.

Teacher: Oh, Whiskers! We're sorry to hear that you're worried. Why don't you tell us about it? Maybe we can help.

Whiskers: OK. You see, I had a pet caterpillar. He was so pretty. I found him in the garden and put him in a jar—my mom helped me punch holes in the top so he could breathe. He was a good friend, but then something terrible happened.



Teacher: What happened, Whiskers?

Whiskers: My caterpillar is gone! There's just a funny-looking thing in the jar where my caterpillar used to be. I'm afraid something terrible happened to him.

Teacher: That sounds like our story today. Some women got worried when they went looking for someone who wasn't there anymore.

Whiskers: Oh, tell me what happened. Maybe it will help me find my caterpillar.

Teacher: Children, why don't you tell Whiskers what happened in the Bible story?

(Lead the children in telling Whiskers how three women found Jesus' tomb empty and heard an angel say Jesus came back to life.)

Whiskers: Wow, what a great story! Jesus came alive again. Those women must have felt a lot better.

Teacher: Whiskers, I think you're going to feel a lot better, too. I don't think anything bad happened to your caterpillar at all.

Whiskers: You don't?

Teacher: No. I think that your caterpillar has built a cocoon for himself. That's what's in your jar. In a few days, your caterpillar will break out of the cocoon, and then you'll be in for a big surprise.

Whiskers: A surprise! What is it? Oh, please tell me!

Teacher: When caterpillars come out of cocoons, they aren't caterpillars anymore. They're butterflies! You'll soon have a butterfly for a friend, Whiskers!

Whiskers: Wow, I love butterflies! My caterpillar is still alive, and so is Jesus. That's great! We should celebrate.

Teacher: That's exactly why we celebrate Easter, Whiskers. And because Jesus is alive, ► Jesus gives us new life.

Whiskers: Hooray! Happy Easter, everybody!

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■ **New Life Mural**

SUPPLIES: butterflies from Option 1, garden mural from Lesson 6, tape

Say: **Jesus died for us, and then he rose again. Jesus has new life today, and ► Jesus gives us new life, too.**

Hold up one of the butterflies from Option 1, and ask:

• **What does a butterfly look like before it becomes a butterfly?** (A worm; a caterpillar.)

Say: **Caterpillars are fuzzy worms with lots of little legs. They weave cocoons around themselves and stay in their cocoons for a long time. Then one day they poke their way out of their cocoons, and when they come out, they aren't caterpillars anymore—they're butterflies! Butterflies remind us**



of the new life that Jesus brings us at Easter time. They can remind us of Jesus, too, because their cocoons are empty just like Jesus' tomb.

Have children fly their butterflies around the room and then "land" them on the garden mural and tape them in place. Gather children around the mural for a closing prayer.



BIBLE POINT ►

Pray: **God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. We thank you that Jesus came back to life. We know that Jesus is alive today and that ► *Jesus gives us new life.* Help us to remember new life every time we see a beautiful butterfly. In Jesus' name, amen.**

BIBLE VERSE ►

As the children leave, have each one repeat this week's Bible verse from **2 Corinthians 5:17: ► Believing in Jesus makes me a new person.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Butterfly Walk**

Lead children on a short walk around your church grounds. (You can also do this activity in your classroom if the weather's not nice.) As you walk, have each child gently hold the shoulders of the person in front of him or her. Point out that your group now has many legs, just like a caterpillar.

After a minute or so, have children release one another's shoulders and move their arms like butterfly wings. As you walk, look for signs of new spring life. Each time you see something that reminds you of new life, have children "fly" over and stand near the object. (If you're doing this activity in your classroom, have children fly over to the flowers and leaves on the garden mural.)

When you return to your classroom, review all the signs of new life you've just seen. Remind children that ► Jesus gives us new life.

■ **Make to Take: Angel Puppets**



Give each child a craft stick, two paper muffin cups, and a cotton ball. Show children how to press one muffin cup so it's flat and then pinch it in the middle to create "angel wings."

Help children tape the wings to the back of the craft sticks. Then put a drop of glue on the top of each craft stick, and let children put the cotton ball in place to make the angel's "head." Cut a small slit in the middle of each child's second muffin cup. Have children slide their craft sticks through the slit to create the angel's "robe." Tape the robe to the wings. As children work, review how a shining angel told the women that Jesus is alive. Remind children that ► Jesus gives us new life, too.

■ **Treat to Eat: Empty Tombs**

Before class, open a 12-ounce package of vanilla wafers, and set aside 1 cookie for each child. Then crush the remaining cookies and mix with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup grated coconut, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup powdered sugar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup thawed orange juice concentrate.

Have children roll small lumps of the dough into balls. Then have them press their thumbs into the dough to create "empty tombs." Hand out whole vanilla wafers, and let children cover their empty tombs with vanilla wafer "stones." Encourage children to uncover their tombs as they tell the Easter story.



■ **Story Picture: The Tomb Is Empty**

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out a shaker of cinnamon. Help children put glue on the jars carried by the women in the handout. Then have them sprinkle cinnamon on the glue. As children work, have them tell you what the spices were for and why the women never got to use them. Remind them that ► Jesus gives us new life.

Today i learned..

Jesus gives us new life.

Lesson 8

Today your child learned that **JESUS GIVES US NEW LIFE.** Children heard how the women found an empty tomb on the first Easter. They made butterflies to celebrate the new life Jesus gives us.

Help me learn this:

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Ask me:

- Why was the tomb empty?
- What did the angel tell the women?
- How can our family celebrate the new life Jesus gives us?

Family Fun

- Make Easter butterfly decorations with coffee filters. Have your child scribble designs on paper coffee filters, pinch the filters in the middle, and wrap them with chenille wire. Bend the wire to form antennae. Talk about how butterflies remind us of the new life Jesus brings.

The Tomb Is Empty (Mark 16:1-8)

