

**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
- learn that Jesus went back to heaven after he rose from the dead,
  - hear about the special job Jesus gave to his followers,
  - sing about Jesus' resurrection, and
  - tell each other the good news about the new life Jesus gives.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **Jesus sends out his followers to share the good news.**

**Matthew  
28:16-20;  
Acts  
1:6-11**



Even after living and working with Jesus for three years and seeing him alive after witnessing his death on the cross, some of his disciples had doubts. But we should be careful not to be too hard on them. How skeptical would you be if you heard of someone being dead for three days and then coming back to life?

The disciples' doubts didn't stop Jesus from trusting them. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus placed the future of all he had done on earth into their hands.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he gave his followers a plan to use in reaching that world. That plan is a good one for us to follow as well. If we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, he will empower us to reach others for Christ, whether it's across the street or across the world.

In our lives it's easy to be comfortable in our faith in Jesus and not worry too much about others. Until Jesus returns, he has given his followers the charge to share his love with everyone. That's not just something we should do—it's what our lives should be about!

### Prayer

- Read Matthew 28:19.
- What does it mean to "go and make disciples of all the nations"?
- What can you do to teach your children to follow this command given by Jesus?
- Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for coming for everyone. Please help me and the children in my class spread the good news about you to people around us each day 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
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let’s Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Garden Mural</b> —Decorate their names on the mural.	Garden mural from Lesson 6, stickers, washable markers, crayons	
	<b>Option 2: Jesus Is With Us</b> —Make pictures to show that Jesus is always with us.	Sandpaper, yarn in several colors	
	<b>Option 3: Heavenly Bubbles</b> —Watch bubbles rise to the ceiling, and hear how Jesus rose up to heaven.		
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Try to jump as high as bubbles float, and hear how Jesus rose up in the air.		
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Listen to one of the disciples tell how Jesus met and spoke with people after he rose from the dead.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Learn about spreading the good news by playing a fun game.		
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>The Good News</b> —Tell Whiskers the good news.		
	<b>Jesus Gives Us New Life</b> —Sing about the new life that Jesus gives us.	CD player	

\*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. “What did you tell your family about the empty tomb?” or “What did your family do to celebrate Easter?”
- 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.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



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.

## 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’s the best news you ever got?” or “Where does Jesus live?”

### ■ Option 1: Garden Mural

**SUPPLIES:** garden mural from Lesson 6, stickers, washable markers, crayons



Write each child’s name on the garden mural. Then let children add their own personal touches to the mural by embellishing their names with stickers, with the *cross and crown stamp*, or with washable markers or crayons. Talk about the new life we see in the springtime, and explain that their names have been added to the mural because ► Jesus gives us new life.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

### ■ Option 2: Jesus Is With Us

**SUPPLIES:** sandpaper, yarn

Set out several sheets of coarse sandpaper and lengths of yarn in several colors. Show children how to make pictures by arranging the yarn lengths on the sandpaper. Encourage them to make pictures of flowers, trees, and other signs of new life. As they work, remind them that ► Jesus gives us new life.

When children finish, have them gently shake their pictures and note that the yarn




**teacher tips**

At this stage in their mental development, 3- and 4-year-olds can recall some facts and events; memorize stories, songs, and finger plays; and can ask lots of questions!

sticks to the sandpaper. Explain that today's Bible story is about someone who promises to be a friend and stick with them as the yarn sticks to the sandpaper.

### ■ Option 3: Heavenly Bubbles

**SUPPLIES:** none



Have children take turns blowing bubbles using the *ice cream cone bubbles* from the Learning Lab. Encourage them to watch how high the bubbles get before they burst and see if any reach the ceiling. While children are waiting to blow bubbles, they can chase the bubbles other children blow. Tell children that today they'll hear that Jesus rose into the air the way bubbles do.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage 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:** none



Tell children that you'll shake the *clapper* three times 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?** (Decorated my name; made a yarn picture; blew bubbles.)

Say: **Some of you decorated your names in our garden. If you decorated your name, stand up, say your name, and then sit down.** Pause. **Some of you made springtime pictures with yarn that stuck to sandpaper. If you made a sticky yarn picture, stand up, stick your hands on your head, and then sit down.** Pause. **The rest of you blew bubbles. If you blew bubbles, stand up, say “pop,” and then sit down.** Pause.

**All of you were learning important things about our Bible story. Today we’re going to learn about a time when someone in the Bible floated up in the air like bubbles do. Watch these bubbles.**

Blow a few bubbles, and have children watch them float.

Say: **Now let’s see how well we do at floating. Let’s all stand up and pretend to be bubbles. Jump and float as high as you can.**

Let children jump and “float” for a few moments. Then have them sit down.

Ask: • **Did you jump as high as bubbles do? Why or why not?** (Yes, some of the bubbles didn’t go very high; no, I couldn’t touch the ceiling.)

• **What would you think if someone in our class floated up and touched the ceiling?** (I’d be surprised; that would be cool.)

Say: **People can’t float in the air, can they? But Jesus floated up to heaven in today’s Bible story. It happened after Jesus died and then came back to life. Last week we learned that because Jesus came back to life, we can have new life.**

**After Jesus came back to life, he told his disciples all about new life in heaven. They were excited to learn about it. We can be as excited as they were because today we’re going to learn what Jesus told his disciples. Let’s jump up and down a few more times to show how excited we are.**

Lead children in jumping and cheering. Then tap the *rhythm sticks* three times to signal children to pay attention to you. Wait for children to raise their hands, and then lead them to the garden area to sit down.

## ■ 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.



**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.)*


**teacher tips**

Even though your preschoolers are nonreaders, you may want to use this time to point out where the stories can be found within the Bible. You may also want to use the same Bible, such as the *Hands-On Bible*, each week. This way the children can begin to develop an awareness of God's Word.



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 hand 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."

**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, CD player



Bring out the *Bible Big Book: The Miracle of Easter*. Have children gather around you. Open your Bible to **Matthew 28** and **Acts 1**, and show both books to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Matthew and from the book of Acts in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. Let's look at all the pictures in our Bible Big Book to help us remember what we've learned about Jesus.**

Show children the pictures in the *Bible Big Book*, one page at a time. As you show each page, invite children to tell you what's happening in the picture. When you come to page 8, say: **We haven't seen this picture before. Let's listen to our story and find out what's happening.**

Hold the picture so all the children can see it as you play "Jesus' Last Days on Earth" on the *CD* (track 7).

After you finish the story, stop the CD player.

Ask: • **What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus rose up in the air to heaven?** (They were surprised; they couldn't believe it; they'd never seen anyone go up in the sky before.)

• **Look at the bottom picture. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is with you just as he's with these boys and girls?** (Good; happy.)

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



Say: **Jesus' followers learned a lot from Jesus during his last days on earth. They were excited because Jesus came back to life, and they wanted to tell others that ► *Jesus gives us new life.* They were glad, just as we're glad, that Jesus promises to be with us all the time.**

Show children **2 Corinthians 5:17** in your Bible, and say: **Let's all say our Bible verse together: ► *Believing in Jesus makes me a new person.***



## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** none



You will need to inflate the *bongo sticks* from the Learning Lab. Have the children stand in a circle. Show the children how to bend the *bongo stick* in the center, so they can hit the two ends together to make noise. Encourage the children to take turns passing the *bongo sticks* around the circle hitting the ends together and happily shouting the good news that ► *Jesus gives us new life!* Make sure every child in the circle has a turn. Let children play for several minutes, or until all the children have a chance to share the good news. If you have a smaller class, you may want to use only one *bongo stick*.



Say: **That was lots of fun! We can be excited because ► *Jesus gives us new life!* We can share this wonderful news with everyone else!**

Ask: • **Who can you tell about the new life Jesus gives?** (My mom; my family; my friends.)

• **How can you share your excitement about Jesus with others?** (By telling them; by drawing them pictures; by calling them.)

Say: **Let's try another way to share the good news about Jesus.**

## Closing

### ■ The Good News

**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:** (*Grumpily*) What's going on? I was taking a nap, and then I heard all this shouting. You guys woke me up!

**Teacher:** Hello, Whiskers! We're sorry we woke you up, but we're glad you've joined us. We're so excited about what we've learned today. It made us want to shout with joy!

**Whiskers:** You were all yelling so loudly I couldn't understand what you were saying. What were you shouting?



**Teacher:** Children, on the count of three, let's tell Whiskers what we were shouting. But this time, let's do it quietly. (*Count to three, encourage the children to say "Jesus gives us new life."*)

**Whiskers:** What do you mean when you say, ► "Jesus gives us new life"?

**Teacher:** Children, tell Whiskers what happened in the Bible story. Then he'll know why we're so excited.

*(Lead children in telling Whiskers about Jesus' words to the disciples before his ascension and about the new life we'll have in heaven.)*

**Whiskers:** That's fantastic news! No wonder you're so excited.

**Teacher:** We apologize again for waking you up, Whiskers. We'll let you get back to your nap. We'll be quieter from now on.

**Whiskers:** Are you kidding? This is no time to sleep. There's good news to tell. I'm going to tell my mom, my dad, and my brother—and even my cousin Joey. I'd better get going! ► Jesus gives us new life. Praise him! Praise him! See you later, everyone!

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## ■ Jesus Gives Us New Life

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Say: **We can tell everyone that Jesus loves us and that ► Jesus gives us new life. Let's sing our new life song one more time to celebrate the new life Jesus gives us.**

Lead children in singing "New With Jesus" (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17) with the CD (track 8) to the tune of "God Is So Good." As the children sing, have them yell "Hooray!" at the end of each verse.



**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*),  
**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*),  
**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*)  
**Makes me really new.** (*Hug yourself.*)

**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**And that makes me new.** (*Hug yourself.*)

*(Repeat.)*



Say: **God sent his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Because Jesus came back to life and now lives in heaven, we can have new life. Let's pray and thank God for Jesus' gift.**

**Dear God, we're glad the tomb was empty. We're also glad that Jesus loves us and promises to give us new life. In Jesus' name, amen.**



### **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

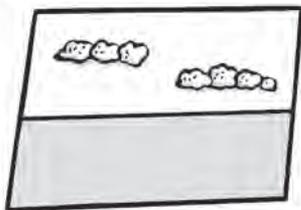
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ Lively Learning: Easter Review



Have the children form a circle, pass around the *Bible Big Book: The Miracle of Easter*, and say, “Storyteller, storyteller, tell us the news. Tell us what happened on the page you choose.” Ask the children to repeat the rhyme once or twice. Then have the child who’s holding the book, open it and point to a page. Have the class tell what happened on that page. Then have them pass the book around and say the rhyme again. As children review the Bible story, remind them that ► Jesus gives us new life. After children have described the pictures on each page, listen to the entire story on the CD (track 9).

### ■ Make to Take: Cloud Pictures



Before class on a blank piece of paper, draw a “horizon” in the middle of the paper and make one copy for each child.

Provide cotton balls, glue sticks, and crayons. Let children make a sky filled with clouds. They can also draw the ground and other pictures below the sky.

Talk with them about Jesus rising up into the clouds. Tell them that the picture is a reminder that Jesus wants us to spread the good news about the new life he brings. They can begin to spread the good news by telling their families about their pictures.

### ■ Treat to Eat: Mountains

Give each child an empty sugar cone. Have children pretend that their cones are the mountain where Jesus met with his disciples. Set out a bowl of whipped cream and some colored sprinkles. Have children dip the pointy ends of their “mountains” in the whipped cream “clouds.” Then they can sprinkle on candy sprinkle “disciples.” As children enjoy the snack, have them tell you what happened on the mountain. Remind them that ► Jesus gives us new life.



### ■ Story Picture: “I Am With You Always”

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons and washable markers. Have children color the clothes of the boy or girl standing by Jesus with a color that they’re wearing. For example, if Jeremy is wearing a red shirt and blue pants, he can color the boy’s shirt red and his pants blue. As the children work, remind them that Jesus is with them every day and that ► Jesus gives us new life.

# Today i learned..

## Jesus gives us new life.

### Lesson 9

Today your child learned that **JESUS GIVES US NEW LIFE.** Children found out that after Jesus came back to life, he promised to be with us forever. They practiced telling the good news about Jesus as the disciples did.

### Help me learn this:

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

### Ask me:

- Where did Jesus go?
- What did Jesus tell us to do?
- How can our family tell others about Jesus?

### Family Fun

- Set out 11 animal crackers. Pick up one cracker, and say, "Jesus told this disciple to tell others about Jesus. Who do you think he told?" Have your child suggest an answer, such as "his grandmother." Ask the same question for all 11 crackers. Then pat your child on the head, and say, "Who do you think this disciple told about Jesus?" Have your child answer. Together, write a letter to tell that person about Jesus' love.

### "I Am With You Always"

(Matthew 28:16-20;

Acts 1:6-11)

