

# Jesus Is Alive

**Bible Basis:** Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

The truth of the resurrection of Jesus has been highly debated throughout much of the last 100 years. Did Jesus really, physically rise from the dead? Some scholars still say no—that if it was really a resurrection at all, it was simply some kind of a spiritual resurrection. However, the evidence of history doesn't support that view. After the Resurrection, 12 men and probably a few other followers of Jesus huddled in a room together, terrified that they'd be the next ones crucified. Later, those disciples were boldly preaching about Jesus in the streets, defying the authorities who eventually executed most of them.

And over the next 300 years, the influence of those 12 men changed their whole world, to the point of the Roman emperor declaring the empire “Christian.” No vague, “spiritual” resurrection or other less dramatic event could possibly have caused such a change in Jesus’ disciples.

Jesus came back to life—and in doing so, he provided a way that we, too, can live forever! This module will help you guide your toddlers toward understanding that wonderful truth!

## Jesus Is Alive

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A pair of hands is shown holding various items: a fish, a marshmallow, and a toy car. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of the same hands holding these items. The text 'Toddlers & 2s' is positioned in the upper left corner.

Toddlers & 2s

# Parent Page

## Jesus Is Alive

For the next six weeks, the toddlers and 2s will be learning that Jesus is alive. The children will use their five senses to discover that Jesus came back to life and is with us all the time.

### Tips for Ts and 2s

New life surrounds us in the spring, and no one delights in it more than toddlers! Wide-eyed and endlessly curious, toddlers bound after butterflies, sniff fragrant flower buds, and breathlessly wonder at empty robin eggs. While experiencing the lively signs of spring, help your toddler learn that Jesus is also alive and with us. Pick flowers, go for walks, and catch your toddler's "spring fever" as you celebrate the glorious fact that Jesus is alive.

### Together Time

- Make these special Easter biscuits, and watch your child discover that the biscuits are empty inside—just like Jesus' tomb on Easter morning! Flatten refrigerated biscuit dough into 3-inch circles. Let your child place a large marshmallow in the center of each circle; then seal the dough around the marshmallow. Place the biscuits, with their seam sides down, on a cookie sheet and bake for about 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool the Easter biscuits before eating them.
- Sing this action song from class with your toddler:

### We're So Happy!

(sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**Clap your hands.** (*Clap three times.*)

**Shout "hooray!"** (*Shout "hooray!"*)

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**We're so happy!** (*March in place.*)

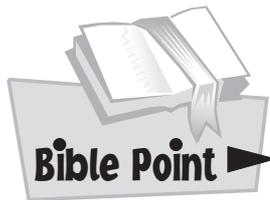
**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**Touch your toes.** (*Touch your toes.*)

**Shout "hooray!"** (*Shout "hooray!"*)

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**We're so happy!** (*March in place.*)



Bible Point ▶

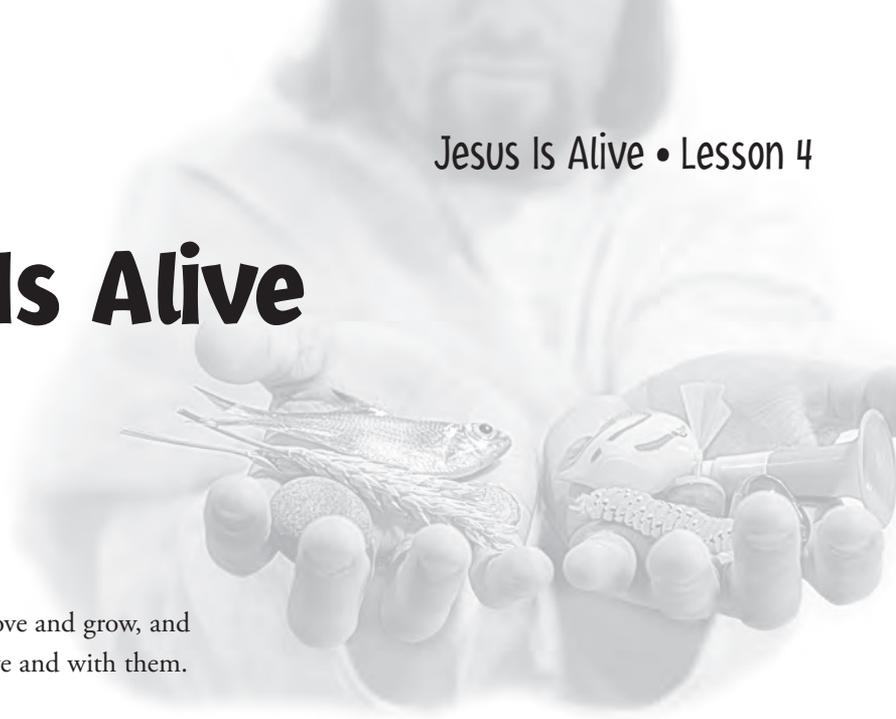
# Jesus Is Alive

## Bible Verse

Jesus is alive (adapted from Mark 16:6b).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ realize that Jesus is alive,  
 ■ understand that living things move and grow, and  
 ■ express their joy that Jesus is alive and with them.



## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

■ Jesus is alive.

**Matthew**  
**28:1-10, 16-20**



On that first Easter morning, the two Marys went to the tomb where Jesus was buried, expecting to finish taking proper care of the body, which they were apparently unable to complete the Friday before because of the approaching Sabbath. They were living their lives with the understanding that Jesus was dead. After their experience at the tomb, the two women were “filled with great joy”! Their lives were transformed. Though they were somewhat confused, they knew that life would be different because Jesus was alive!

How often do we go through life with little joy or hope, as the women did when they thought Jesus was forever dead? How often do we neglect to dwell in the joy and excitement that Jesus lives? As you study this lesson and prepare to teach it to your toddlers, think about how Jesus’ resurrection should be more fully impacting your life and their lives as well.

### Prayer

- Read Romans 10:9.
- What difference does it really make in your day-to-day life that Jesus is alive?
- How well can your toddlers see the joy of new life in Jesus shining from you?
- Pray: Dear God, help me to show that Jesus is alive in me by...

### Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- 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>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Happy Hatching</b> —Open and close exciting surprise eggs.	Plastic pull-apart eggs, O-shaped cereal, lunch sacks	
	<b>Option 2: Hop-Up Pop-Ups</b> —Make cute groundhogs that pop up and down in their holes.	Groundhog pattern (p. 60), stiff paper, paper cups, tape, crayons, scissors, craft sticks	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Jesus Is Alive</b> —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the Easter story from Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 and learn that Jesus is alive.	Paper-cup groundhogs from Option 2	
	<b>We're So Happy!</b> —Sing a song and celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Caterpillar, butterfly, and Jesus patterns (p. 60); scissors; blue and green construction paper; tape; plastic sandwich bag; raisins	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing a song and celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Make colorful butterflies to hide in pretend cocoons.	Craft clothespins, coffee filters, markers or crayons, craft glue, cardboard tubes	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Pretend to be cuddly caterpillars turning into butterflies.	Crepe paper, scissors	
	<b>Growing Bubbles</b> —Play a fun bubble game to help them remember the Bible Point.		
 <b>Closing</b>	<b>Yummy Butterflies</b> —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	String cheese, apples, knife, napkins, butterflies and cocoons from Bible Craft activity	

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

# Arrival Activities

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “Jesus Is Alive Today” (adapted from Mark 16:6b) (track 8) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus is alive.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.



## Option 1: Happy Hatching

**SUPPLIES:** plastic pull-apart eggs, O-shaped cereal, lunch sacks

Before class, place a few pieces of O-shaped cereal inside a plastic pull-apart Easter egg. Make sure you have one plastic egg for each child in class. Keep the bag of cereal handy for frequent “refills.” Hide the plastic eggs around the room in easy-to-find places.

As children arrive, hand them each a lunch sack or small basket. Invite children to go on an egg hunt. When children find the eggs, let them open the eggs and peek inside. Make comments such as “When you take out the cereal, the eggs are empty” and “It’s fun to find nice surprises, isn’t it?” Mention that today they’ll hear a Bible story about the first Easter when people learned that ► Jesus is alive. Point out that Jesus’ friends were surprised when they found Jesus’ tomb empty and learned that he was alive.

After children enjoy their cereal, collect the plastic eggs.



See page 5.



To avoid conflicts concerning how many eggs each child finds, form a circle and place the eggs in the center. Then let children each open one egg.

## Option 2: Hop-Up Pop-Ups

**SUPPLIES:** groundhog pattern (p. 60), stiff paper, paper cups, tape, crayons, scissors, craft sticks

Before class, cut 3-inch slits in the bottoms of paper cups. Prepare a paper cup for each child in class. You’ll also need to photocopy on stiff paper the groundhog pattern. Cut out one pattern for each child.

Set out crayons. Hand each child a paper cup and a cutout. Have children color their cups and cutouts. Explain that we know groundhogs are alive when they pop out of their holes in the spring. Mention that some people in today’s Bible story thought Jesus was dead, but we know that ► Jesus is alive.

When children have finished coloring, help each child tape a paper groundhog to one end of a craft stick. Then demonstrate how to hold a paper cup upside down and slide the groundhog up through the slit to make it pop in and out of its “hole.” Make sure each child in class has a groundhog to use later in the lesson.



If you choose not to do Option 2, prepare a groundhog cup for each child to use during the telling of the Bible story.


**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 kids remember it and apply it to their lives.


**teacher tips**

Singing helps young children make a smooth transition to the next activity. At first, children will just listen to the song, but they'll quickly catch on and sing along.

## ■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing "Let's Pick Up All Our Things" (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of "Looby Loo."



SING

**Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things  
And put them all away.**

**Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Let's put it all away.**

**Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
It's time to stop our play.**

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



**BIBLE POINT** ▶



Say: **Who is alive? ▶ Jesus is alive. How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's learn a song about the Bible.** Using the CD, lead children in singing "God's Special Book" (track 3) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



SING

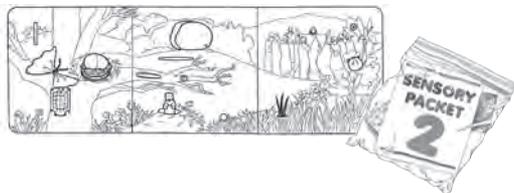
**This is God's special book.  
Yes, it's God's book you see!  
I learn about all God has done  
And his love for me!**

*(Repeat.)*

**Bible!**

## ■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive

**SUPPLIES:** paper-cup groundhogs from Option 2

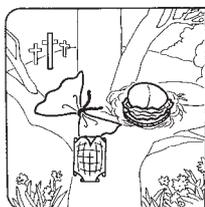


Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers

and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, place the baby duck inside the plastic egg (both from Sensory Packet 2), and place the egg in the nest on Panel 1. Be sure the StoryBoard stone on Panel 2 is rolled in front of the tomb. Also make sure that the pullout items on all three panels are tucked inside the appropriate places on the StoryBoard.

### Panel 1



Place the paper-cup groundhogs from Option 2 beside you. Say: **Today we're going to hear the happiest story in the Bible. We'll learn that ► *Jesus is alive*.** Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. **It's springtime! Baby bugs, birds, and butterflies are alive in the spring. Let's find the objects and pictures of living things on our StoryBoard.**

Ask: • **Who can find the nest and egg?**

Let children each touch the nest and open the plastic egg and peek inside. Hold up the baby duck and say: **There's a baby bird inside the egg. Isn't it cute? Let's pat the pretend bird.** Let each child pet the baby duck and say, "Nice birdie."

Ask: • **How does the baby bird feel?** (Soft; nice.)

Say: **Baby birds are alive in the spring. Let's see what else is alive. Can you find the cocoon on the tree? Invite children to touch the cocoon, but don't let them pull out the butterfly. What do you think is inside the cocoon? Do you think a sleepy caterpillar is taking a nap inside? Let's see.** Help a child gently pull out the butterfly. **Oh, a pretty butterfly! Caterpillars sleep in cocoons and then turn into beautiful butterflies. Butterflies are alive in the spring.** Put the baby duck and butterfly safely aside.

**What a happy time! Almost everyone is happy in the springtime—but long ago there were people who weren't happy. These mean people didn't like Jesus, and they didn't think he was God's Son. The angry people hung Jesus on a cross, and he died. Show how sad that makes us feel.** Lead children in pretending to wipe away tears. Then have children touch the cross.

**Jesus' body was laid in a tomb** (cup your left hand and hold it sideways), **and a big stone was rolled in front of it** (place your right fist in front of your cupped palm). **It was almost like a cocoon for Jesus. But then something wonderful happened! Let's see what that wonderful thing was.**

### Panel 2

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2, and point to the picture of the tomb. **Here's the tomb where Jesus lay. God sent an angel to roll the big stone away.**



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch the StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.



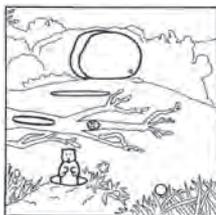
BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



Demonstrate how to roll away the stone, and then replace it. **You can roll away the stone, and peek inside the tomb. What do you see?** Let children take turns rolling away the stone and peeking inside the tomb. Each time a child peeks in the tomb, whisper: ► ***Jesus is alive.***

When everyone has had a turn to roll away the stone, say:

**Jesus wasn't in the tomb. The tomb was empty because**

► ***Jesus is alive!*** Let's clap to show how glad we are that Jesus is alive. Lead children in cheering. Then point to the egg on Panel 1 and say: **The egg is empty because the bird is alive.** Point to the cocoon. **The cocoon is empty because the butterfly is alive.** Point to the picture of the tomb. **And the tomb was empty because** ► ***Jesus is alive.***

Say: **Let's see what else is alive.** Have children find and touch the bug. Have the fuzzy inchworm move out of its hole and wiggle about on the grass for children to find and tickle. Let children touch the sandpaper on the branch to feel the texture of a living tree.

**Oh, look what else is alive and coming out of its hole!** Slide the groundhog puppet up through the hole in the hill. Have the groundhog play Peekaboo with the children. **Groundhogs like to play Peekaboo. Let's play Peekaboo with our pretend groundhogs.** Hand out the paper-cup groundhogs from Option 2. Repeat the following rhyme as you play Peekaboo with the groundhogs.

**Peekaboo, I see you!**

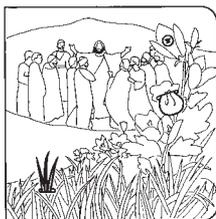
**Jesus is alive—yahoo!**

Set the groundhogs aside. Say: **I'm so happy that** ► ***Jesus is alive.*** **Let's see what happened when Jesus' friends learned that he was alive.**



BIBLE POINT ►

### Panel 3



Reveal Panel 3. Say: **Can you find Jesus in this picture?** Let children touch Jesus' beard. Then say: **Jesus and his friends were having a nice time. His friends were happy that** ► ***Jesus is alive.*** **Jesus loved his friends. Let's tell a friend, "I love you."** Be sure each child is affirmed.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



Say: **Jesus told his friends he was going to live in heaven. Jesus wanted his friends to tell everyone about him. And Jesus wants us to know that he's alive, too. When we believe in Jesus, he becomes our forever friend. He will always be with us, and one day we will live with him in heaven. What great news that** ► ***Jesus is alive!***

Ask: • **What else is alive in this picture?** Have children find and touch the following items:

- the butterfly,
- the blossom (gently pull the blossom into a "flower"), and
- the grass (gently pull the grass to make it "grow").

Say: **Spring is a wonderful time of new life, and we're so glad that** ► ***Jesus is alive.*** **Let's sing a song to show how happy we are for new life in Jesus.**



BIBLE POINT ►

## ■ We're So Happy!

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “We’re So Happy!” to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



**Important:** After the Bible Story, put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



**Jesus is alive today.** (March in place.)  
**Clap your hands.** (Clap three times.)  
**Shout “hooray!”** (Shout “hooray!”)  
**Jesus is alive today.** (March in place.)  
**We’re so happy!** (March in place.)

**Jesus is alive today.** (March in place.)  
**Touch your toes.** (Touch your toes.)  
**Shout “hooray!”** (Shout “hooray!”)  
**Jesus is alive today.** (March in place.)  
**We’re so happy!** (March in place.)

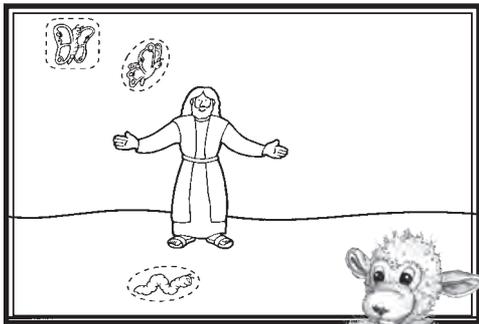
Say: **What a happy song to remind us that ► *Jesus is alive.* There’s so much new life in the spring. Birds are hatching from eggs, bugs and butterflies are flying in the air, and baby animals are everywhere. Let’s put caterpillars and butterflies on our bulletin board garden.**



## Bible Activities

### ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: caterpillar, butterfly, and Jesus patterns (p. 60); scissors; blue and green construction paper; tape; plastic sandwich bag; raisins



Before class, photocopy the butterfly and caterpillar patterns. Cut out a pattern for each child in class. Make one photocopy of the pattern of Jesus. You’ll also need to cover the top half of the bulletin board with blue construction paper and the lower half with green construction paper.

Place a few raisin “bugs” in a clear plastic sandwich bag, and then tape the bag to Cuddles’ foot.



Children who are shy and have a hard time being away from parents will respond warmly to Cuddles. Use him to

- greet the children as they arrive,
- ask questions while placing items on the interactive bulletin board,
- calm excited children,
- participate in games with the children, and
- cuddle and hug the children.



*Bring out Cuddles the Lamb, and go through the following script. When you've finished, put Cuddles away out of sight.*

**Cuddles:** *(Jumping up and down and waving his bag)* Hello, hello! I'm so happy!

**Teacher:** Hi, Cuddles! My, you seem extra cheerful today. What's the occasion?

**Cuddles:** It's springtime! And I'm glad I'm alive!

**Teacher:** We've been learning about someone else who's alive, too. Children, can you tell Cuddles who is alive? *(Lead children in repeating the Bible Point to Cuddles.)* Say, what do you have in your bag?

**Cuddles:** My bug collection. I like collecting bugs 'n' butterflies 'n' things.

**Teacher:** We're getting ready to add these caterpillars and butterflies to our bulletin board, and you can help us.

**Cuddles:** Why would you put *worms* on a bulletin board?

**Teacher:** They're not worms, Cuddles. They're called *caterpillars*. Caterpillars look like squiggly worms before they spin their cocoons. Then the caterpillars sleep and turn into beautiful butterflies when they come out of their cocoons.

**Cuddles:** Wow! It's like caterpillars get new lives as butterflies.

**Teacher:** That's right, Cuddles. Butterflies remind us that our lives are like new when we love Jesus. And they remind us that ► Jesus is alive. Would you like to help us put caterpillars and butterflies on the bulletin board?

**Cuddles:** Yes, yes! I love bugs, you know.

*Have Cuddles hand each child a butterfly or caterpillar cutout. If there's time, allow children to color the patterns. Then help children tape the pictures to the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, help him or her repeat the Bible Point. Then tape the picture of Jesus in the center of the display. When the pictures are in place, point at each one and have children crawl if you point to a caterpillar and "fly" if you point to a butterfly.*

**Teacher:** Caterpillars and butterflies are alive in the springtime. And Jesus is alive all the time. Let's sing a song to celebrate!

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## ■ Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "We're So Happy!" to the tune of "London Bridge." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**Clap your hands.** (*Clap three times.*)

**Shout “hooray!”** (*Shout “hooray!”*)

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**We’re so happy!** (*March in place.*)

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**Touch your toes.** (*Touch your toes.*)

**Shout “hooray!”** (*Shout “hooray!”*)

**Jesus is alive today.** (*March in place.*)

**We’re so happy!** (*March in place.*)

Say: Today we’re learning the wonderful news that **▶ Jesus is alive.** We’ve also learned that **butterflies come out of their cocoons—alive and free.** We can make cocoons and butterflies to remind us how Jesus came out of the tomb and is alive.



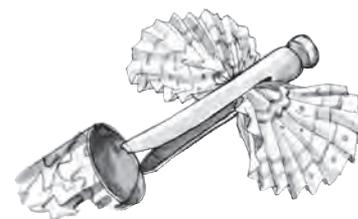
## ■ Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** craft clothespins, coffee filters, markers or crayons, craft glue, cardboard tubes

Set out the cardboard tubes, craft clothespins (without hinges), markers or crayons, coffee filters, and craft glue.

Hand each child a clothespin “caterpillar.” Invite each child to color a coffee filter with markers or crayons. Help children dab glue into the openings of the clothespins and then slide the filters into the openings to make “wings.” Let children color the cardboard tubes with markers or crayons and slip the “butterflies” into the “cocoons.” Let children gently pull their butterflies in and out of the cocoons. Then set the crafts aside until the Closing.

Say: **Caterpillars and butterflies remind us that Jesus came out of the tomb and is alive. Let’s play a game and be pretend caterpillars and butterflies.**



## ■ Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** crepe paper, scissors

Before class, cut 3-foot lengths of crepe paper. Cut a streamer for each child.

Have children scatter around the room and then lay down. Say: **Let’s pretend we’re wiggly, squiggly caterpillars. Can you show me how you crawl in the garden?** Have children scoot on their tummies along the floor. **Ooo, what crawly caterpillars you are! Let’s stop and spin cocoons around ourselves.** Hand each child a paper streamer. **Stand up and wrap the crepe paper streamer loosely around your legs. Spin, spin up and down; spin, spin ’round and ’round. We want nice, snuggly cocoons to sleep in. Good! Now lie down and curl up in your cocoons. We’ll take a long pretend nap.** Softly make snoring sounds.

After a few moments, say: **It’s time to wake up. Carefully unwrap your streamers and get out of your cocoons. Stretch up slowly, slowly. Oh, my! We’re not crawly caterpillars anymore—we’re beautiful butterflies! Let’s fly away!** Show children how to “fly” around the room waving their streamers.



BIBLE POINT ▶

I'm so happy that we're lively little butterflies. And I'm happy that ▶ Jesus is alive.

## ■ Growing Bubbles

SUPPLIES: none



Before class, remove the *ice cream cone bubbles* from the Learning Lab. Keep the bubbles out of the children's reach until this activity.

Say: **When we watch caterpillars grow and change into beautiful butterflies, it can remind us of how Jesus died and then came back to life. Butterflies can**

**help us remember that ▶ Jesus is alive! Caterpillars grow into butterflies. We can watch other things grow, too!**

Ask: • **What are some other things that are alive and that grow?** (People; pets; caterpillars.)

• **How can those things remind us of Jesus?** (Because they are alive and Jesus is alive, too; they remind us that Jesus is alive.)

Say: **Things that grow remind us that ▶ Jesus is alive! I'm going to show you something else that grows and grows. How many bubbles can I make?**

Blow a bunch of bubbles, and allow the children to pop them. After children have each had a chance to pop some bubbles, say: **It's fun to play with bubbles! These bubbles can remind us that ▶ Jesus is alive because they rise up, just as Jesus did when he came back to life. I'm going to blow some more bubbles. Let's pretend that the bubbles are butterflies flying around the room, reminding us to tell others that ▶ Jesus is alive!** Blow several more bubbles, and encourage the children to shout, "Jesus is alive!" when they pop the bubbles. Then put the *ice cream cone bubbles* away.

Ask: • **How did you feel when you were popping the bubbles?** (It was fun; I like playing with bubbles; I wanted to play with them longer.)

Say: **Playing with bubbles is fun, just like it's fun to tell others what it says in the Bible in Mark 16:6—that ▶ Jesus is alive!**

**Right now, let's fly like butterflies over to the snack table for a special treat.**



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶

BIBLE VERSE ▶



Live It!



See page 5.

## Closing

### ■ Yummy Butterflies

SUPPLIES: string cheese, apples, napkins, knife, butterflies and cocoons from Bible Craft activity

After helping them wash their hands, gather the children at the snack table. Hand each child his or her cocoon and butterfly made during the Bible Craft.

Ask: • **Who is alive?** Lead children in repeating the Bible Point.

Say: **We've been learning that ▶ Jesus is alive. Let's say a special prayer**

and thank God that Jesus is alive and that he is with us. Hold your cocoons and repeat what I say: Dear God (pause), thank you (pause) for Jesus (pause). Thank you (pause) that Jesus is alive (pause). In Jesus' name, amen (pause). Now pull out your butterflies and say, "We love you, Jesus!" Pause for children to respond. Then have children tuck the butterflies back into the cocoons and set them under their chairs.

**Let's make delicious butterfly treats.** Hand each child a napkin, a piece of string cheese, and four thin apple slices. Show kids how to lay the cheese sticks on the napkins for caterpillars and then add apple slices for wings. Point out how the caterpillars are changing into butterflies. Let children munch their treats and then throw their napkins into the wastebasket.

Be sure children take home their cocoons and butterflies and paper-cup groundhogs.



**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Parent Page" handout (p. 48) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module'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.

■ **Flutter-Bys**

Have the children spread out around the classroom. Hand each child a silky scarf or crepe paper streamer to use for wings. Invite children to pretend that they're beautiful, graceful butterflies that have just come out of their cocoons. Suggest that they're flying for the very first time! Play a CD of your choice, and let children move to the music as they flutter and wave their "wings."

■ **Springtime Rhyme**

Lead the children in the following action rhyme. Slowly repeat the rhyme a few times. If you have older toddlers, let them play a game of Charades. Whisper the name of an object from the song, such as bees or flowers, in a child's ear, and then let the child act out that object.

**Grass and flowers and swaying trees** (*sway back and forth like trees in the wind*)—

**Jesus is alive like these.** (*Turn around in place; then clap once.*)

**Bugs and birds and buzzy bees** (*tuck your hands under your arms and make flapping motions*)—

**Jesus is alive like these.** (*Turn around in place; then clap once.*)

# Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

