

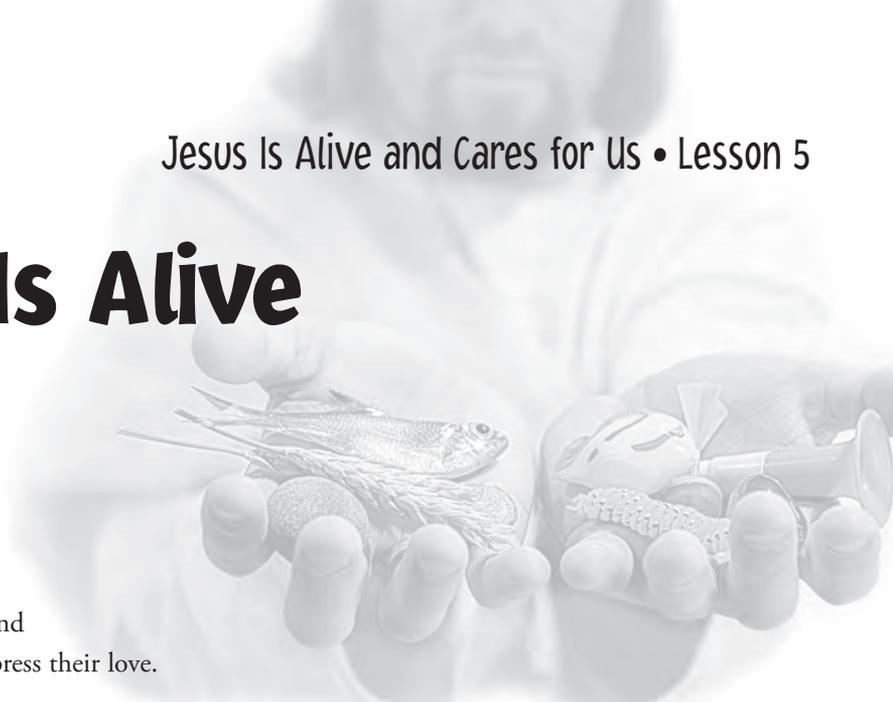
Jesus Is Alive

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- understand that Jesus is alive,
 - learn that Jesus cares for them, and
 - realize that caring is a way to express their love.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus is alive and cares for us.

Matthew
28:1-10, 16-20



When the two Marys saw the angel at the tomb, it's interesting that he had a message for Jesus' disciples. Jesus knew that when the disciples heard the tomb was empty, they'd be suspicious. He knew they'd wonder if it really was true that he'd risen from the dead. He knew that they would likely be apprehensive and wouldn't know what to do about the news they'd heard. So because Jesus cared about them, he left a message with the angel to let his followers know that they could meet him in a familiar place.

Moments later, when the two women actually encountered Jesus, his first words after greeting them were "Don't be afraid." Again, Jesus showed that he cared for the women by being quick to calm their fears.

Isn't it great to have a God who not only is all-powerful and able to rise from the dead, but who also cares about beings such as us? That's a wonderful message for teachers and toddlers alike!

Prayer

- Read 1 Peter 5:7.
- How has God calmed your fears the way he did for the two women?
- What anxieties are you facing today? Can you give them over to the God who cares for you so much that he sent his Son to die for you?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for caring so much for us. This week let my toddlers begin to see...

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
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Care-for-Me Garden —Plant a classroom “garden,” and learn about caring for seeds.	Shallow tub, potting soil, plastic forks, radish seeds, spray bottle, water, newspaper	
	Option 2: Sunflower Stretch —Make giant sunflowers that “grow.”	Markers, paper plates, 2-inch-wide green ribbon, tape, scissors, construction paper	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Is Alive —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.	Cookie sticks	
	Jesus Is Alive Today —Sing a lively song and learn that Jesus is alive.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Flower patterns (p. 72), scissors, green ribbon, tape, construction paper, artificial or real flower, vanilla or perfume	
	Alive Actions —Interact with a fun poster to remember that Jesus is alive.		
	Bible Craft —Make pussy willow pictures.	Small twigs, light blue construction paper, tacky craft glue, puffed wheat or rice cereal, bowls, tape, newspaper, cotton swabs	
	Bible Game —Pretend to be growing pussy willows as they act out a fun rhyme.		
Closing 	Pretty Petals —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Round crackers, clean craft sticks, napkins, marshmallow creme, colored cereal pieces	

*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.

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.



■ Option 1: Care-for-Me Garden

SUPPLIES: shallow tub, potting soil, plastic forks, radish seeds, spray bottle, water, newspaper

Before class, fill a shallow tub or dishpan with potting soil. You’ll also need to fill a spray bottle with water.

Cover a table with newspaper; then set out the radish seeds, spray bottle, plastic forks or craft sticks, and the tub containing potting soil. As children arrive, invite them to plant seeds in the “garden.” Show children how to use the plastic forks or craft sticks as hoes and rakes to loosen the soil and plant the seeds in rows. Then have each child give the garden some water. As children work, make comments such as “How do we care for gardens?” and “What happens if we don’t take care of new plants?” Point out that caring is a way to show our love. Mention that in today’s Bible story they’ll learn that ► Jesus is alive and cares for us.

teacher tips

Set your classroom container garden in a sunny spot—or take it home until next week. Keep the soil moist, and cover it loosely with plastic wrap. Sprouts should appear in one week.



■ Option 2: Sunflower Stretch

SUPPLIES: markers, paper plates, 2-inch-wide green ribbon, tape, scissors, construction paper

Before class, cut a 4-foot length of 2-inch-wide green ribbon for each child.

Set out paper plates, ribbons, markers, tape, and colorful construction paper. Invite children to create giant sunflowers. Let children scribble-color their paper plates. Show children how to tear “flower petals” from construction paper, and then help children tape the petals around the edges of the paper plates. Have children tape the ribbon “stems” to their flowers and tear a few paper leaves to tape on the stems. As children work, point out that flowers growing in gardens are alive and that ► Jesus is alive, too.



When children have finished their sunflowers, have them pretend to be flowers growing in a garden. Tell them to stand on the loose ends of their stems, crouch down, and slowly stand up, holding their sunflowers high above their heads. Challenge children to see how tall they can “grow.”



■ 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.

teacher
tips

Toddlers and 2s need supervision at all times. It’s best to have at least two adults in the classroom. The ideal ratio is a minimum of one adult for every three to four children.

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 sing 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

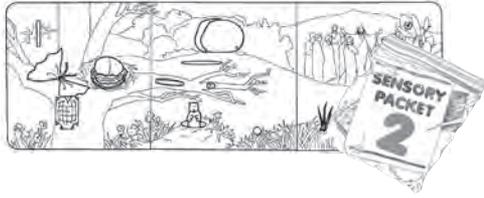
This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive

SUPPLIES: cookie sticks

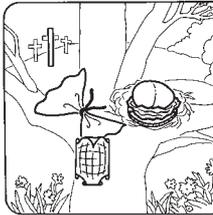


Before class begins, please check to make sure that the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

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. Have children wash their hands.



Panel 1



Place a box of cookie sticks beside you. Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► *Jesus is alive*. Let's say that together.** Lead children in repeating the Bible Point and then clapping. **We know that Jesus is alive, and we can find objects and pictures of living things on our StoryBoard.**

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

Let children touch the nest and open the plastic egg. Hold the baby duck. Say: **Here's a baby bird to care for. We'll feed it delicious food.** Hand children the cookie sticks, and have them pretend to feed the bird "worms"; then let them gobble up the cookie sticks. (Note: Gummy worms can pose a choking hazard for toddlers; use cookies and kids' imaginations instead.)

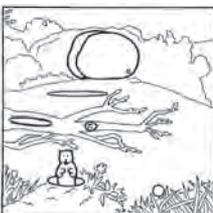
Being kind is a good way to show love. Jesus loves and cares for us, too.

Ask: • **Who can find the cocoon?** Invite children to touch the cocoon and peek inside.

Say: **Let's see if there's a sleepy caterpillar inside.** Help a child gently remove the butterfly. **Oh, it's a pretty butterfly! We'll help the butterfly flutter and fly.** Have children "fly" the butterfly to each other. Each time the butterfly is handed to someone else, help that child repeat the Bible Point. Be sure everyone has a turn. Put the baby duck and butterfly safely aside. Then say: **We're happy that ► *Jesus is alive*, 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 put Jesus on a cross, and he died.** Have children find and 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 the tomb** (place your right fist in front of your cupped palm). **It was such a sad time. But then something wonderful happened! Let's see what it was.**

Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2, and point to the tomb. **Here's the tomb where Jesus lay. God sent an angel to roll the big stone away.** Demonstrate how to roll back the stone; then replace it. **You can roll away the stone, too, and peek inside the tomb. Do you think Jesus is inside?** Let children





BIBLE POINT ►

take turns rolling back the stone and peeking inside the tomb. Each time a child peeks in the tomb, whisper: **Jesus isn't here. ► Jesus is alive.**

God's angel rolled away the stone and told Jesus' friends that ► Jesus is alive. Isn't that wonderful? We can be like rolling stones. Lie on your sides, and then roll over and over. Let children roll back and forth across the room. Then say: **Let's roll back to the StoryBoard and we'll hear what happened next.**

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.**

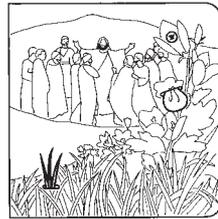
Let's see what else is alive. Have children find and touch the bug. Have the fuzzy inchworm move out of its hole and wiggle about on the grass for children to find and tickle. Let children touch the rough sandpaper texture of the branch. Explain that trees are alive and growing, too.

Oh, here's a friend coming out of his hole. Slide the groundhog puppet up through the hole in the hill. Have the groundhog play Peekaboo with the children. Say the following rhyme and encourage children to use their hands to play Peekaboo.

**Peekaboo, I see you!
Jesus is alive—yahoo!**

Let's see what happened when Jesus' friends learned that he was alive.

Panel 3



Reveal Panel 3. Say: **Put your hand on your heart if you see Jesus in this picture.** When children have found the picture of Jesus, let them touch Jesus' beard and encourage them to say, "I love you."

Then say: **Jesus' friends were glad to see him. They were happy that ► Jesus is alive. Jesus prayed for his friends. Then Jesus said he was going to live in heaven.**



BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE VERSE ►



Jesus came to earth because he loves us and cares for us. He wants to be our friend. If we love him back, one day we will live with him in heaven.

Jesus told his friends to tell everyone that he's alive. We should tell everyone, too. I'll count to 3, and then we'll shout our Bible verse from Mark 16:6, ► Jesus is alive. Ready? One, two, three...Jesus is alive!

Let's see what else is alive. 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. We're so glad we have the Bible and it tells us in Mark 16:6 that ► Jesus is alive. Let's sing a song to show how happy we are for new life in Jesus.**



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

Jesus Is Alive Today

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “Jesus Is Alive Today” (adapted from Mark 16:6b) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



SING

Jesus cares for me. (Cover your heart; then hop.)

Jesus cares for me. (Cover your heart; then hop.)

Jesus is alive today. (Wave your hands in the air.)

Jesus cares for me. (Cover your heart; then hop.)

Jesus is with me. (Point to yourself; then hop.)

Jesus is with me. (Point to yourself; then hop.)

Jesus is alive today. (Wave your hands in the air.)

Jesus is with me. (Point to yourself; then hop.)

Jesus loves me so. (Hug yourself; then hop.)

Jesus loves me so. (Hug yourself; then hop.)

Jesus is alive today. (Wave your hands in the air.)

Jesus loves me so. (Hug yourself; then hop.)

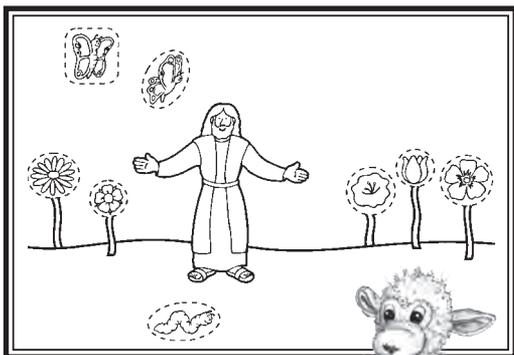
Say: **Jesus’ friends were so happy that Jesus was alive! They knew that Jesus died for them and that Jesus loved them more than anything. When we love someone, we take care of them just as we care for flowers in the spring. Let’s add some pretty flowers to our bulletin board to remind us that ► Jesus is alive and cares for us.**



Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: flower patterns (p. 72), scissors, green ribbon, tape, construction paper, artificial or real flower, vanilla or perfume



Before class, photocopy onto colored construction paper the flower patterns. Cut out a paper flower for each child. You’ll also need to tape a 12-inch piece of green ribbon to each paper flower as a stem.

Tape an artificial or real flower to Cuddles’ foot. If you’re using an artificial flower, add a drop or two of vanilla or perfume to add a pleasant scent.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb, holding a flower. Go through the following puppet script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight.

Cuddles: *(Sniffing his flower)* Ahhh...this smells sooo good. Mmm. *(Looks at children.)* Would you like to smell it? *(Have Cuddles offer each child a sniff of his flower.)*

Teacher: Thank you, Cuddles. Your flower does smell wonderful. Flowers are so nice when they're alive and blooming.

Cuddles: Yes. But I wish flowers could be alive forever.

Teacher: Flowers aren't alive forever, that's true. But we've been learning about someone who *is* alive forever—and he is alive right now! Children, can you tell Cuddles who's alive? *(Lead children in telling Cuddles that ► Jesus is alive.)* And Jesus cares for us all the time.

Cuddles: Like I care for my flower?

Teacher: That's right, Cuddles.

Cuddles: Yippee! I'm so happy! Let's all have another sniff of my pretty flower to remind us that ► Jesus is alive. *(Let Cuddles offer each child another sniff of his flower.)*

Teacher: Now you can help us add pretend flowers to the bulletin board, Cuddles.

Have Cuddles hand each child a paper flower. Help children tape the flowers on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a flower, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. Then have children tell you the colors of the flowers.

Teacher: We certainly have a beautiful garden scene, don't we? It makes me happy to see all the flowers. But what *really* makes me happy is knowing that ► Jesus is alive.

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Toddlers & 2s granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ *alive Actions*

SUPPLIES: none



Say: **We've been learning about lots of things that are alive! Cuddles just showed us that flowers are alive.**

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

Say: **When we learn about things that are alive, we can remember that ► Jesus is alive, too! Let's play a game to help us think of things that are alive.**

Take out the "I'm Alive!" poster from the Learning Lab. Point to different pictures on the page, and encourage the children to act like the object. For example, if you point to the picture of the blue bird, invite the children to flap around the room making "tweet tweet" chirps. To encourage color recognition, you might ask older toddlers to come up and point to the picture that's a certain color, and then allow time for acting.



After pointing to each object several times, gather the children, and teach this fun rhyme (to be used for each object).

Green tree, green tree, there you go (*point to the picture*),
Every day you grow and grow. (*Crouch down and then slowly pretend to grow.*)
Now let's all count to 5 (*hold up five fingers*)
And remember that Jesus is alive! (*Raise arms in the air.*)
1...2...3...4...5—Jesus is alive! (*Hold up the number of fingers while you are counting, and then cheer!*)

Encourage the children to say this verse for each of the pictures on the poster, changing “green tree” to the appropriate name of the picture. For example, you would say “blue bird,” “yellow butterfly,” or “red flower” during the rhyme.

After leading children through the rhyme several times, say: **It was fun to act like those things that are alive! Acting like flowers and birds and other things makes us excited because it reminds us that ► Jesus is alive!**

Ask: • **How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is alive?** (Good; happy; great.)

Say: **Now we can make puffy springtime pussy willows to remind us that spring is a time of new life.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: *small twigs, light blue construction paper, tacky craft glue, puffed wheat or rice cereal, bowls, tape, newspaper, cotton swabs*

Before class, collect small twigs from trees or bushes. If the weather is nice and you have access to trees at your church, let children hunt and find their own twigs. You'll need one twig for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out the twigs, tape, bowls of tacky craft glue, cotton swabs, and bowls of puffed wheat or rice cereal bits. Hand each child a sheet of light blue construction paper. Help children tape the twigs securely to their papers. Have children use the cotton swabs to dab spots of glue along the edges of the twigs on the papers. Show children how to stick a piece of cereal on each spot of glue to make “pussy willows.” If you have scraps of green construction paper, you may wish to let children tear small green leaves to glue at the bases of the twigs.

As children work, make comments such as “Pussy willows are alive in the spring” and “I'm glad that ► Jesus is alive!” When the pictures are finished, set them aside to dry. Say: **We made pretty pussy willows. Now let's pretend to be puffy pussy willows growing in the springtime.**

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: *none*

Have children stand in a circle. Say: **Pussy willows are soft, little puffs on a stiff branch. Can you stand tall and straight like a pussy willow branch?** Pause for children to respond. Then say: **Sometimes, the spring winds blow** (make blowing sounds) **and the pussy willows bow and bend. Let's pretend the wind is blowing and we're bowing and bending.** Bend back and forth; then bow to the front and back again. **Good. Pussy willows are also cute and soft like kitty cats.**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Bring in a real pussy willow or buy an artificial pussy willow branch. Let children gently touch the puffy blossoms to experience their softness.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Cats meow, but do pussy willows say “meow”? No, that’s silly! Pussy willows grow, but they don’t meow. We can learn a funny rhyme about puffy little pussy willows.

Lead children in the following action rhyme. Slowly say the rhyme several times until children are familiar with the words and actions and can then repeat them with you.

Puffy little pussy willows (*stand straight and tall*)

On the branches bow. (*Bow to the front.*)

Puffy little pussy willows (*stand straight and tall*)

Grow but don’t “meow.” (*Shake a finger and your head.*)



BIBLE POINT

Say: **Flowers and pussy willows remind us of springtime and new life. They remind us of Easter and that ► Jesus is alive. Let’s make yummy treats to celebrate how happy we are that Jesus is alive.**

Closing

■ Pretty Petals

SUPPLIES: round crackers, clean craft sticks, napkins, marshmallow creme, colored cereal pieces

Have children wash their hands. Then gather everyone at the snack table.

Ask: • **Who’s alive?** (Jesus.)

Say: **We’ve been learning that ► Jesus is alive. We know that Jesus lives and that he promises new life to everyone who believes in him. Isn’t that wonderful? Fold your hands, and let’s say a prayer to thank God that Jesus lives. Pray: Dear God, we thank you that ► Jesus is alive. And we thank you that Jesus loves and cares for us all the time, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Let’s make yummy make-believe flowers to eat. Give each child a clean craft stick and a few round crackers on a napkin. Let children take turns using the craft sticks to spread marshmallow creme on their crackers. Then invite children to decorate their “flowers” with colored cereal pieces. As children enjoy their edible flowers, point out that while flowers aren’t alive all year-round, ► Jesus is alive forever.

Remind children to throw their napkins in the wastebasket when they’ve finished. Have children take their pussy willow pictures home along with the paper-plate sunflowers if they chose to do Option 2.



BIBLE POINT



BIBLE POINT



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.

■ **Pussy Willow Play**

Repeat the action rhyme from the Bible Game. Older toddlers may enjoy rolling a ball back and forth around a circle as they repeat the rhyme. Whoever is holding the ball on the last word of the rhyme gets to give each person in the circle a small scoop of puffed cereal left from the Bible Craft.

Puffy little pussy willows (*stand straight and tall*)

On the branches bow. (*Bow to the front.*)

Puffy little pussy willows (*stand straight and tall*)

Grow but don't "meow." (*Shake a finger and your head.*)



■ **Growing Flower**

Provide a few plastic magnifying glasses and a variety of flowers and leaves for children to look at and touch. Include carnations, roses (without thorns), daisies, baby's breath stems, and a variety of leaves. As children explore the living plants, point out that flowers and buds bloom in the spring. Remind children that flowers don't live forever but that ► Jesus is alive forever.

Patterns

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

