

Bible Point ▶

Jesus Is Alive

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that Jesus is alive,
 - learn that Jesus is with them all the time, and
 - express joy that Jesus lives.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **Jesus is alive and with us all the time.**

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



After Jesus had died on the cross, the disciples were sad and frightened. For three years, Jesus had been their guide, their protection, their hope. Now he was dead, and they didn't know what to do; they were afraid, and all hope was gone. When he rose from the dead, they likely didn't immediately realize how all that had changed. Before his death, Jesus could be with them only physically, and only with a limited number of people at any given time. After his resurrection, Jesus was different. He could be with all of them—and all of us—all of the time! No longer is he bound by the confines of a human body, and he promises us in Matthew

28:20 not only that he is capable of being with us all the time, but that he *will* be with us always!

It's easy to get into a habit of doing everything in our own power and with no consideration of anyone but ourselves. But if we continue doing that, we eventually run into something we can't handle and are forced to turn to Jesus. How much better off we'd all be if we learned to rely on him all the time!

Prayer

- Read John 20:26.
- Because Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, how does that affect your outlook on life?
- What experience can you share with your toddlers to demonstrate how Jesus is with us all the time?
- Pray: God, help my class begin to understand what it means to have Jesus with them, especially when...

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: Come Out, Come Out —Have fun pretending they're inside cocoons and eggs.	Large boxes, towels	
	Option 2: All the Time —Make pictures to remind them that Jesus is alive and with us all the time.	Black and white construction paper, bowls of craft glue, Jesus pattern (p. 60), salt shaker, yellow markers, scissors, cotton swabs, tape, newspaper	
	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.	Towel from Option 1	
	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.	Bird patterns (p. 84), stiff paper, scissors, crayons, craft feathers, tape, doll blanket or scarf	
	Sing It Out —Sing a lively song and learn that Jesus is alive.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make feathery wings, and pretend to be birds.	Crepe paper, scissors, tape, craft feathers	
	Bible Game —Flutter their wings, “fly” to paper nests, and repeat the Bible Point.	Newsprint, wings from Bible Craft, cookie sticks, bedsheet or towel	
	Roll the Stone —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Bread, napkins, butter, plastic knife, cinnamon and sugar, circular cookie cutters	

*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.



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: Come Out, Come Out

SUPPLIES: large boxes, towels

Place several large boxes in one area of the room. Be sure the boxes are large enough for children to hide in. Provide towels for children to hide under and wrap up in.

As children arrive, invite them to turn into pretend birds and caterpillars. Have the “birds” hide in box “eggs” and the “caterpillars” wrap snugly “cocoon” towels around themselves.

As children play, make comments such as “Cocoons become empty because butterflies are alive” and “Eggs become empty because birds are alive.” Remind children that the tomb was empty because ► Jesus is alive. Tell children that today they’ll learn that Jesus is alive.



■ Option 2: All the Time

SUPPLIES: black and white construction paper, bowls of craft glue, Jesus pattern (p. 60), salt shaker, yellow markers, scissors, cotton swabs, tape, newspaper

Before class, cut sheets of black and white construction paper in half. Tape the halves together to make sheets of black and white paper. Prepare one sheet of black and white paper for each child. You’ll also need to photocopy the Jesus pattern. Cut out a pattern for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out the cutouts, black and white papers, bowls of craft glue, cotton swabs, yellow markers or crayons, and a salt shaker. Have children make yellow suns on the white halves of their papers. Then have children use cotton swabs to dab glue on the black halves. Let children sprinkle salt on the glue for glittery “stars.” Help children glue pictures of Jesus in the centers of their papers. Remind children that ► Jesus is alive and with us all the time—day and night.



■ 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 VERSE ►



Say: **Who is alive? Our Bible verse today tells us that Jesus is alive.** Show children Mark 16:6 in 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

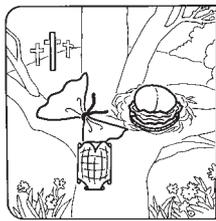
SUPPLIES: towel from Option 1



Before class begins, please check to make sure 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.

Panel 1



Place the towel from Option 1 beside you. Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. Say: **Today we'll learn that ► Jesus is alive. We'll also learn that Jesus is with us all the time.**

- Ask:
- **Do you see a little bird on the StoryBoard?** (No.)
 - **Where is the little bird?** (In the egg; in the nest.)

Say: **We can't see the bird, but we know it's in the egg.**

Let's peek inside. Let each child touch the nest and look inside the plastic egg.

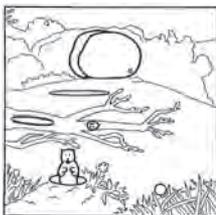
Let's pretend we're birds hatching. Scoot close together in our little nest.

Spread the towel over several children and yourself. Then say: **Ooo, it's dark inside our big egg, but we're not scared because we know that ► Jesus is alive and with us all the time! Poke at the eggshell, little birds, and we'll hatch.**

Tap the sides of the towel with your hands, and then slowly slide the towel off. **Oh, look at the pretty world. Flap your wings! It's lots of fun to be alive.** Set the towel aside. **We can't see birds in eggs, but we know birds are there. What else is hiding in our picture?** Let each child find and touch the cocoon. Then have a child pull the butterfly out of the cocoon.

Butterflies are alive in the springtime and so are baby birds, bugs, and flowers. Springtime is a happy time! Put the baby duck and butterfly safely aside. **But long ago there were people who weren't happy. They were mean people who didn't like Jesus and didn't think he was God's Son. The mean people put Jesus on a cross, and he died. Can you find the cross?** Have children find and touch the cross. **Jesus' friends were very sad. His 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). **What a sad time. Then something wonderful happened!**

Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2. Point to the tomb and say: **Here's the tomb where they laid Jesus. And here's the stone in front of the tomb. God sent an angel to roll that big stone away.** Demonstrate how to roll away the stone; then replace it. **You can roll away the stone, too, and peek inside the tomb. Do you think Jesus is in there?** Let children take turns rolling the stone away from the picture of the tomb. Each



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



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teacher tips

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 ►

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? Let's clap to show how happy we are that ► ***Jesus is alive.*** Lead children in clapping.



BIBLE POINT ►

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.***

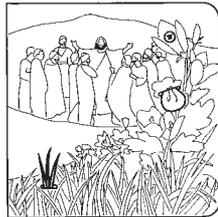
Let's see what else is alive. Have children find and touch the bug. Have the inchworm move out of its hole and wiggle about on the grass for children to find and tickle. Let children touch the rough sandpaper on the branch. Tell them that trees grow and are alive, too.

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. Then say: **Squat low on the ground like you're a groundhog in a hole.** Pause. **When I count to 3, we'll pop out of our pretend holes and shout,** ► ***"Jesus is alive!"*** Ready? One, two, three...**Jesus is alive! Good for you. You can turn into children again, and we'll hear what happened when Jesus' friends learned that Jesus was alive.**



BIBLE POINT ►

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 say, "I love you, Jesus."

Jesus' friends were glad to see Jesus. They were happy that ► ***Jesus is alive.*** Jesus prayed for his friends (fold your hands, and encourage children to follow). **And Jesus**

loved his friends. Turn to someone and say, "I love you." Pause while children respond.

Then Jesus said he was going to live in heaven. Jesus told his friends to tell everyone that he's alive. I'll count to 3, and then we'll say, ► ***"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, 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 ►



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



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

■ Jesus Is Alive Today

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 3

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.



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. They knew that ► Jesus is alive, and we know that Jesus is alive, too.**





Jesus died, but came back to life again. He wants to be our forever friend. He will always be with us, wherever we go. What a good friend for us to have! Say it with me: ► Jesus is alive!

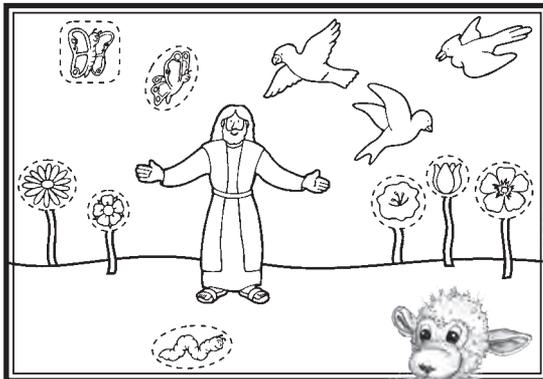
Springtime reminds us that new life is everywhere. Today we can add lively little birds to our bulletin board.



Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: bird patterns (p. 84), stiff paper, scissors, crayons, craft feathers, tape, doll blanket or scarf



Before class, photocopy the bird patterns onto stiff paper. Cut out a bird pattern for each child. Set out crayons, tape, colorful craft feathers, and the cutouts.



The Interactive Bible Bulletin Board is a simple device that offers so much that young children need: routine and familiarity, opportunities for creative expression, and visual reminders of previous lessons. If you haven't used this idea, give it a try!

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

Cuddles: (Covering his head with the blanket and singing a little “song”)
Doo, dee-doo, dee-doo...can you guess who?

Teacher: (Whispering to children) Who do you think is under there?
(Encourage children to say Cuddles’ name aloud.)

Cuddles: How do you know it’s me? You can’t see me under here!

Teacher: Even though we can’t see you, Cuddles, we know you’re there.

Cuddles: (Peeking out from under the blanket) You must be pretty smart!

Teacher: Cuddles, we learned that we can’t see baby birds in their eggs, but we know they’re inside. You were under the blanket, but we knew you were there. It’s the same with Jesus. Even though we can’t see Jesus, we know that ► Jesus is alive and with us all the time.

Cuddles: All the time? (Hides under his blanket again.) Even when I’m under here?

Teacher: Yes, Cuddles! Isn’t it great that ► Jesus is alive? Now, Cuddles, if you’ll come out, you can help us add pretty birds to the bulletin board.

Cuddles: (Tossing aside his blanket) Oh, I’d like that!

Have Cuddles hand each child a cutout. Let children color the paper birds and then tape a few craft feathers onto the wings. Help children tape their birds to the bulletin board. Each time a child places a bird picture, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. When all the birds are on the bulletin board, let the children take turns finding and pointing to the pictures of caterpillars, butterflies, flowers, birds, and Jesus.

Teacher: I’m so happy that ► Jesus is alive. Let’s pretend we’re little songbirds and sing a happy song.

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■ Sing It Out

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.



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: **We've been learning that ► *Jesus is alive.* When something is alive, it moves. Can you move your fingers? Pause. Can you move your eyes? Pause. We know we're alive because we can move. Let's make pretty pretend wings and then move like little birds.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: crepe paper, scissors, tape, craft feathers

Before class, cut 2-foot lengths of colorful crepe paper. You'll need four crepe paper streamers for each child.

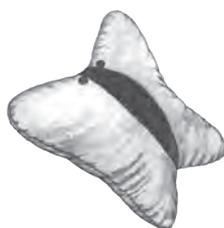
Set out tape and craft feathers. Hand each child four crepe paper streamers. Help each child tape two of his or her streamers together to make a "wing." Be sure children each make two wings to wear. Then let children tape craft feathers onto their paper wings. As children are working, say: ► ***Jesus is alive. And he's with us all the time. He's even with little birds that fly in the sky!***

When the children have finished, tape the paper wings to their elbows. Invite children to flap their arms gently and "fly" around the room. Then say: **We can pretend to be birds and play a fun game.**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: newsprint, wings from Bible Craft, cookie sticks, bedsheet or large towel



Set sheets of newsprint at one end of the room and a box of cookie sticks at the opposite end. Gather children in the center of the room. Say: **Hello, little birds. Your feathery wings are so pretty! But you need nests to live in. Fly to the paper and pick up a sheet. Then find a place to build your nest.** Show children how to crumple sheets of newsprint to make "nests." Then have children sit in their nests.

Ahhh, it's nice to sit in our nests. But it's fun to fly, too! Let's fly around the room. Lead children in flapping their arms and "flying" around the room a few times. Then say: **Let's go back to our nests.** Pause while children return to their paper nests. **Are you hungry, little birds? I have something delicious to eat.** Hold up the cookie sticks. **Fly to me, and I'll feed you!** Have children fly to you, and then give each child a cookie stick "worm" to eat.

When everyone has eaten his or her treat, say: **We're happy little birds because we know that Jesus is alive.**

Just like birds are alive, butterflies are alive, too. When we see butterflies flying around, we can remember that ► *Jesus is alive.*



See page 5.



Spread out a bedsheet or large towel on the floor in the middle of the room. Encourage each child to grasp an edge of the sheet. Place the *plush butterfly* in the middle of the sheet. Allow time for the children to wave their part of the sheet up and down to make the butterfly bounce on the sheet. If you have older toddlers, you might have everyone lift up and down at the same time to make the butterfly bounce higher. If the butterfly bounces out, simply place it back in the middle of the sheet again.

Ask: • **How did we help the butterfly fly?** (We shook the sheet; we bounced it.)

• **How can this butterfly remind us that Jesus is alive?** (Butterflies are alive and so is Jesus; because butterflies are alive.)

Say: **Let's pretend to be butterflies! I am going to say some things that happen in our lives, and if it makes you happy and excited, flap your butterfly wings and fly around the room.**

List several events such as birthdays, Christmas, going to the park, playing with friends, and so on. If you have older toddlers, invite them to think of things that make them happy and excited, too.

Say: **That was fun! You're all such beautiful butterflies! Today in our Bible story we learned that God's angel rolled away the stone and told Jesus' friends that ► *Jesus is alive!* When we see things that are alive, like butterflies, we can remember that Jesus is alive, too! Now let's flutter our butterfly wings as we fly over to the snack table.** Lead the children to the table, repeating the Bible Point on the way.



BIBLE POINT ►

Closing

■ Roll the Stone

SUPPLIES: bread, napkins, butter, plastic knife, cinnamon and sugar, circular cookie cutters

Have children wash their hands, and then gather everyone at the snack table. Say: **We've been learning that ► *Jesus is alive.* And we know that Jesus is with us all the time, too. Let's say a prayer to tell Jesus how much we love him. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear Jesus, we love you so much. Thank you for being with us all the time. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Let's make a snack to remind us that Jesus is alive.** Hand each child a slice of bread on a napkin. Help children use a round cookie cutter or plastic cup to each cut one circle from their bread slices. Lightly place the round pieces on top of the holes in the bread. Say the following rhyme a few times.

This is the tomb where Jesus lay (*point to the bread*),
And this is the stone (*hold up the round bread*)
The angel rolled away. (*"Roll" the round piece.*)
Peek inside; then smile and say (*peek through the bread hole*),
"Jesus is alive! Hooray!" (*Clap and cheer.*)

Spread butter on the bread, and then sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on top. Let children enjoy their tasty snacks.



Live It!



See page 5.



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.

■ *Rhyme Time*

Repeat the action rhyme children learned in the Closing. If you have older toddlers, let them say the rhyme with a partner.

**This is the tomb where Jesus lay,
And this is the stone
The angel rolled away.
Peek inside; then smile and say,
“Jesus is alive! Hooray!”**

■ *For Our Feathered Friends*

Before children arrive, poke holes in the centers of rice cakes. Thread 12-inch pieces of yarn through the holes, and knot the ends together to make loops. Prepare one rice cake for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Then set out plastic knives, vegetable shortening, and a pie pan containing bird seed or sunflower seeds. Hand each child a piece of wax paper and a rice cake. Have children spread shortening on the rice cakes and then roll the rice cakes in the pans of bird or sunflower seeds to make bird feeders. Place the bird feeders in small plastic bags for the children to take home. Tell children to hang the bird feeders in a tree for the birds to enjoy. Remind children that just as baby birds come out of eggs and are alive, Jesus came out of the tomb and is alive.



Patterns

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

