

Bible Point ▶

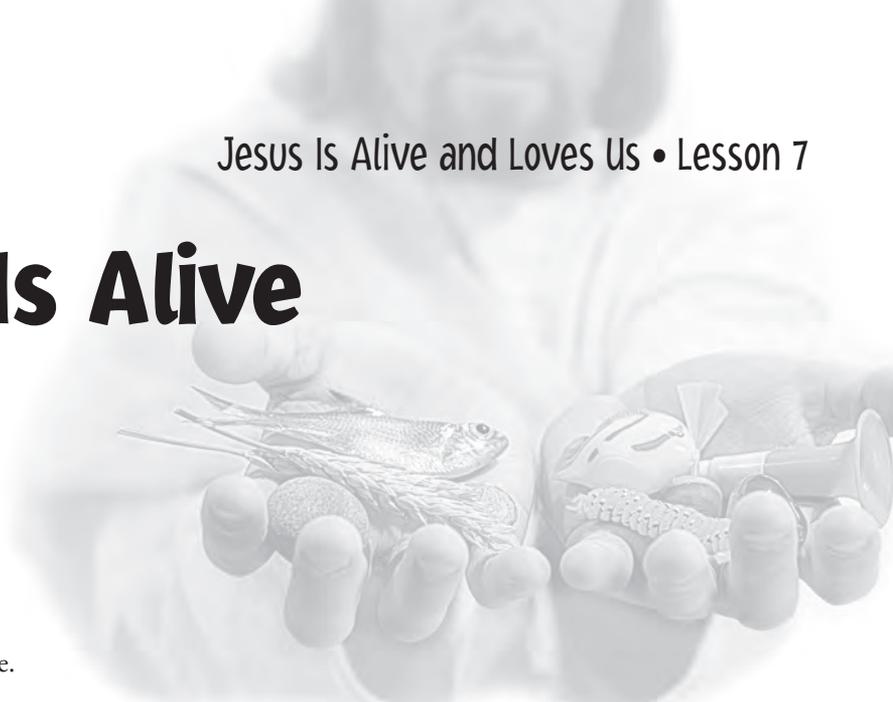
Jesus Is Alive

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that Jesus is alive,
 - know that Jesus loves them, and
 - express their joy that Jesus is alive.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- Jesus is alive and loves us.

Matthew
28:1-10, 16-20



The earthquake that happened when Jesus died was paralleled by the one that hit when the angel rolled the stone from the grave. The angel didn't roll the stone away so that Jesus could get out of the tomb but so that humans could get into the tomb to see that Jesus was gone.

The first people to see that empty tomb were the women closest to Jesus. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James arose early to anoint Jesus' body with spices, which was a common burial practice. The women were greeted by an angel who announced Jesus' resurrection.

Something dramatic happened at the tomb that day. The Roman guards stationed at the tomb by Pilate were from his own soldiers. Surely these were the best of the best. And yet they were found like dead men at what had taken place. Jesus had defeated death, literally, once and for all!

Prayer

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-20.
- What would your life be like without the Resurrection?
- How should you respond to Jesus for his amazing sacrifice and victory?
- Pray: Lord, there's no way to thank you for what you did for us on the cross. But help me to live my life in thankfulness and obedience. Help me to model your love to the children I teach 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
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: Rock Rollin' —Have fun rolling make-believe stones.	Newspaper, plastic trash bags, packing tape, large box (optional)	
	Option 2: Crazy Cocoons —Wrap themselves up in cuddly, pretend cocoons.	Large towels	
	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.	Crepe paper, scissors, towels from Option 2	
	Jesus Is Alive Today —Sing a lively song to praise Jesus.	Bible, CD player, crepe paper streamers from previous activity	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Children patterns (p. 96), scissors, tape, bandanna, crayons	
	Sing It Out —Sing a lively song and learn that Jesus is alive.	CD player, crepe paper streamers from Bible story	
	Bible Craft —Make action toys to remind them that Jesus is alive.	String, scissors, paper cups, aluminum foil, crayons, markers	
	Bible Game —Sing and play with the action toys they made during the Bible Craft.	Cups and stones from Bible Craft, CD player	
Closing 	Rock 'n' Roll Treats —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Edible cookie dough, powdered sugar, flaked coconut, candy sprinkles, bowls, wax paper, wet wipes	

*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: Rock Rollin’

SUPPLIES: newspaper, plastic trash bags, packing tape, large box (optional)

Before class, stuff several large, plastic trash bags with crumpled newspapers. Seal the bags tightly with packing tape to make “stones.”

As children arrive, invite them to roll the stones around the room. You may wish to place a large box on its side and have the children roll the stones away from the “tomb” like the angel in the Bible story. Remind children that when Jesus’ friends looked in the tomb, Jesus wasn’t there because ► Jesus is alive.

Option 2: Crazy Cocoons

SUPPLIES: large towels

Set out a variety of old beach towels or soft bath towels. As children arrive, encourage them to take turns wrapping themselves in the towels and pretending to be caterpillars in their cocoons. Point out how being wrapped in a soft towel is like a warm, snuggly hug. Remind children that Jesus loves them all the time. Then have children emerge from the “cocoons” and turn into beautiful “butterflies.”

Remind children that cocoons are empty because butterflies are alive and that Jesus’ tomb was empty because ► Jesus is alive. Tell children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about how Jesus is alive and loves us.

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.”

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 kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

BIBLE POINT





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 ▶



track 3

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."



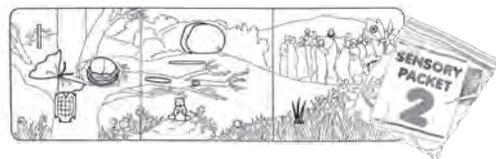
This is God's special book.
 Yes, it's God's book you see!
 I learn about all God has done
 And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive

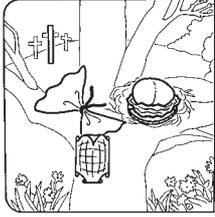
SUPPLIES: crepe paper, scissors, towels from Option 2



Before class, 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. Be sure that the pullout items on all three panels are tucked inside the appropriate places on the StoryBoard.

Panel 1



Before class, cut 18-inch crepe paper streamers in a variety of colors. Cut one for each child in class.

Place the streamers and the large towels from Option 2 beside you. Say: **Today we're going to hear the happiest story in the Bible. It's why we're celebrating Easter soon! We'll learn that ► Jesus is alive.** Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. **It's springtime! See how green**

everything is? There's lots of new life in the spring. Let's find objects and pictures of living things on our StoryBoard. Have children find and touch the following pictures on Panel 1:

- the tree,
- the grass,
- the nest, and
- the egg.

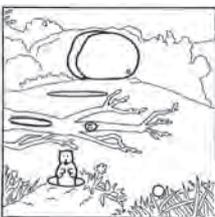
Let children take turns peeking inside the plastic egg. Hold up the baby duck and say: **Nests have empty eggs because birds are alive. Let's see what else is alive.**

Can you find the cocoon? Invite children to touch the cocoon, and then help a child gently pull out the butterfly. **Oh, a pretty butterfly!** Make the butterfly “swoop and dive” in the air around the children. Then point to the cocoon and say: **The cocoon is empty because the butterfly is alive.** Put the baby duck and butterfly safely aside. **Let's play a game. Some of you can be caterpillars** (hand several of the children towels), **and some of you can be butterflies** (hand the rest of the children paper streamers). **Little caterpillars, wrap up in your snuggly cocoons and go to sleep.** Have children holding towels wrap themselves up and lie on the floor. **Oh, here come some beautiful butterflies that came out of their cocoons.** Have the children holding the streamers “fly” around the room and wave their “wings.” Have children switch roles and play again; then set the towels and streamers aside.

Spring is a happy time—but long ago there were people who weren't happy. There were mean people who didn't like Jesus and didn't think he was God's Son. The mean people hung Jesus on a cross, and he died. Have children find and touch the cross. **It was a very sad time.**

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). **No one thought Jesus was alive. But then something wonderful happened!**

Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2. Point to the tomb and say: **Here's the tomb where Jesus was. And here's the big stone. God sent an angel to roll the stone away.** Roll away the StoryBoard stone; then replace it. **You can roll away the stone, too, and peek inside. Do you think Jesus is inside the tomb?** Let children take turns rolling away the stone and peeking in the tomb. Each time a child peeks, whisper: **Jesus isn't here. ► Jesus is alive.**




BIBLE POINT ▶

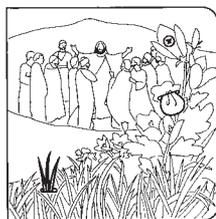
Jesus' friends came to see if Jesus was in the tomb. The angel told Jesus' friends that Jesus wasn't there. The tomb was empty because Jesus is alive. Point to the egg on Panel 1. Eggs are empty because birds are alive. Point to the cocoon. Cocoons are empty because butterflies are alive. Point to the tomb. And the tomb was empty because ▶ Jesus is alive. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive! Let's see what else is alive.

Have children find and touch the bug and feel the rough texture of the sandpaper "bark" on the branch. Slide the groundhog puppet up and down through the hole in the hill. Say: **Groundhogs like to play Peekaboo**. Say the following rhyme as the "groundhog" plays Peekaboo with the children.

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


BIBLE POINT ▶

I'm so happy that ▶ Jesus is alive. Do you think Jesus' friends were happy, too? Let's see.

Panel 3


Reveal Panel 3. Say: **Put your hand on your heart if you see Jesus**. Let children find the picture of Jesus and touch his beard.

Jesus' friends were glad to see Jesus. They were happy that ▶ Jesus is alive. We're happy, too. And that's why we celebrate Easter! The disciples loved Jesus, and Jesus loved his friends. Let's say, "I love you" to a friend.

Pause while children say, "I love you."

Then Jesus said he was going to live in heaven. Jesus told his friends to tell everyone about him. I'll count to 3, and we'll say, "Jesus is alive." Ready? **One, two, three...Jesus is alive! Good for you!** Have children find and touch:

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

Say: **Let's sing a song to show how glad we are that ▶ Jesus is alive.**


BIBLE POINT ▶


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


BIBLE POINT ▶

■ Jesus Is Alive Today

SUPPLIES: Bible, crepe paper streamers (used in the Bible story), CD player



track 8

Open your Bible to **Mark 16:6** and show children today's Bible verse. Have them repeat it with you: ▶ **Jesus is alive**.

Hand each child a crepe paper streamer used during the Bible story. Using the CD, lead children in singing the Bible verse song, "Jesus Is Alive Today" (adapted from Mark 16:6b) (track 8), to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage children to joyously wave their crepe paper streamers as they sing.



SING

**Jesus cares for me.
Jesus cares for me.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus cares for me.**

Jesus is with me.
 Jesus is with me.
 Jesus is alive today.
 Jesus is with me.

Jesus loves me so.
 Jesus loves me so.
 Jesus is alive today.
 Jesus loves me so.

After singing the song through once, bring out the *tambourine* from the Learning Lab. Say: **Jesus says in the Bible that he likes it when we make a joyful noise to him!**

Ask: • **What are some ways we can make a joyful noise to Jesus?** (Clap our hands; stomp our feet; sing out loud.)

Say: **We can also use things around us, like our toys, to make a noise that Jesus will like! Let's pass around this *tambourine* and sing about Jesus some more!** Replay the song and allow children to take turns using the *tambourine* to make a joyful musical noise. Make sure that each child has a chance to use the *tambourine*. Children can also wave their streamers as they wait for the *tambourine*.



SING

Jesus cares for me.
 Jesus cares for me.
 Jesus is alive today.
 Jesus cares for me.

Jesus is with me.
 Jesus is with me.
 Jesus is alive today.
 Jesus is with me.

Jesus loves me so.
 Jesus loves me so.
 Jesus is alive today.
 Jesus loves me so.

After the song ends, stop the CD player and gather children in a circle on the floor.



Ask: • **How do you think Jesus feels when he hears us singing to him?** (Happy; good; he likes it.)

- **Why do you think it's good to praise Jesus?** (Because he loves us; because he's good; because he's alive.)

Say: **Jesus' friends were so happy that ► Jesus is alive! They knew that Jesus loved them. And we know that Jesus loves us, too. He is our forever friend who is always with us.**



Let's put happy children on the bulletin board. They'll remind us how happy we are that ► Jesus is alive.

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: children patterns (p. 96), scissors, tape, bandanna, crayons



Before class, photocopy the children patterns. Cut out a pattern for each child in class.

Fold a bandanna into a triangle, and tie it loosely around Cuddles' shoulders like a shawl.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing the bandanna. Go through the following puppet script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight.

Cuddles: Hello, hello! How are you all today?

Teacher: *(With children)* Hello, Cuddles! We're fine, thanks. But are you sick? You're wearing a coat on this nice day.

Cuddles: Oh, I'm not sick. This is my favorite jacket. It's my special "Jesus Loves Me" jacket. Every time I wear it, it reminds me that Jesus is alive and loves me.

Teacher: We've been learning that ► Jesus is alive. And we've also been learning that Jesus loves us. But how does your jacket remind you of that, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Well, it wraps around me like a happy-hug. And Jesus' love wraps around me like a happy-hug, too. I'll give you hugs to show how it works! *(Have Cuddles wrap his bandanna around each child and give them each a hug. Be sure all children are affirmed.)*

Teacher: That was nice, Cuddles. Hugs make us feel happy. But what makes us happiest is knowing that ► Jesus is alive. Would you like to help us put happy children on the bulletin board?

Cuddles: Yes. *(Giggling)* I'd be *happy* to help!

Have Cuddles hand each child a cutout. If there's time, let children color the cutouts with crayons. Then help children tape the pictures on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, lead him or her in repeating the Bible Point. If there's time, let children find and point to the caterpillars, butterflies, flowers, birds, and Jesus on the bulletin board.

Teacher: Can you show me a big smile like the children on the bulletin board are wearing? *(Pause for children to respond.)* Now let's wear smiles as we sing a happy song to remind us that ► Jesus is alive.



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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player, crepe paper streamers from Bible story



Hand each child a crepe paper streamer that was used during the Bible story. 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.” Encourage children to joyously wave their crepe paper streamers.



**Jesus cares for me.
Jesus cares for me.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus cares for me.**

**Jesus is with me.
Jesus is with me.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus is with me.**

**Jesus loves me so.
Jesus loves me so.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus loves me so.**

Say: **When Jesus’ friends came to the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled away. And Jesus wasn’t there because ► Jesus is alive. Yea! Jesus is alive and loves us!** Clap your hands and encourage children to cheer with you. Then say: **We can make fun toys to remind us how God’s angel rolled away the stone.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: string, scissors, paper cups, aluminum foil, crayons, markers

Before class, poke holes in the bottoms of paper cups. Cut a 12-inch string for each child in class. Knot one end of each string, and then thread the strings up through the bottoms of the cups. Prepare one cup for each child.

Set out crayons and markers. Hand each child a paper cup with a string attached. Invite children to scribble-color their cups. As children work, ask questions such as “Why wasn’t Jesus in the tomb when the angel rolled away the stone?” and “Who’s alive and loves us all the time?”

When the paper cups have been colored, have each child make a “stone” by squeezing a large sheet of aluminum foil around the end of his or her string. Say: **Let’s play a fun game with the pretend stones and our paper cups. It will remind us how the angel rolled the stone away to show us that ► Jesus is alive.**

teacher tips

Safety is essential when working with young children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests craft supplies and toys should be no smaller than a 50-cent piece (to avoid choking). Make sure electrical outlets are covered, electrical cords are hidden, and all chemicals are out of reach of the children.



teacher tips

Before the children arrive, you may want to tape sheets of aluminum foil to the ends of the strings. Then let the children squish the foil into balls.



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: cups and stones from Bible Craft, CD player



Have children scatter around the room, holding their paper cups. Say: **When Jesus' friends went to the tomb, they saw that the stone was rolled away. And they didn't see Jesus. Do you know why? Because ► *Jesus is alive!* Let's play a game with our new toys. See if you can swing the pretend stones on your strings into your cups like this.** Demonstrate how to swing the aluminum foil ball in the air and catch it in the paper cup. Say the following rhyme as children swing the foil stones and try to catch them in their cups. Encourage children to repeat the rhyme with you.

The angel rolled the stone away And Jesus is alive today!

After children are familiar with the game, use the *CD* and sing "Jesus Is Alive Today" (adapted from Mark 16:6b). Let children play the cups and stones game as they sing.



Jesus cares for me.
Jesus cares for me.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus cares for me.

Jesus is with me.
Jesus is with me.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus is with me.

Jesus loves me so.
Jesus loves me so.
Jesus is alive today.
Jesus loves me so.

When you've finished singing, say: **That was so much fun! Singing is a good way to show how happy we are that ► *Jesus is alive!* Now let's set our cups and stones on the floor and then hop with joy over to the snack table.**



Closing

■ Rock 'n' Roll Treats

SUPPLIES: edible cookie dough, powdered sugar, flaked coconut, candy sprinkles, bowls, wax paper, wet wipes

Before class, prepare edible "cement" by thoroughly mixing one cup of edible cookie dough and one cup of powdered sugar. Store the mixture in a plastic, self-locking bag. Place candy sprinkles and flaked coconut in bowls.

After helping them wash their hands, gather children at the snack table. Say: **We've been learning that ► *Jesus is alive.* And we know that Jesus loves us just as he loved his friends in the Bible story. Let's say a prayer with our friends to thank Jesus for his love.** Have children gently hold the hands of the friends beside



them. Then pray: **Dear Jesus, we're so glad you're alive. Thank you for loving us. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

We heard how the angel rolled the stone away to show us that Jesus is alive. Now let's make delicious, pretend stones to roll and gobble up. Give each child a piece of wax paper and a small lump of edible dough. Show children how to make bite-sized "stones" and then how to roll the stones in the flaked coconut and candy sprinkles.

When children have finished with their treats, have them throw the wax paper in the wastebasket and clean their hands with wet wipes.

Be sure to have children take their Bible Craft toys home.



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.

■ Circles and Stones

Play an action game and have fun counting to 5. Before this activity, cut red, blue, green, and yellow circles from construction paper. Use a dinner plate as a pattern for the circles. Then cut two brown paper "stones." Be sure there's a stone or circle for each child. Tape the circles and stones 6 inches apart in a circle on the floor.

Have each child stand on a stone or circle. Then repeat the following counting rhyme as children hop from shape to shape around the circle.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5—

Jesus is alive!

Have children stop hopping on the word *alive*. Let each of them tell you if they're standing on a circle or a stone. Then repeat the rhyme. If you have older toddlers, let them also tell you the color of the shapes they're standing on.

■ Roll 'n' Toss

Place a large box on its side a few feet away from the children. Make sure the open end of the box faces the children. Hand each child a sheet of newspaper, and let the children crumple the papers to make "stones." Then invite children to roll or toss the stones into the box. Each time a stone goes inside the box, lead everyone in cheering, ► "Jesus is alive!"

Patterns

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

