

Bible Point ▶

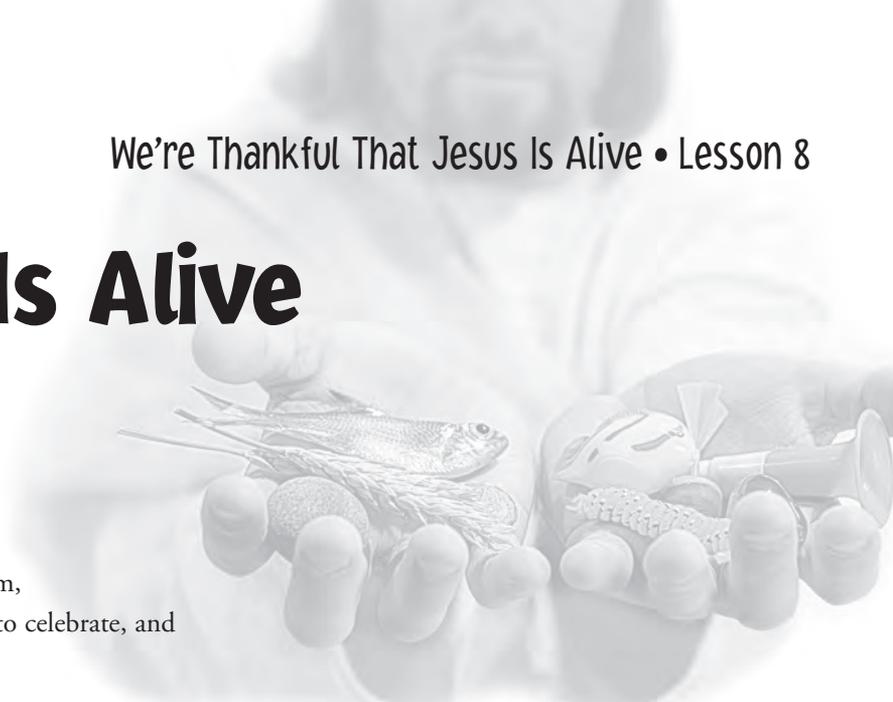
Jesus Is Alive

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that Jesus is alive with them,
 - realize that Jesus' life is a reason to celebrate, and
 - express their thanks for Jesus.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- We're thankful that Jesus is alive.

Matthew
28:1-10, 16-20



When the two Marys learned that Jesus was alive, they were filled with joy. When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee, they worshipped him. What do we do when we think about Jesus? When you read the gospel accounts of Jesus' trials and crucifixion, you can't come away without feeling gratitude to Jesus for what he did for us in his suffering and death.

But the gospel accounts don't end with Jesus' death. Even more marvelous than the cruelty Jesus went through for us is the fact of his resurrection! Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 15:16-19 that if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, "we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world." The Resurrection is what made all the suffering and death worthwhile. Through Jesus' resurrection, we can have eternal life. What other truth could we be more thankful for than we will spend eternity together with Christ? Don't let the daily routine or the struggles of life drain that gratitude from you!

Prayer

- Read Romans 5:8.
- Take a moment to express your gratitude to God for Jesus' resurrection.
- How can you better demonstrate your gratitude to God through your life?
- Pray: God, thank you for Jesus' resurrection. Help my class to be thankful to you for...

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: Garden-Party Painting —Make a mural to use during the Closing.	Newspaper, shelf paper, tempera paints, sponges, scissors, tape, pie pans, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks	
	Option 2: It's in the Heart —Sit in a pretend treetop and "open" special eggs.	Plastic eggs, red construction paper, scissors, bedsheet, basket, shredded newspaper or Easter grass	
	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.		
	We're So Happy! —Sing a song and celebrate the fact 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.	Balloon patterns (p. 108), scissors, tape, ribbon, balloon, colored paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song and celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive.	Bible, CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make pretty, paper party balloons.	Large balloon pattern (p. 108); red, yellow, blue, and green poster board; scissors; markers; curling ribbon; drinking straws; tape	
	Bible Game —Play an action game with a poster and the party balloons they made in the Bible Craft.	Party balloons from Bible Craft	
	Party Perfect —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Sliced fruit, powdered fruit-flavored gelatin, teaspoon, cupcake liners, red construction paper, scissors, napkins, paper cup	

*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: Garden-Party Painting

SUPPLIES: newspaper, shelf paper, tempera paints, sponges, scissors, tape, pie pans, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks

Before class, cut sponges into circle or flower shapes. Cover an area of the floor with newspaper, and tape the paper to the floor to prevent it from slipping.

Tape a 4-foot piece of shelf paper to the newspaper on the floor. Place the sponges and pie pans containing yellow, pink, and green tempera paints on the newspaper. Have children wear paint shirts or paper grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out of them. Invite children to use the sponges and paint to create a “garden of flowers” mural. Point out that some people have garden parties in the spring when flowers are alive and pretty. Tell children that today they’ll have a party to celebrate the wonderful fact that ► Jesus is alive.

When the mural is dry, hang it on a wall at children’s eye level. You’ll use the garden mural in the Closing.

teacher tips

For less messy sponge-painting, clip a hinge-style clothespin to each sponge. The clothespins make great handles and help children keep their fingers clean.



Option 2: It’s in the Heart

SUPPLIES: plastic eggs, red construction paper, scissors, bedsheet, basket, shredded newspaper or Easter grass

Before class, prepare a “nest” by placing shredded newspaper or Easter grass in a basket or box. Place 12 plastic pull-apart Easter eggs in the nest. Cut several small, red construction paper hearts and hide them in some of the eggs. Cover either two chairs that are facing each other or a low table with an old bedsheet to make a “treetop.” Set the nest containing the eggs in the treetop.

As children arrive, invite them to crawl into the treetop and explore the special nest you “found.” Let children take turns opening the eggs and finding the hearts. As they play, make comments such as “These hearts remind us of how much we love Jesus” and “Jesus is alive and loves us.” Remind children that eggs in nests are empty because birds are alive. Point out that Jesus’ tomb was empty because ► Jesus is alive.



■ 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 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.”



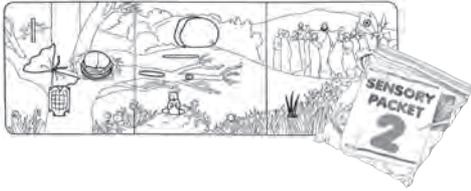
SING

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

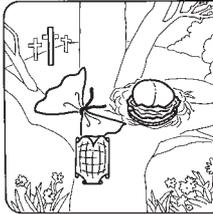


Before class begins, please check to make sure that the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

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. Roll the StoryBoard stone on Panel 2 in front of the tomb. Make sure the pullout items on all three panels are tucked inside the appropriate places on the StoryBoard.

Panel 1

Before this activity, hide the plastic eggs around the room in easy-to-find places such as under tables or on chairs.



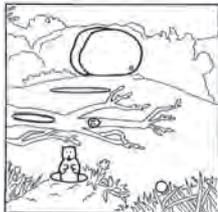
Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. Say: **Today we're learning that ► *Jesus is alive*. Oh, look at this pretty spring picture. There's lots of new life in the spring. Let's see what we can find in the picture.**

Ask: • **Who can find the nest and egg?** Let children touch the nest and look inside the plastic egg.

Say: **What a cute little bird! Can you show me how little birds sing and flap their wings?** Lead children in "peeping" and flapping their pretend wings. Then say: **Little birds like to flap their wings and fly away after they hatch from their eggs.** Remove the bird from the egg. **Birds are alive, and we know that ► *Jesus is alive*, too. Let's see what else is alive.** Have children find and touch the cocoon and take turns pulling out the butterfly. Then put the baby duck and butterfly safely aside.

Spring is a happy time of year. But long ago there were people who weren't happy. There were mean people who didn't like Jesus, and they 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. Show me a sad face.** Pause. **Jesus' body was laid in a tomb.**

Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2, and point to the picture of the tomb. **Here's where Jesus lay. See the big stone in front of the tomb?** Point to the stone. **Jesus' friends were so sad. They thought they'd never see Jesus again. But then something wonderful happened!**

God sent an angel to roll the big stone away. Roll away the StoryBoard stone. **Jesus' friends came to look inside, and what did they see? Jesus wasn't there! The tomb was empty because Jesus is alive! Let's clap to show how happy we are that Jesus is alive.** Lead children in clapping, and then replace the stone.



Repetition is an extremely important and effective tool for teaching young children. While the StoryBoards may become a little too familiar to the teachers, weekly use allows young children to discover and rediscover the Bible truths.




BIBLE POINT ▶

We'll roll away the stone and then peek inside. What do you think we'll see? Let children take turns rolling away the stone. Each time a child peeks in the tomb, whisper: **Jesus isn't here because ▶ Jesus is alive.**

Point to the empty egg and cocoon on Panel 1. Say: **Eggs are empty because birds are alive. Cocoons are empty because butterflies are 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 and feel the rough texture of the sandpaper "bark" on the branch. Have the fuzzy inchworm move out of its hole and wiggle about on the grass for children to find and tickle.

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.

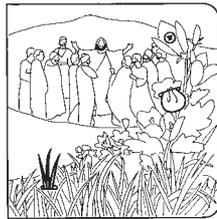
**Peekaboo! I see you!
Jesus is alive—yahoo!**

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



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


BIBLE POINT ▶

Panel 3


Open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 3. Say: **There's Jesus with his friends. Jesus' friends were so happy to see Jesus and to know that Jesus is alive. Let's touch Jesus' beard and tell him we're glad he's alive.** Each time a child touches Jesus' beard, lead him or her in saying, "I'm glad ▶ Jesus is alive."

Jesus loved his friends. And Jesus prayed for them. Then Jesus said that he was going to live in heaven. But Jesus wanted his friends to tell everyone about him. We'll count to 3 and then shout, ▶ "Jesus is alive." Ready? One, two, three...Jesus is alive! Now let's find objects and pictures of living things on our StoryBoard. 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 thankful we are for new life in Jesus.**


BIBLE POINT ▶

BIBLE POINT ▶

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.



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.)



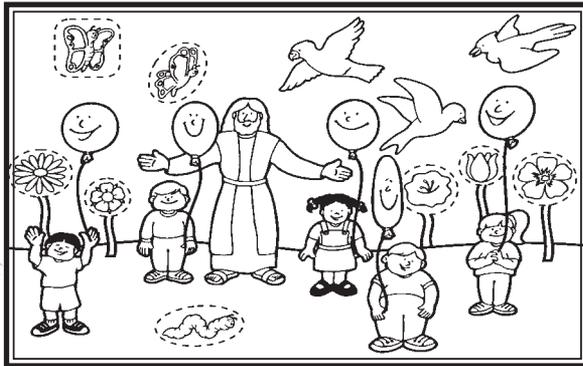
Say: **Knowing that Jesus is alive makes me smile and feel good. Jesus lives in our hearts, and he's with us all the time. He is our forever friend, and someday we will live with him in heaven. We can add happy faces to our bulletin board to remind us how happy we are that ► Jesus is alive.**



Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: balloon patterns (p. 108), scissors, tape, ribbon, balloon, colored paper



Before class, photocopy on colored paper the small balloon patterns. Cut out the patterns. You'll need one paper balloon for each child in class. Then cut a 10-inch length of ribbon for each child. You'll also need to blow up and tie off one real balloon.

! WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD—

Children under 8 yrs. can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required. Keep uninflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.



Hold the real balloon and bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Go through the following puppet script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight.

Cuddles: (Jumping excitedly) Oh, what is that? What do you have there? It's so pretty!

Teacher: Children, can you tell Cuddles what I'm holding? (Have children tell Cuddles that you're holding a balloon.)

Cuddles: The balloon is pretty, but what's inside the balloon?

Teacher: There's nothing inside the balloon, Cuddles. It's empty, just like the tomb was empty in the Bible story. Children, can you tell Cuddles why the tomb was empty? *(Lead children to tell Cuddles that the tomb was empty because Jesus is alive.)*

Cuddles: Wow—that's pretty neat! It makes me feel happy to know that Jesus is alive.

Teacher: We're going to have a party to celebrate that Jesus is alive. It's very special to know that when we love Jesus and believe in him, we can live in heaven someday with Jesus.

Cuddles: I'm so happy that ► Jesus is alive! That *is* something to celebrate! Can I come to the party?

Teacher: Certainly, Cuddles. But first, we'll put some pretty party balloons on the bulletin board.

Place the real balloon away and out of reach of the children. Then have Cuddles hand each child a paper balloon. Let the children each choose a ribbon to tape on their balloons as "strings." Then help children tape the balloons onto the hands of the pictures of the children placed on the board in Lesson 7. Each time a child places a balloon, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point.

Teacher: Our bulletin board looks happy and bright, doesn't it? The children are smiling because they know that Jesus is alive and loves them. Let's sing a song to show how thankful we are that ► Jesus is alive.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ►



Open your Bible to **Mark 16:6b**, and show children the words. Explain that the Bible tells us that ► **JESUS is alive.** Say: **It makes us happy that Jesus is alive! Let's sing a song about that.**

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.)*



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **When we know that ► Jesus is alive, we want to tell everyone the good news. It makes us happy enough to have a party! Let's make special party balloons.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: large balloon pattern (p. 108); red, yellow, blue, and green poster board; scissors; markers; curling ribbon; drinking straws; tape

Before class, photocopy the large balloon pattern. Trace the balloon pattern onto red, yellow, blue, and green poster board. Cut out a balloon shape for each child. You'll also need several 10-inch lengths of curling ribbon for each child.

Set out drinking straws, ribbons, markers, and tape. Hand each child a cutout to color. After the cutouts have been decorated, help each child tape a drinking straw to the bottom of his or her balloon. Then tape curling ribbon streamers along the bottom edges of the paper balloons. As children work, remind them how happy Jesus' friends were when they learned that ► *Jesus is alive.*

When the party balloons are finished, say: **My! Look at all the pretty balloons. What colors do I see? Red and yellow and blue and green! Let's play a fun color game with the party balloons.**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: party balloons from Bible Craft



Have children hold their special party balloons and form a circle. Hold up the "I'm Alive!" poster from the Learning Lab. Say: **Let's play a game with our balloons. I'll point out a color on this poster. If your balloon is that color, wave it in the air and say ► *Jesus is alive!***

Point to different objects on the "I'm Alive!" poster and call out the colors. Encourage the children to repeat the Bible Point. Continue until each color has been called several times. For a variation, call out a color and have children with that color touch their toes or tap their noses with their balloons. When you have finished playing, ask:

- **God made such pretty colors! What do you think of when you see pretty colors in your toys or in your house?** (God; happiness; I'm glad I can see all of the colors.)

- **God made colors. He also made you and me, and we're alive! What are some other things that are alive?** (My mom and dad; birds; butterflies; my dog.)

Say: **God made everything that is alive, and he wants us to remember that Jesus is alive! We're thankful that Jesus loves us and is with us all the time. Let's take our party balloons to the snack table and have a party to celebrate that ► *Jesus is alive!***





Closing

■ Party Perfect

SUPPLIES: sliced fruit, powdered fruit-flavored gelatin, teaspoon, cupcake liners, red construction paper, scissors, napkins, paper cup

Before this activity, cut a small heart from red construction paper for each child. If you did Option 1, place your snack table near the garden mural children made in that option. Gather children at the snack table and let them set their party balloons in a paper cup as a “celebration centerpiece.”

Hand each child a paper heart, and then ask:

- **Who’s alive and with us all the time?** (Jesus.)

Say: **We’ve been learning that ► Jesus is alive. And we’re thankful that Jesus loves us and is with us all the time, too. We can show our thankfulness with a special prayer. Hold your paper hearts while we pray.** Pray: **Dear God, we thank you that Jesus is alive. Thank you for Jesus’ love. We love Jesus, too! In Jesus’ name, amen.** As you say “amen,” lead children in tossing the paper hearts onto the table like confetti.

Say: **It’s fun to tell Jesus how much we love him, isn’t it? Now let’s have a party to celebrate how thankful we are that ► Jesus is alive.** Help children wash their hands. Then hand each child a napkin with several bite-sized slices of fruit such as apples, bananas, pears, or strawberries. Give each child a cupcake liner containing a teaspoon of fruit-flavored powdered gelatin. Let children dip their fruit slices in the powdered gelatin for a shimmery, sparkly party treat.

Remind children to throw their napkins in the wastebasket when they’ve finished. Have children take their paper party balloons 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.

■ *Springtime Rhyme*

Gather children in front of the bulletin board. Let children find and point to the pictures of flowers, caterpillars, butterflies, and birds. Remind children that many things are alive in the springtime. Then lead children in repeating and acting out the following action rhyme.

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

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

■ *Egg Roll*

Before this activity, hide a small heart sticker inside a plastic pull-apart Easter egg for each child in class. Gather children at one end of the room. Hand each child a plastic spoon and a plastic Easter egg. Let the children balance the egg on the spoon and walk across the room. Then have children roll the egg across the floor by pushing it with the spoon. When you've finished, invite children to open their eggs and see what's inside. Let children wear their stickers to remind them that ► Jesus is alive.

Patterns

