

JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

The Bible Story

Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

People make wrong choices, but God made a very good plan. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Not everyone loved Jesus, though. Some people wanted to hurt Jesus. Jesus went to a garden with His friends to pray. Jesus was very sad. He prayed to God, “Father, I will do Your plan.” Then men came to take Jesus to jail. Jesus’ friends ran away. The leaders of the people said things about Jesus that were not true, and they punished Jesus by putting Him on a cross. Jesus died, but three days later, God made Jesus alive again! Jesus showed His friends that He is alive, and Jesus is still alive today.

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- * Jesus is God’s Son.
- * God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.
- * God made Jesus alive again.

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Babies Activities



LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–28:10 or John 18:1–20:18. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems. Read the key passage card.

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE.** [*Pray.*]



SING A SONG

Sing the chorus of “Alive, Alive”:

“Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah!

My Jesus is alive forevermore!

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah! My Jesus is alive!”

If you are unfamiliar with the tune, check it out online before class.

SAY: Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



FINGER PAINT WITH TASTE-SAFE PAINT

Post an allergy alert. Place babies in bucket seats or highchairs. Use painting smocks to protect clothing. Add food color to plain yogurt or whipped cream for babies to use as finger paint on heavyweight paper. Keep wipes handy for cleanup.

SAY: Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again! **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



PLAY PEEKABOO WITH A MIRROR

Place a baby on your lap. Flip a non-breaking mirror facedown and then faceup so the baby can see her reflection. Point to her face.

SAY: [*Baby’s name*] is alive. [*He/she*] can breathe and move! God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

Toddler Activities



CIRCLE TIME (5 MINUTES)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–28:10 or John 18:1–20:18. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Main Point and Gospel Gems. Pray.



MAKE POM-POMS

Provide strips of shredded paper or streamers in various colors. Invite toddlers to grab a handful of shredded paper, and then use tape to wrap around the paper to make a pom-pom. Invite toddlers to shake their pom-poms to celebrate **JESUS IS ALIVE**.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



SING A SONG

Sing "Jesus Loves Me" or "God Is So Good" with the toddlers. If you are unfamiliar with the songs, check them out online.

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



LOOK IN THE TOMB

Drape a blanket over three sides of a table. Place a folded white cloth inside the "tomb." Invite toddlers to take turns crawling into the "tomb" to look inside.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. Jesus' friends did not find Him in the tomb! **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



IS IT ALIVE?

Provide pictures of various living and non-living items for toddlers to explore. Talk about the word *alive*. Read the key passage card.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son, our Lord and Savior! **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Bonus Teaching Hour

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TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY DOUGH ART

Provide play dough, rolling pins, and cookie cutters in various shapes. Include people, plant, and animal shapes. As toddlers make play dough creations, talk about living and non-living things.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son. Jesus never made wrong choices, but people hurt Him. God made Jesus alive again. You and I are alive, and **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



ROLL A BALL

Invite toddlers to sit in a circle and roll a ball to a friend. Remind toddlers that the stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. Jesus was not inside His tomb because **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



SLEEP AND WAKE UP

Invite toddlers to lay down, close their eyes, and pretend to be asleep. When you say, "Good morning!" toddlers will sit up and open their eyes.

SAY: When Jesus' friends went to bed on Friday and Saturday night, they were sad. Sunday morning, they woke up and saw Jesus! **JESUS IS ALIVE** forever!

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Main Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.