

*The Gospel Project for Kids:  
Younger and Older Kids  
Leader Guide*

## Easter

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# THE GOSPEL PROJECT<sup>®</sup> FOR KIDS

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↑ Write the dates for each session here! —

## Unit: Easter

### Unit Description:

God's plan for redemption, which began before creation, culminates with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was welcomed as King but days later was crucified by the people. Christ's sacrifice on the cross and subsequent resurrection provided salvation for sinners and restores our relationship with God.

### Key Passage:

Romans 10:9

### Big Picture Question:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Session 1:

#### Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12*

**Story Point:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

### Session 2:

#### The Last Supper

*Matthew 26; John 13*

**Story Point:** Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

### Session 3:

#### Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

*Matthew 26–28*

**Story Point:** Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

### Session 4:

#### The Emmaus Disciples

*Luke 24*

**Story Point:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

### Session 5:

#### Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

*Luke 24; John 20*

**Story Point:** Jesus appeared to His disciples.



Use Week of:

## Easter • Session 1 Jesus' Triumphal Entry

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 21; Mark 11;  
Luke 19; John 12

### STORY POINT:

People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem  
as their King.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus  
saves us from sin.

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(10–15 MINUTES)  
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**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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**APPLY THE STORY**  
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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings the week of Passover. Many of God’s people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem as well. Near Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into a village.

Jesus told them, “You will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” Jesus would fulfill Zechariah’s prophecy: “Look, your King is coming to you ... humble and riding on a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city. He rode a donkey, and people laid branches and their robes on the ground in front of Him. The people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem believed He was the promised Messiah, but they expected Him to overthrow Roman oppression and set up an earthly throne. Jesus sent a different message.

The next day, Jesus entered the temple and turned over the tables of the money changers and those selling doves. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7, declaring that His kingship would not just be over the Jews but over all people. In the temple, Jesus healed the blind and the lame. Jesus’ actions declared, “I am not just your King; I am also your God.” (See Isa. 35:4-6.)

Finally, the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshipping Jesus as their King. “Do You hear what these children are saying?” they asked. Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2. Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise. Jesus is the Son of God who came to overthrow sin and set up an eternal throne.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help kids connect the dots between God’s promises of a Messiah and Jesus’ coming. Help them understand why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12*

**It was time to celebrate Passover**, a special time to remember how God had freed His people from slavery in Egypt. **Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate** God's amazing rescue.

**Jesus and His disciples were among the people who traveled to Jerusalem.** When they neared

Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, **Jesus sent**

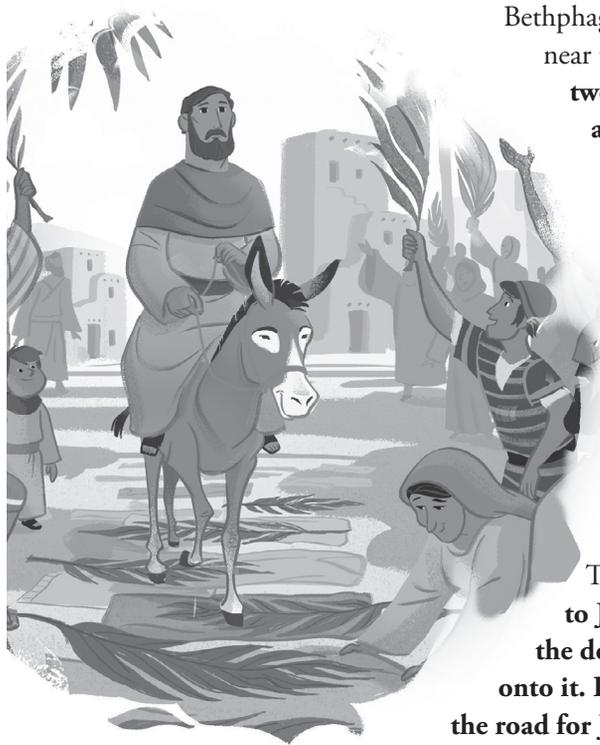
**two of His disciples ahead into a village.** "As soon as you enter the village," Jesus told them,

"you will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

**The disciples did as Jesus asked.** As they untied the donkey, its owners asked why. "The Lord needs it," they said.

Then **they brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get onto it. People spread their robes along the road for Jesus, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields.**

**The whole crowd praised God with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. "Hosanna!" they said. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**



The word *hosanna* means “save now.” The people welcomed Jesus as their promised King. They hoped He would save them from the Romans.

**Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus answered, “If they did not praise Me, the rocks would praise Me!”**

**While Jesus was in the temple complex, people who were blind and people who were lame came to Him. Jesus healed them.** The blind and lame would not have been allowed to worship in the temple.

**Other religious leaders saw Jesus’ miracles and heard the children saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They were very angry and asked Jesus, “Do You hear what these children are saying?”** They were saying Jesus is a king.

**“Yes,” Jesus told them. The writer of the Psalms had said, “You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants.”**

**Jesus left them and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.**

*Christ Connection: During Jesus’ triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as King. Jesus was the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: “Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)*

### **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Animate the art:** Choose a volunteer to hold the Bible story picture and walk it slowly across the room as you tell the story.
- **Call for response:** When you talk about the crowd praising God, call for kids to shout together, “Hosanna!”

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Triumphal Entry

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

**STORY POINT:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them if they've ever attended or participated in a parade. Talk about who or what was being celebrated.

**SAY** • Jesus rode into town on a donkey. People shouted and waved like in a parade. Jesus was the King whom God had promised to send. **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.**

### Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Can You Find Them?" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Can You Find Them?" activity page. Instruct the kids to find hidden in the picture items from the key.

**SAY** • When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, people were excited. They saw Him as an earthly King, but He is so much more than that! Jesus is the King of everything. He came the first time to die on the cross, but one day He will return to fix everything that is broken in the world.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Gather palm leaves

Before class, print and cut out the palm leaves printable. Scatter the palm leaves on the floor.

Encourage the kids to collect them and put the story point in order. If you have a large group, create two sets, form teams, and see which team can put the branches in order first.

**SAY** • Jesus and His disciples traveled to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people placed their robes and palm branches along the road before Jesus. They shouted out, “Hosanna!” *Hosanna* means “save now!”  
**People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.**

### OPTION 2: Parade brigade

Provide flags, banners, noisemakers, balloons, and items used to celebrate in a parade. Encourage kids to march around the classroom as if they are in a parade. You may also parade the kids through the hallway as long as they do not interrupt other classes in session. Afterward, ask the kids how it felt to be in a parade.

**SAY** • Did you enjoy being in the parade? Today we are going to hear about the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People spread out their coats and palm branches in front of Him, and they cheered and sang too. **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King!**

## LOW PREP

- “Palm Leaves” printable
- scissors

- flags, banners, noisemakers, balloons, or other items used to celebrate in a parade

## Transition to teach the story

## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Triumphal Entry

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

**STORY POINT:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

· room decorations

**Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas:** Hang Easter decorations over any existing theme decor. Consider using Easter lilies or palm branches to add a bit of Easter flair. Display a cross or a crown of thorns to remind kids the purpose of the holiday.

· countdown video

### Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

· leader attire  
· chessboard and other board games

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

*[Leader enters carrying a chessboard and other board games.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, everyone. I love all kinds of board games, but one of my favorites is chess. There's so much strategy involved, and it takes a lot of brain power to be good at it. My favorite piece in chess is the knight. It's shaped like a horse, which is pretty cool, but even more than that, it's the only piece in the game that can move over occupied spaces. The knight allows you to set up some sneaky plays if your opponent isn't paying close attention.

In chess, the pieces are all supposed to reflect different parts of a kingdom: kings, queens,

knights, and so forth. The knight is shaped like a horse because a knight would ride a big, powerful warhorse. So you can imagine what a king might ride! But today we will learn about a King who rode a young donkey! I'll tell you all about it.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • We are going to talk about a time Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. As Jesus rode into the city, people shouted praises to Him and gave Him glory. That reminds me of our big picture question: *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • The Bible is one big story about God's plan to send Jesus to rescue us from sin. It started when God created everything, including people. People sinned, and as a result our relationship with God was broken. We needed a Rescuer, and God planned to send the Rescuer through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God's people had been waiting for a long time for the Rescuer—a Savior King—to come. Today's story is called "Jesus' Triumphal Entry."

### Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus' Triumphal Entry."

**LEADER** • The people in Jerusalem were excited when

· Bibles  
· "Jesus' Triumphal Entry" video  
· Big Picture Question Poster  
· Bible Story Picture Poster  
· Story Point Poster

Jesus came into the city. They cheered, waved palm branches, and even laid their coats in the dirt for Jesus to travel over. They were showing Jesus honor and respect because they wanted Him to rule over them. **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**, but they expected an earthly king, not the kind of King Jesus came to be. They wanted to be free from the Roman Empire, which controlled Israel at that time. However, Jesus came to destroy bigger enemies than the Romans—sin and death.

Even the animal Jesus chose to ride on showed that He was a different kind of King. Most earthy kings would have ridden in on a big, powerful warhorse surrounded by their armies. Jesus rode in on a young donkey surrounded by His disciples. How do you think the people reacted when they started to see that Jesus wasn't planning to be the earthly conqueror they wanted? [*Allow responses.*] Those are some interesting ideas.

The people saw that Jesus wasn't planning to defeat Rome and bring back the kingdom of Israel; they turned on Jesus. On Palm Sunday, they shouted "Hosanna," which means "save now," but less than a week later, many of these same people shouted, "Crucify Him!"

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • And that's what the rulers did. They nailed Jesus to a cross to kill Him. Thankfully, Jesus did not stay dead. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave to show that His sacrifice was enough. The curse of sin was broken, and death had no power over Jesus.

When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us new life. What good news!

During Jesus' triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as King. Jesus was the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zech. 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Rev. 19:11)

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Easter, Session 1" questions from kids video.

Prompt kids to think about why the people turned on Jesus a week later. Guide them to discuss what it looks like for us to welcome Jesus in our lives today.

· "Easter, Session 1" questions from kids video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

**LEADER** • Atlanta is the capital of the state of Georgia. It is also a city located in the middle of the "Bible Belt," an area of the United States historically known for its many churches and churchgoers. But today, many people do not go to church or know Jesus. This is a surprising fact. Let's play a game to learn more things about Atlanta.

Read the sentences on the "Finish the Facts" page, leaving the underlined parts unsaid. If a kid can complete the sentence, she must run to the front of the room. The first kid to the front of the room gets to finish the fact.

**LEADER** • Many people in Atlanta do not believe the gospel, but missionaries in the city are telling people that Jesus saves people from sin. We can pray for the

· "Finish the Facts" printable

people living in and around the city of Atlanta.  
Lead kids in a brief time of prayer.

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

• Key Passage Poster

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read Romans 10:9. Then cover the poster and help kids say it from memory. Consider using simple hand motions that kids can use to help them memorize it.

**LEADER** • A week after **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**, people called for Him to be crucified. Because Jesus laid down His life and rose again on the third day, He defeated sin and death. There's nothing else for us to fear because Jesus has defeated the scariest enemies for us!

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• Easter-themed songs  
or other songs of  
your choice

**LEADER** • Jesus is our King. He died on the cross and rose from the grave to rescue us from sin. When we have faith in Jesus, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us walk with Jesus.

Sing together Easter-themed songs or other worship songs of your choice.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, only You can save. Thank You for coming into the world to rescue us from sin and defeat death. You love us so much. Help us to obey You out of love and bring glory to You. We love You. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Triumphal Entry

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

**STORY POINT:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- pen

Write each word or phrase of the key passage and Scripture reference on separate index cards. For a larger group, make two or more sets, using different colored index cards per set. Hide the cards in the room.

Form teams and assign each team a card color. Challenge kids to race to find the cards and arrange them in the correct order. Read the key passage again.

**SAY • People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King,** but only a few days later, the people wanted to crucify Jesus. On the third day, women went to Jesus' tomb. They had forgotten that Jesus said He would die but He would also come back to life. An angel met the women and told them Jesus was not in His tomb—He is alive! Jesus is still alive today.

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Form four groups of kids, and assign each group one of the triumphal entry accounts from Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; and John 12. Instruct each group to select a kid to read their passage aloud. Make sure each group hears all the passages.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where did Jesus' disciples find the young donkey?  
*(tied up as soon as they entered the village, Matt. 21:2)*
2. What did people spread on the ground for Jesus to ride over?  
*(coats and palm branches, Mark 11:8)*
3. What did Jesus say to the religious leaders who wanted Jesus' disciples to be quiet? *("If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out"; Luke 19:40)*
4. Why is it important that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a powerful warhorse? *Guide kids to see that Jesus' riding a donkey fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and signaled the kind of kingdom Jesus had come to establish. Remind kids that Jesus taught about serving, not being served, and that He lived out His teachings by giving His life so we could live.*
5. How will Jesus' second coming be different from His first? How will it be the same? *Guide kids to find and read Revelation 19:11-16. Discuss how Jesus' first coming brought about the defeat of sin and death, and His second coming will mark the end of all sin everywhere and the complete fixing of the brokenness of the world. Point out that Jesus was King even when He came humbly, but one day He will come as a conquerer.*
6. How does knowing about Jesus' first and second coming help us live courageously? *Help kids see that Jesus has defeated sin and will one day fix everything broken. We have life in Christ now and future hope for a perfect eternal life with God forever.*

**SAY • People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.**

Jesus defeated sin and death a week later when He died and rose again. One day, Jesus will return as our King and fix everything broken in the world.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils
- markers

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Storytelling stations

Set up three stations for kids to practice sharing the story of Jesus' triumphal entry. At the first station, provide paper and markers for kids to draw pictures to share the story. At the second station, provide paper and pencils for kids to write a few sentences to tell the story. At the third station, set up a chair for a volunteer or adult leader to sit in. Kids should tell the story to the volunteer.

Form three groups of kids and guide them to rotate through the storytelling stations, spending a few minutes at each station. Provide Bible for kids to read and review Matthew 21:1-17.

**SAY** • Traveling to faraway places to share the good news about Jesus is not always easy, but missionaries who obey God's call to go and tell the nations about Jesus want everyone to hear and believe the good news.

We too can share the good news about Jesus with people wherever we are. God can use us for His glory in our neighborhoods, in cities across the country, and in countries around the world!

#### OPTION 2: Rocks cry out

Before class, gather smooth, hand-sized stones. It may be helpful to rinse them with water and dry them before the activity.

During class, give each kid a stone and markers. Invite the kids to draw faces on the stones. As kids draw on the stones, read Luke 19:37-40. Talk about what the word *rebuke* means and ask kids why the Pharisees did not want the disciples to praise Jesus.

**SAY** • **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King,**

- smooth stones
- markers
- water and towels (optional)

and that made the Pharisees angry. The Pharisees were religious leaders who believed that in order for God to be happy with them, they had to follow all of God's laws and some other laws they made for themselves, too. They didn't like Jesus. He taught that no one can keep God's laws perfectly except for Him and that salvation is based only on trusting in Jesus, not what a person can do for God.

Jesus—the only One who has never sinned—died on the cross and rose again so we could be forgiven of our sin when we trust in Him. ***Who saves us from our sins? Only Jesus saves us from sin.***

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.



Use Week of:

## Easter • Session 2 The Last Supper

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 26; John 13

### STORY POINT:

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
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**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

Jesus knew it was time for Him to die. He sat down with His disciples for the Passover meal and did something very unusual. Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This humble act was usually reserved for a servant. The footwashing symbolized a spiritual cleansing. The disciples were already positionally "clean" before God (see John 13:10) but even redeemed people still sin and need daily cleansing. (See 1 John 1:9.) In this, Jesus also set forth an example of love and humility for His disciples to mirror in their own actions toward one another. (John 13:15)

2

As they ate the Passover meal, Jesus broke bread and gave it to His disciples. He shared the cup with them too, explaining that the bread and cup represented His body and blood. Jesus established a new covenant.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant, or promise, with His people. He gave them commandments to follow so they could live in right relationship with Him. But God's people broke the covenant. They didn't obey God, and they didn't love Him. By dying on the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover, a time when God's people remembered how God had rescued His people from the Egyptians—passing over the houses marked with the blood of a lamb. Jesus instituted a new memorial, to Himself—the Lamb of God whose blood would bring salvation to the world.

Believers take the Lord's Supper to remember what Jesus did for us in His death and resurrection. We remember God's faithfulness, and we look forward to the day He will return.

Not all the kids you teach will be ready to take the Lord's Supper at church. Gently explain that the Lord's Supper, like baptism, is an ordinance of the church and is a celebration for those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation.

## The BIBLE Story

### The Last Supper

*Matthew 26; John 13*

**Jesus' disciples went into the city to prepare the Passover meal. When the meal was ready, Jesus and His disciples reclined at the table.** Jesus knew His time on earth was almost over and He would soon return to the Father in heaven.

**Jesus got up from the table, laid aside His outer robe, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began washing His disciples' feet.** In

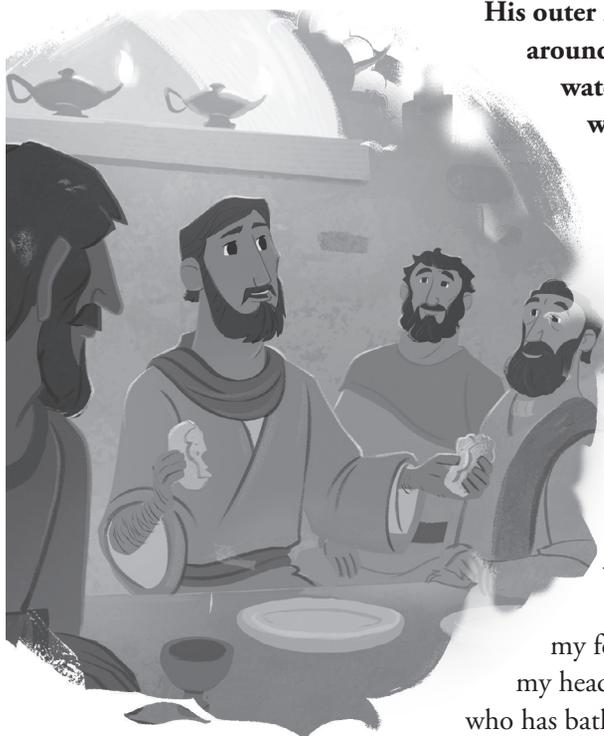
Bible times, a servant would wash someone's feet when he entered a house. Jesus—the King of kings—was doing what a servant would do!

**Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet. "You will never wash my feet—ever!" Peter said.**

**Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me."**

Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus told Peter that one who has bathed only needs to wash his feet

because he is already clean. Jesus wasn't talking about physical cleanliness. He was talking about someone who has been forgiven of his sins by repenting and trusting in Jesus. A Christian should repent when he sins, but he only needs to receive salvation once.



**When Jesus had washed His disciples' feet and put on His robe, He reclined at the table and said, "Do you understand what I have done? You call Me Teacher and Lord. I have given you an example to follow. You should wash one another's feet."** Jesus was telling the disciples to serve one another.

**While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. Jesus said, "Take and eat it; this is My body." Then He took a cup and gave thanks. He gave it to His disciples and said, "All of you drink from it; this is My blood of the covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins."**

After the supper, Jesus and His disciples sang psalms and went to the Mount of Olives.

*Christ Connection: At the Passover, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples before His death and resurrection. Jesus said that His death would establish a new covenant. God's people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. God forgives the sins of those who trust in His Son, Jesus.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

### **Display props:**

Display foot-washing supplies (pitcher, bowl, towel) and communion elements (bread and cup).

**Act it out:** Move around as you tell the story, mirroring Jesus' actions. Recline and then kneel. Sit and motion as if breaking bread and lifting a cup.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Last Supper

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26; John 13

**STORY POINT:** Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them to think about the last time their family ate a big special meal together. Invite a few volunteers to describe their event.

**SAY** • Interesting! It seems no one had his feet washed at a special family dinner. What do you think it would be like if someone had taken out a towel and started washing your feet? How would you feel? In today's story, Jesus, God's Son, washed all of His disciples' feet. Later today we'll find out why!

### Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "Word Search" on the activity page.

**SAY** • Some of these words like *eat* or *drink* are common to any party. Other words like *wash* and *feet* are not usually words we talk about when we think about a dinner party. And what about the word *covenant*? Is that a word you hear often? All of these words are very important to today's Bible story.

- "Word Search" activity page.
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

ite

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Hide-and-seek dinner

Before class, hide the following items around the room: bread (real or fake), plate, grape juice, cup, napkin, and bath towel. Instruct children to find six hidden items needed to re-enact a special dinner that Jesus had before He died. When children find all six items, ask them which one is not like the others. Ask why they think a towel was included in this special dinner.

**SAY** • All of these items are similar except for one. Which one seems out of place? That's right, the towel! The rest of these items could easily be used at a dinner party. What do we use towels for? Why is it included with all these other objects? We'll soon find out!

### OPTION 2: Toe painting

Spread a tarp or large sheet of paper on the floor to protect it from paint. Give each child a blank sheet of paper. Provide pans of washable acrylic paint. Instruct the children to draw a picture of their favorite food to eat at a feast, but they can only use their bare feet to paint. After they have finished, provide wipes for the children to clean every bit of paint off their feet before putting on their shoes.

**SAY** • Good job with your paintings, everyone! Was it easy or hard to clean your feet after this activity? It's hard, isn't it? In today's story, Jesus cleaned His disciples' feet!

## LOW PREP

- Allergy Alert
- bread (real or fake)
- plastic plate
- grape juice
- plastic cup
- napkin
- bath towel

- Allergy Alert
- washable acrylic paint
- tarp or large sheet of paper
- paper
- disposable aluminum pans
- wet wipes (for cleanup)

## Transition to teach the story

## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Last Supper

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26; John 13

**STORY POINT:** Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire  
· basin of water  
· towel

*[Place a basin of water in the front of the class. Leader enters with a towel over his or her shoulder.]*

**LEADER** • Whew! I am so tired! I have spent all weekend loading boxes into a moving truck. Our chess club has started renting a new space for our headquarters! There were a lot of boxes. Some were filled with trophies, others with medals, some with books on chess strategies, and other heavy stuff. Boy, are my feet sore! I need got to give them a good soak in this warm water. Excuse me. *[Sit next to the basin and ease your feet into it, sighing in relaxation.]*

That's better! The warm water is helping release all the tension in my feet. Just one more minute ... and done. Now I just need to dry them off! *[Struggle to dry your feet.]* The only problem is my back is sore too. I don't think I can reach my feet. I need a volunteer to come dry off my feet! Who will

help me? [*Choose a volunteer.*] Oh, thank you for volunteering! You are a true servant. Just dry them off quickly, thank you. Can we give our volunteer servant a hand? You know, the way our friend just served me reminds me of Jesus' serving His friends shortly before His death.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Today we're going to learn about Jesus' last meal before He died and rose again. What happened at this last supper was incredibly important. Jesus explained to His followers that God was establishing a new covenant, or agreement, with His people to save them from sin. *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • We have been hearing stories about Easter, the time when we celebrate Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. Last week, we learned that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate Passover. **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.** Today's Bible story happened on the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested. It's called "The Last Supper." Listen to this.

- Bibles
- "The Last Supper" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster
- Giant Timeline

### Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26; John 13. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "The Last Supper."

**LEADER • Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's**

**Supper at Passover.** Can someone tell me what God's people celebrated at Passover? [*Invite responses.*] That's right! Passover was a time to celebrate the way God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

At this first Lord's Supper, Jesus said that God was starting a new covenant, an important agreement. The original covenant that God made with His people was this: God would give instructions, and people would agree to obey those instructions in order to honor God and receive blessing from Him. How did that work out for the Israelites? [*Invite kids to recall previous Bible stories. Use the timeline to remind kids of past stories.*] Does anyone see why God's people needed a new covenant? God's people wanted to obey and serve God, but no one could do it perfectly—no one except Jesus.

Jesus took the original covenant and turned it around. Instead of asking the people to promise to serve God, Jesus said that He promised to serve people. He showed a small picture of that service when He washed the disciples' feet. But the main way Jesus served His disciples and people is by perfectly obeying all of God's commands and willingly dying on the cross in their place for their sins. That's why He said that the bread was His body and that the cup was His blood. He was telling His disciples that He would die in their place and in the place of all His followers. ***Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.***

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • At the Passover, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples before His death and resurrection. Jesus said that His death would establish a new covenant.

God's people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. God forgives the sins of those who trust in His Son, Jesus.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Easter, Session 2" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we take the Lord's Supper at church. Guide them to discuss other ways we can remember Jesus' sacrifice and look forward to His return.

"Easter, Session 2" questions from kids video



## Missions moment (3 minutes)

**LEADER** • The Dye family are missionaries with the North American Mission Board. When Matt Dye was asked to check out the city of Atlanta as a mission location, he had already made up his mind that was not the city for his family. He believed people in Atlanta already had plenty of churches and access to the gospel. After the visit to the city though, he realized many people in the city actually needed to hear that God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue them. Instead of running away from the city, watch this video to see what the Dye family did.

Show the "Casting the Dye (Part 1)" missions video.

**LEADER** • The Dye family ran toward the city of Atlanta so that they could tell people who needed to hear that Jesus saves us from our sins.

"Casting the Dye (Part 1)" missions video

• Key Passage Poster

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 10:9.

**LEADER** • Our key passage reminds me a lot of our big picture question, *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.* Our key passage tells us how we can be saved. Let's practice it together.

Say the key passage together a few times.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• Easter-themed  
worship songs of  
your choice

**LEADER** • Thinking about how Jesus served us by dying on a cross in our place makes me want to praise Him! Let's sing a song of praise together.

Sing together Easter-themed worship songs of your choice.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, thank You for Jesus' example of how we as believers should treat each other. Help us to remember that when we were sinners, Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin and rose again to give us the promise of new life with Him. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Last Supper

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26; John 13

**STORY POINT:** Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- SCISSORS

Print out the key passage and cut it into several different phrases. Spread the cutouts on the floor in order and read the passage together. Then turn over one of the phrases at a time, until the class can say the entire key passage without any help.

**SAY** • Memorizing God's Word can help us remember what is true about God and about ourselves. This key passage that we are learning tells us what is true about how we can be forgiven of our sins. Keep working on memorizing this verse if you don't know it already.

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find John 13. You may choose to make it a race to see who can find the book and chapter first. Ask kids what Bible division John is in. (*Gospels*) Remind the kids that the Gospels are the four books that tell the story of Jesus' time on earth—His life, death, and resurrection. Challenge kids to name, in order, as many New Testament books as they can. Thank the kids for their efforts.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What were Jesus and His disciples gathering to celebrate? (*Passover, John 13:1*)
2. What did Jesus wash of His disciples'? (*their feet; John 13:5,10*)
3. What did Jesus say the bread and drink represented? (*His body and blood, Matt. 26:26-28*)
4. Why do you think Jesus made a new covenant? What happened to the old covenant? *Lead kids to remember the old covenant required complete obedience to the Law and repeated sacrifices. No one can obey God perfectly except Jesus! Jesus fulfilled the old covenant and died to be the perfect sacrifice. The new covenant opened up the way for everyone who believes in Jesus to live with God forever. We are saved by grace through faith, not by earning God's love through obedience. (See Eph. 2:8-9.)*
5. Why do you think God wants us serve one another with joy? *Help kids see that Jesus is the ultimate Servant. In His life and death, Jesus showed us how to love and serve one another. When we serve one another with joy, it offers a picture of what Jesus' love for us looks like. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit guides us to serve others out of love.*
6. Whom can you serve this week? *Encourage kids to think of a friend, family member, or neighbor they can serve this week. Discuss specific ways they can serve people. Highlight the fact that different people might need to be served in different ways. When we love Jesus, we will also love who He loves, and that includes everyone in the whole world! Remind kids that God gets the glory when we love one another.*

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Note: God's covenant people did not keep the covenant. God sent Jesus to earth to make a new covenant. On the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

## LOW PREP

- party supplies (streamers, plates, cups, hats, favors)
- music
- snack (optional)
- “Dye Family Photograph” printable

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

- objects, 10
- sheet or towel
- paper
- pen

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Plan a party

Gather party items like streamers, plates, cups, balloons, party hats, favors and place them on a table. Work with kids to decorate the room for a party. Play party music and offer a fun party snack. Ask kids what they think a party has to do with sharing the gospel with others. Share the Dye family picture and read the caption.

**SAY** • The Dye family creates events and opportunities to invite people into their lives so that they can share the gospel with many people. When you seek out ways to share the gospel with people you meet, that’s called living on mission. You don’t have to be called as a missionary to live on mission every day!

#### OPTION 2: Hidden objects

Hide 10 random objects under a sheet on a table. Tell children that they will have 10 seconds to look at the items on the table, and then you’re going to cover them up. Then children will write down all the items that they can remember. (Adult helpers may help younger children who have a hard time writing.) After they have attempted to write down all 10 objects, give them another 10 seconds to look at the objects. Continue to repeat this process until most children have written down all the objects.

**SAY** • It was hard to remember all 10 objects after only looking at them once, wasn’t it? The more we do something, the easier it is to remember. That’s why the church continues to celebrate the Lord’s Supper: it helps us remember what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross to rescue us from sin. ***Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*** Believers

share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

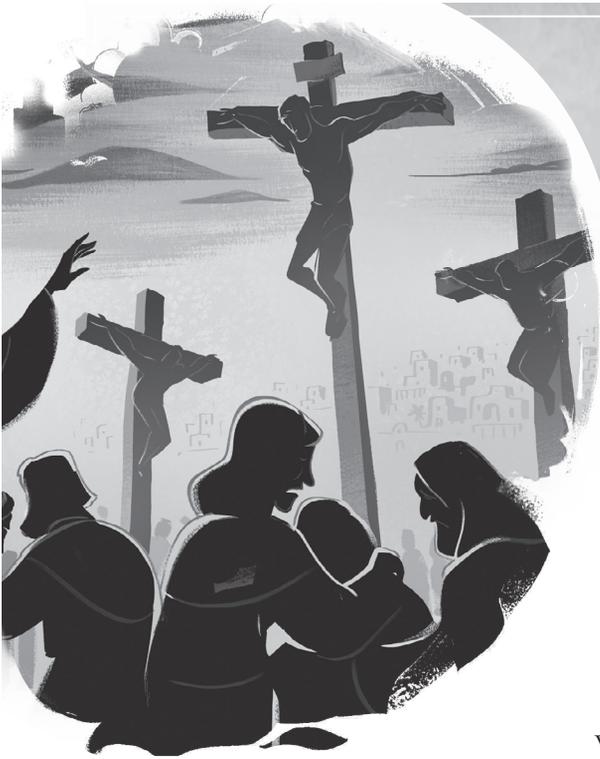
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

*Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.*



Use Week of:

## Easter • Session 3 Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 26–28

### STORY POINT:

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
PAGE 40



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 42



**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 48



Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

The events leading up to Jesus' death were terrifying for the disciples. Judas, their supposed friend, betrayed their Lord. Jesus was arrested, beaten, and killed. Though Jesus had plainly told the disciples that He would die and rise again on the third day, they did not understand. In fact, they were afraid to ask about it. (See Mark 9:31-21.) They had believed that Jesus was the One who would rescue God's people, but how could He if He was dead?

Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb, Jesus wasn't there. An angel of the Lord appeared. The guards were so afraid, that they fainted. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid." The angel reassured the women that Jesus' body hadn't been stolen; in fact, "he has risen, just as he said" (Matt. 28:5-6).

The women left the tomb with fear (perhaps because they did not fully understand what was happening) and great joy (because they had heard Jesus was alive!) to tell the disciples the news. As they were leaving, Jesus also greeted them: "Do not be afraid."

Fear exists when there is a perceived danger or threat. When Jesus rose from the dead, He eliminated the threat of eternal separation from God for all who trust in Him. Even real dangers like suffering and persecution need not be feared because nothing—neither life nor death—can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus. (Rom. 8:38-39)

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the center of it. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey Him.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

*Matthew 26–28*

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). Jesus prayed, “Father! If it is possible, take this suffering from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan.”

**Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd.** Judas

betrayed Jesus by kissing Him so the crowd would know who Jesus was. **The crowd grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.**

**Jesus was led to the high priest.** The religious leaders were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. **The high priest asked, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?”** Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.”

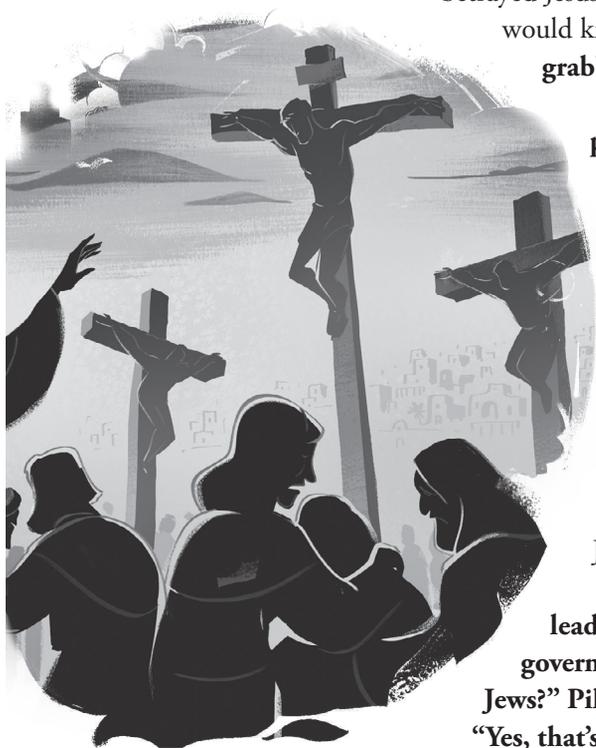
**The high priest said, “He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!”** The religious leaders refused to believe that Jesus was God’s Son.

**In the morning, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?”** Pilate asked.

“Yes, that’s right,” Jesus replied.

“What should I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked the crowd. **“Crucify Him!”** they answered. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over to them.

**The governor’s soldiers** put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a



crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him: “Here is the King of the Jews!” They **beat Jesus and led Him away to be killed.**

**The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross.** They put a sign above His head that said **THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** **Two criminals were crucified next to Him.**

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, “My God, why have You forsaken Me?” **Jesus** shouted again and then He **died.** Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the guards said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

**Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb** so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

**On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly** there was an earthquake. **An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it.** The guards were so afraid that they fainted. **The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just like He said He would.”**

**The women** left the tomb quickly. They **ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them.** The women worshiped Him. **“Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there.”**

*Christ Connection: The death and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey Him.*

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use dramatic conversation:** Vary your voice for the dialogue of different people. For example, use one voice for Jesus and another voice for Pilate.
- **Use lighting effects:** Begin telling the story with a somber voice with the lights dimmed. After describing the Jesus’ resurrection, use a cheerful voice and cue an adult volunteer to raise the lights.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28

**STORY POINT:** Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about times they did something difficult to help a friend. What did they do? How did it feel to help their friend?

**SAY** • Choosing to help a friend is a great thing to do. Sometimes it can be hard to make that choice if you know helping the friend could be hard or cause trouble for you. Today we will learn about Jesus, who did something incredibly hard and painful to help people—He died on a cross.

### Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Have No Fear” activity page.
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Have No Fear” activity page. Ask the kids to rank the different things they might be afraid of from least scary to most scary.

**SAY** • Some things in life are scary, like dark rooms, dangerous animals, or feeling lost. Today we are going to learn about a time Jesus faced a scary situation so that He could give us victory and the ability to face our fears with God’s help.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: In-out-in

Use tape to mark a line down the center of your room. Explain to the kids that one side represents *in* and the other represents *out*. Ask the kids to stand near or on the line. Call out different scenarios and invite the kids to jump to the side that represents where they'd want to be.

Suggested scenarios:

- A shark is coming; are you in or out of the boat?
- It's summertime; are you in or out of school?
- It's raining; are you in or out of the house?
- Jesus died; is He in or out of the grave?

**SAY** • That last one was a bit tricky. Jesus died on the cross and was buried, so you might say “in the grave.” But on the third day, Jesus rose again! So He ended up out of the grave! I'll tell you more about it soon.

### OPTION 2: Place swappers

Set up a circle of chairs. Make sure you have one chair for each kid in your group. Select one kid to stand in the center of the circle and ask the rest to sit in the chairs. There should be one empty chair where the kid standing in the middle could sit. His goal is to sit in an empty chair. The kids already sitting must shift left or right to fill the empty chair to keep the kid from sitting.

**SAY** • To succeed at that game, you had to change places to keep our friend from sitting down. Today we will learn about the time Jesus “changed places” with us. He took punishment we deserved so we could have life with God that He deserved.

**LOW  
PREP**

• tape

• chairs, 1 per kid

## Transition to teach the story

*Easter*

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## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28

**STORY POINT:** Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire  
· chess trophy

*[Leader enters carrying a chess trophy.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, everyone! I am the newest chess champion for our entire region. I could hardly believe it when I won. It was such a challenging match. My opponent was really clever and crafty, but I caught her off guard in the last few moves of the game. For a bit, it seemed like I was definitely going to lose, but then things changed. I managed to get my last pawn to her back row, promoted it to a queen, and made a comeback to checkmate her king.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

You know, with any kind of competition, winning feels really great. It's not nearly as fun to lose, but it's important to learn how to be kind and humble whether you win or lose. One way I try to stay positive even if I'm losing is to remember that no victory in a game or sport is as important as the victory we experience through Jesus. Because of

Jesus, no matter how many chess games I might lose, I am still a winner because of God's love and Jesus' victory. Here, I'll tell you all about it!

### **Big picture question (1 minute)**

**LEADER** • We have been asking one big picture question over the last few weeks to help us as we study God's Word. Does anyone remember the question? [*Allow responses.*] Yep. ***Who saves us from our sin?*** And what about the answer? Who knows it? [*Allow responses.*] Right on! ***Only Jesus saves us from sin.*** Because God created us, knows everything, and is perfectly good, we can give Him glory by loving Him. We show our love for Him and trust in Him by doing as He says, or obeying His commands.

### **Giant timeline (1 minute)**

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. • Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • You may know that the Bible contains many different stories. However, those stories also fit together to tell one big story. That story is about God loving people despite the ways we disobey Him and make sinful choices. In fact, He showed His love by sending a Rescuer to take the punishment we deserve! Our story today is about the biggest and best victory God ever provided—victory over sin and death. And He provided it through His Son, Jesus. Our story is called “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.”

- Bibles
- “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26–28. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.”

**LEADER** • This story is the center of the Bible’s one story.

This is like the climax, where everything in the history of the world turned around. After years and years of offering sacrifices to have forgiveness of sin, Jesus died to be the final and perfect sacrifice. After years and years of being separated from God, the temple curtain ripped in two to show that we could approach God personally. After years and years of people being dead in sin, Jesus rose again to bring us eternal life with God.

This story is absolutely the most important story that the world has ever known or will ever know. God has been telling it from the very beginning. Since before Adam and Eve sinned, God had a plan to send a Rescuer. Jesus came, He lived, He died, and He is alive again. Because of Jesus, we don’t have to fear anything—not even sin or death. We have victory because Jesus is victorious. This is the gospel, and it is good news. *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin!*

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • **Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.** We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we

can joyfully obey Him.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Easter, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus rose again. Guide them to discuss what Jesus’ resurrection means for us in our everyday lives.

· “Easter, Session 3” questions from kids video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

**LEADER** • God wants everyone to hear the saving message of forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ. He gave the Dye family, North American missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia, a surprising idea to get to know more people in their city which gave them more opportunities to tell others about Jesus. Just watch and see!

· “Casting the Dye (Part 2)” missions video

Show the “Casting the Dye (Part 2)” missions video.

**LEADER** • God knows just how to reach His people with the good news of the gospel. He uses all things ... even snow cones!

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read Romans 10:9.

· Key Passage Poster

**LEADER** • Our key passage gives us hope that we can be forgiven of our sins when we trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection. When we trust Jesus, we can be strong and courageous too, knowing that He has given us the most important victory. *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

Easter-themed songs  
or other songs of  
your choice

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • Let's praise God together.

Sing together Easter-themed songs or other songs of your choice.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Father, thank You for sending Jesus to win the battle for us. We know that because of His death and resurrection, we have nothing to fear in this world. He has overcome the world! Help us trust You more each day and glorify You by lovingly obeying Your commands. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28

**STORY POINT:** Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- tape
- playground ball

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate index card. Tape the cards to the floor in a random order. Provide the kids with a playground ball. Challenge the kids to take turns rolling the ball with the goal of getting it to stop on one of the cards. When that happens, the kids collect that card. Once the kids have collected all the cards in this way, they must work together to put the key passage in order. Then take volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid's efforts and encourage kids to continue working to memorize the verse.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God is always with His people. When we believe in Jesus, God is always with us too!

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find the Book of Matthew, chapters 26–28. Explain that Matthew is the first book of the New Testament and part of the Gospels division. Clarify that the Gospels tell about Jesus' life on earth—who Jesus is, what He did, and what He said while He was on earth, including His death and resurrection.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Jesus pray in the garden? (*He asked God to take the suffering away but agreed to do God's plan no matter what, Matt. 26:39*)
2. How did Jesus die? (*He was hung on a cross, or crucified; Matt. 27:33-50*)
3. What did the women find on the third day? (*an empty tomb, an angel who said that Jesus rose again; Matt. 28:5-6*)
4. Why is it important that Jesus perfectly obeyed God? *Guide the kids to understand that Jesus could only be the perfect sacrifice for our sin if He was not a sinner. His perfect obedience is amazing and true, and it's the reason His death was enough to pay for sin.*
5. Why is it important that Jesus really died? *Guide kids to understand that God demands a sacrifice for sin. Because we are sinners, we deserve death. If there were no sacrifice, God would not be perfectly just. Jesus had to die for us to be forgiven. (See Heb. 9:22; Rom. 6:23; and 2 Cor. 5:21.)*
6. Why is it important that Jesus rose to life? *Help kids see that Jesus' rising again was proof that His sacrifice was enough. He rose again to prove that sin and death were totally defeated. We have victory in Christ. (See 1 Cor. 15:12-22.)*

**SAY** • Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to God. Then, **Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.** Only Jesus is the way to live forever with God. Through Him, we have victory and can live courageously for God's glory by loving and obeying Him. We have nothing to fear because Jesus is always with us when we have faith in Him.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

- cone paper cups
- plastic sandwich bags
- small treats like pretzels or fruit snacks

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

## LOW PREP

- Gospel Plan Poster

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Snow cone treat

Purchase cone paper cups, plastic sandwich bags, and small treats like pretzels or fruit snacks. Fill the plastic bags with the treats. Be sure the bags are not too full to place inside the paper cone. Remind kids that God gave the Dye family a fun idea to meet more people in the city of Atlanta—snow cones! This gave them more opportunities to tell others about God’s love. Explain that they are going to make something fun to give to a friend this week!

Give kids a cone paper cup and instruct them to decorate the outside of the cup using markers and stickers, then, put the treat bag into their cone. Remind kids that these cones are not for them. Instruct them to think of someone who might need to know more about Jesus and His love. Challenge kids to give their cone to that person this week and to take the opportunity to tell him or her about Jesus.

**SAY** • God wants everyone, everywhere to know He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and is alive today. Isn’t it exciting that He gives missionaries and us fun ideas to share this good news!

#### OPTION 2: Gospel practice

Display a copy of the gospel plan poster or use your leader guide. Invite the kids to practice saying each part with you. Consider making up hand motions to use to help kids remember each step using the suggested motions below:

- God rules: Hold your hands over your head as though crowning yourself.
- We sinned: Cross your forearms in front of your body to make a large X.

- **God provided:** Rotate the *X* to make a cross shape with your forearms instead.
- **Jesus gives:** Hold your hands together, cupped, with palms facing up and then extend them outward like giving a gift.
- **We respond:** Raise your hands over your head as though praising God or lifting your hands in surrender.

**SAY** • This is an easy way to remember the gospel so you can share it with others. **Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.** Everyone who believes that truth will live forever with God. We have nothing to fear because Jesus has defeated our greatest enemy!

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

• pencils and crayons  
• paper  
• Bible Story Coloring  
Page, 1 per kid

*Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.*



Use Week of:

## Easter • Session 4 The Emmaus Disciples

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24

### STORY POINT:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
PAGE 56



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 58



**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 64



Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Him. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind kids that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

# The BIBLE Story

## The Emmaus Disciples

*Luke 24*

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus (eh MAY uhs). The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came and began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him.

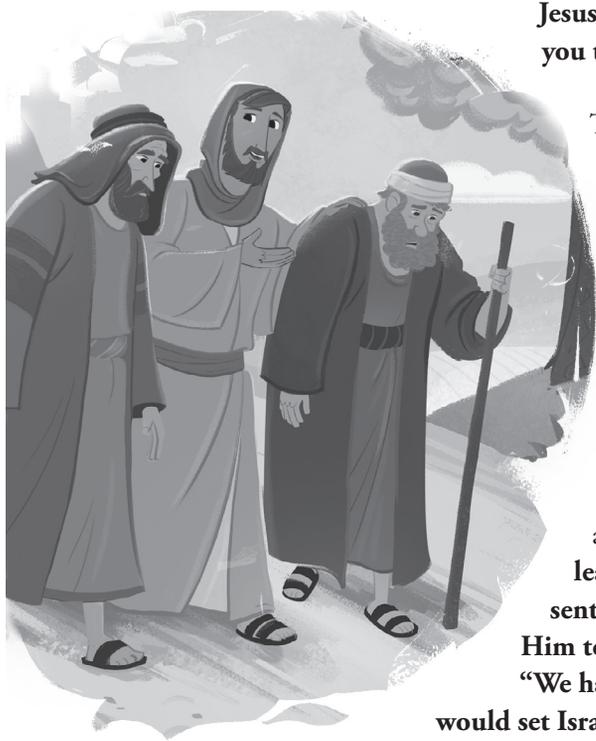
Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

The disciples stopped walking. They looked sad. **One of the disciples, Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened?"**

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

So **they told Him, "Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet. He was powerful when He acted and spoke before God and all the people. The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.**

**"We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free.** Besides, it's the third day since these things happened. **Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive.** Some of our friends went to the tomb, and they too saw that the tomb was empty."



Jesus said, “You are foolish to not believe what the prophets said! **Isn’t this what had to happen to the Messiah?**” Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what all the Scriptures said about Him.

Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus joined them at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the men recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples thought about their walk to Emmaus. They said, “When Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures, didn’t our hearts feel like they were on fire?”

**The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus’ eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened.** They said, “Simon saw Jesus too! Jesus is alive!”

*Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.*

## Bible Storytelling Tips

### Pantomime

**it:** Choose three volunteers to portray the two disciples and Jesus. Guide them to walk in place, sit down to eat together, and act out talking together as you tell the Bible story.

**Draw it out:** As you tell the story, sketch figures on a large piece of paper or dry erase board. Include two disciples and Jesus. Draw a road, and then draw a table and loaf of bread.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Emmaus Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24

**STORY POINT:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them to think about their favorite teacher. What makes that person such a good teacher?

**SAY** • We can meet and get to know many gifted teachers in the world, but the best teacher ever is Jesus! Today we're going to hear how Jesus taught two of His disciples that everything in the Scriptures points to Him!

### Activity page (5 minutes)

• "Every Other Letter"  
activity page,  
1 per kid  
• pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Every Other Letter" activity page. Instruct them to cross out the first letter and every other letter after that to reveal what Jesus taught.

**SAY** • Two disciples were traveling to the town of Emmaus when the resurrected Jesus met them on the road. Jesus taught them an important lesson. We'll hear more about what happened in our Bible story today!

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Blind pathway

Prior to the session, create a pathway around the room using masking tape on the floor. Invite the kids to find a partner, and then tie a blindfold on one of them. The non-blindfolded kid will guide his partner to walk along the pathway using only his voice. He cannot touch his partner to guide her along the path.

**SAY** • In our story, we'll learn that the disciples did not recognize Jesus when they walked along the road, but He opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures said about Him. Let's get ready to hear more.

### OPTION 2: Whose voice?

Choose one child to come to the front of the class. She will either wear a blindfold or turn around and close her eyes. Randomly choose kids to read the key passage poster one at a time, and the blindfolded child will try to guess who is speaking. If she guesses correctly, the reader will come to the front to the next guesser.

**SAY** • Was it hard to tell who was reading the key passage? [*Invite responses.*] When we know someone really well, we're better able to recognize his or her voice. Jesus appeared to the disciples on the way to Emmaus and taught them the Scriptures point to Him, but they were kept from recognizing Him at first.

## LOW PREP

- masking tape
- blindfolds, 1 per team

- blindfold (optional)
- Key Passage Poster

## Transition to teach the story

## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Emmaus Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24

**STORY POINT:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing khaki shorts, a bright orange shirt, and a helmet.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, friends! It's great to see you all again today. Thanks for joining me. It's been a crazy week with our chess team. We took our annual chess team retreat and one of our teammates got lost in the woods while hiking!

He walked off the trail because he was trying to find a rock formation he heard about. Supposedly it looks just like a bishop piece from a chess set. As he looked for the rock, he walked deeper and deeper into the forest and farther and farther away from the campsite. Pretty soon he was totally lost! When we realized he was gone, we called the search and rescue team. After hours of searching with helicopters and trained dogs, they found him. Thankfully he wasn't hurt, but he sure was scared. He was so grateful to be

rescued and reunited with the rest of our team!

Have you ever needed to be rescued? Over the last few weeks, we've been learning about God's rescue plan to save us from our sin. Today we'll hear an amazing story about how Jesus appeared to the disciples on the way to Emmaus and taught them the Scriptures point to Him and God's rescue plan!

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Who remembers our big picture question? [*Allow responses.*] That's right! Our question is, **Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.** [*Allow responses.*] Great job! Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin and came back to life to show we are forgiven. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection was all part of God's incredible rescue plan for us.

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. - Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • A couple of weeks ago, we learned that **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.** Then, the night before He died, **Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.** After the last supper, Jesus was betrayed and arrested. **Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.** Some of the women had seen the empty tomb and told the other disciples. Peter and John had been to the tomb as well to see for themselves. Everyone was confused. Was Jesus really alive? Where was He? Our story this week begins with two disciples

traveling to a small city. It's called "The Emmaus Disciples."

### Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "The Emmaus Disciples."

**LEADER** • Can you imagine being one of those two disciples on the way to Emmaus? Jesus is an incredible Teacher, and He opened their eyes to what the Scriptures are all about. Starting with Moses and the prophets, **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** From the very beginning, we can see that God's rescue plan all along was to send His own Son to die for the sins of the whole world.

We're separated from God because of our sin. We might not be lost in the woods, but we are lost because we live apart from God. We don't always see how far we've wandered from God. But the good news is that God has rescued us! God knows exactly where we are, and He knows that we need Him to save us. God gave up everything, even His own Son's life, to rescue us. ***Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*** What an amazing truth!

### Christ connection

**LEADER** • You see, the whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, people were separated from God, unable to live the way He wanted us too. Instead of leaving us alone in our sin, God began working out His plan to rescue us. He sent Jesus to live a perfect life of obedience. Then, despite never

- Bibles
- "The Emmaus Disciples" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

sinning, Jesus died to save us from sin. He rose again on the third day to show that death was defeated. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus. The New Testament explains who Jesus is and what He did to rescue us from sin.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Easter, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we read the Old Testament. Guide them to discuss what the Old Testament teaches us and if they have a plan for reading the whole Bible.

· “Easter, Session 4” questions from kids video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Write the words *HOME*, *NEIGHBORHOOD* and *CITY* on three separate pieces of poster board or a sheet of large paper. Tape the signs on different areas of a wall.

**LEADER** • We’ve been hearing about the Dye family, missionaries in Atlanta, Georgia. They pray often for their city. They ask God to help many people in their city hear the gospel. We can pray for our city and the people living here too.

· poster board or large sheets of paper, 3  
· marker  
· tape

Place kids into three groups and assign them to pray at one of the locations on the signs. Encourage them to think of things they can specifically pray for in each location. Be ready to offer suggestions.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 10:9.

· Key Passage Poster

**LEADER** • How does this verse teach us that we are rescued or saved from our sins? [*Invite responses.*] We’re saved

by trusting that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead—that His death was enough to pay the penalty for our sin. God doesn't rescue us because we do a lot of good things to make Him happy. God rescued us even when we didn't deserve it. Salvation is truly a gift from God!

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• Easter-themed songs  
or other songs of  
your choice

**LEADER** • God's rescue plan to save us from our sin is so amazing. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection shows just how much God loves us. He wants to be near to us, and He wants us to know and love Him too. Let's stand together and sing praises to our God who loves us!

Sing together Easter-themed songs or other songs of your choice.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, thank You for rescuing us from our sin, even though we don't deserve it. Even when we walk away, You want to bring us back into Your presence. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us so we could be saved from our sin. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Emmaus Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24

**STORY POINT:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- balloons, preferably 2 colors
- slips of paper
- marker
- Allergy Alert

Post an allergy alert. Write a word or phrase from the key passage on separate slips of paper. Roll up the slips and stick each one in a separate balloon. Inflate the balloons. Make enough for two sets, one color per team. Divide the class into two teams and guide them to line up on one side of the room with the balloons on the opposite side. Guide one kid from each team to run to the balloons, pop one, find the slip, and bring it back to his team. Once all the balloons are popped, teammates will work together to arrange the key passage in the right order. The first team to finish wins.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us of the gift of our salvation. We can thank God for rescuing us from our sin, even though we don't do anything to deserve it. In fact, this passage answers our big picture question! *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)
- ball

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Remind kids that **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Take a few moments to review some of the divisions of the Bible before

helping kids find Luke 24. Remind kids that Luke is one of the four Gospels. Toss a ball to one kid and ask her a review question. If she doesn't know the answer, she may pass the ball to another kid. When the question is answered correctly, toss the ball to another child and ask another question.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where were the two disciples heading when they met Jesus on the road? (*Emmaus, Luke 24:13*)
2. What did Jesus ask them? ("*What are you arguing about?*" *Luke 24:17*)
3. Did the two disciples recognize Jesus? Why or why not? (*No, they were prevented from recognizing Him; Luke 24:16*)
4. What did the disciples do when they realized they had seen Jesus? (*They went to Jerusalem to tell the rest of the disciples, Luke 24:33-34*)
5. What Old Testament stories can you think of that remind us about Jesus? *If kids struggle to come up with answers refer them to stories such as David and Goliath, Noah and the Ark, Ruth and Boaz, or Esther. Talk to the kids about how Jesus is our perfect Rescuer, and all of Scripture is about Him. You may choose to show them the Small Group Timeline (purchased separately).*
6. What can we do when we read something in the Bible that we don't understand? *Remind kids that when Jesus met with the disciples, He taught that the whole Bible points to Him. When we don't understand something about God, we can pray and ask God to open our eyes and help us understand. The Holy Spirit gives us understanding. God also gives us other people to help us see what is true about God and ourselves.*

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## LOW PREP

- “Map It” printables, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- map
- sticky note or thumbtacks

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

- construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- paper plates
- brad fasteners

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Map it

Give each kid the “Map It” printable and crayons or markers. If you don’t already, make sure you also have a map hung on the wall. Help kids fill in the blanks on their pages. Stop and review each of the locations on the map after kids have filled in the blanks. Place a sticky note or thumbtack close to where you are on the map. Instruct kids to color in that location on their map. If time allows, give them an opportunity to color the rest of the page.

**SAY** • God has picked this exact place for you to live! You can make a big difference for God in this place by telling others that Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins.

#### OPTION 2: Everything points to Jesus

Invite the kids to make a craft that will remind them that all the Scriptures point to Jesus. Guide kids to draw and cut out arrow shapes using construction paper. Assist kids as they write Scripture references on the arrows. Attach the arrows to a paper plate using a brass brad in the center of the arrow. All around the edge of the plate, instruct the kids to write *Jesus, Messiah, Savior, and God’s Son*.

Suggested Scripture references:

- Genesis 3:15
- Exodus 12:12-13
- 2 Samuel 7:16
- Isaiah 53:5
- Ezekiel 37:26-28

**SAY** • Jesus appeared to the disciples on the way to Emmaus. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** As you read God’s Word, you can know that

everything you read ultimately shows us God's rescue plan: Jesus.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

*Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.*



Use Week of:

## Easter • Session 5

# Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24; John 20

### STORY POINT:

Jesus appeared to His disciples.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
PAGE 72



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 74



**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 80



Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

Only a few days had passed since Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. His followers were undoubtedly afraid and confused. They met together in a house, locking the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Would the Jews do to them what they had done to Jesus? They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead?

But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Could it be true? The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

“Peace to you!” He said. What good news. Imagine how Jesus’ words might have calmed the disciples’ anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn’t show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Even though Jesus had foretold His death and resurrection (Matt. 20:17-19), Jesus showed His disciples physical proof that He was alive. He showed them His hands and His side. With His resurrection, Jesus’ mission was accomplished. He paid the debt for sinners, and the transaction cleared. But the disciples’ work was just beginning.

Jesus gave His followers a job to do: “As the Father has sent me, I also send you” (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospel of John’s version of the Great Commission. Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done—to the world.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive today. We haven’t seen Him for ourselves, but we believe this by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

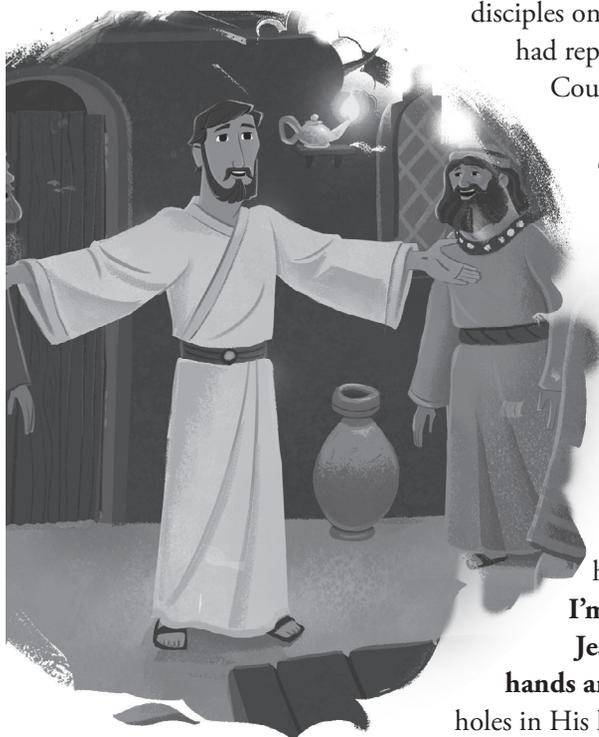
# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

*Luke 24; John 20*

**On the first day of the week, in the evening, the disciples gathered together in a house. They locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. They didn't want to be killed like Jesus had been killed.**

But wait ... Jesus had appeared to two disciples on the road, and Mary Magdalene had reported seeing Him alive too. Could it be true?



**As the disciples talked, Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"**

**The disciples were afraid! They couldn't believe their eyes! Was this really Jesus? The disciples **thought they were seeing a ghost.****

**"Why are you afraid? It's Me! Why do you doubt?" Jesus said. "Look at Me and touch Me. A ghost does not have flesh and bones, but I do. I'm not a ghost."**

**Jesus showed His disciples His hands and His side. They saw the holes in His hands and in His side. Jesus was alive? It seemed too good to be true. The disciples **rejoiced because they were so happy to see Jesus!****

The disciples gave Jesus some fish to eat. **Jesus talked to them and explained the Bible to them.** "The Bible is about Me," Jesus said. **He**

helped them understand how the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms told about Him. Then Jesus told the disciples that they had a job to do. Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. The disciples needed to tell other people to repent from their sin and be forgiven.

“Peace to you!” Jesus said to them again. “God sent Me to earth, and in the same way, I am sending you.” **Jesus sent out the disciples to be His witnesses and to tell all the people that He is alive.**

*Christ Connection: For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to at least 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Tell the story in a house:** Create a house's perimeter with large blocks or masking tape on the floor. Gather kids inside the “house” and pretend to lock the door. Tell the story.
- **Use emotions:** Tell the story. Pause and ask kids to use their faces to show you how they might have felt if they had been there with Jesus' friends. Would they feel afraid? Amazed? Happy? Determined? Invite them to strike poses showing those emotions.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24; John 20

**STORY POINT:** Jesus appeared to His disciples.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Welcome time

- note cards
- pencils or markers
- ballot box

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, give each a note card. Ask the kids to write or draw a picture of the best surprise they have ever received. Instruct kids to put their note card in a voting box that is sitting in the middle of the room for later use.

**SAY** • Some surprises are bad, but some are really good. We are going to learn about your favorite surprise today and then we will see a great surprise Jesus had for His followers.

### Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Hidden Letters” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Hidden Letters” activity page. Help them find and unscramble the letters hidden in the picture. Each color corresponds to one word.

**SAY** • Jesus brought a message to His disciples because He didn’t want them to be afraid. He was alive and said to them, “Peace to you.”

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Surprise voting box

Guide children to sit in a circle around the voting box that is in the middle of the room. Open the voting box and share what kids wrote or drew on their note card. Ask kids to guess whose card you are sharing. After kids guess, allow the kid who experienced that surprise to raise her hand to show if they guessed correctly.

**SAY** • Wow, you all had many great surprises to share today. What does your face look like when you get a good surprise? [*Allow the children to make faces to show they are happy, excited, surprised, and so forth.*] Today we are going to learn about the best surprise the disciples ever received.

### OPTION 2: Which surprise is best?

Share with the kids that you are going to give them two choices of surprises they may receive, surprise A or surprise B. Assign one side of the room for surprise A and the opposite side of the room for surprise B. Ask kids to vote for which surprise they think is best by running to one side of the room. After each choice, call on a child or two to share why they picked that surprise.

**SAY** • Sometimes it can be hard to choose which surprise you like most, but we love good surprises. Today we are going to learn about how the disciples received the best surprise ever.

## Transition to teach the story

## LOW PREP

- ballot box
- index cards

Surprise choices:

- a kitten or a new puppy?
- a trip to an amusement park or a trip to the beach?
- a new bike or a new video game?
- extra dessert in your lunch box or ice cream after school?
- your grandparents' coming to visit or going to your grandparents' house to visit?

## TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24; John 20

**STORY POINT:** Jesus appeared to His disciples.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

### Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing a solid-colored polo shirt and khakis, perhaps in the colors of a local school your students attend.]*

**LEADER** • Hi, kids. As you can see, we are in the middle of an election. I love voting! Whether it's voting where we eat after church, what color shirt I want to wear, or who will be president of the chess club, I love to vote! Quick vote: how many of you like to vote? Show me your hands. *[Pause and await responses.]* Awesome!

I also love talking about surprises. I heard that you may have voted for the best surprises earlier today. Even though we heard some amazing surprises today, there is one surprise that tops all the others as the best ever. Jesus' disciples experienced this surprise. This best surprise involves Jesus and He had a great message to share with us.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • As believers and followers of Jesus, we have a mission. This mission comes from Jesus Himself, and He gave it to His disciples after He rose from the dead on the third day. This mission is to tell people about how they can be saved. That reminds me of our big picture question. Our big picture question is, *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • We are at a really cool part of God's big story. Now remember, Jesus had been crucified and buried in a tomb, but we know that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Jesus appeared to Mary, and that same day, Jesus explained to two of His disciples how all of the Scriptures point to Him. Jesus was really busy after He was raised from the dead! Listen to our Bible story to learn what Jesus did next. Our story this week is called "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples."

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples." · Bibles  
· "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples" video  
· Big Picture Question Poster

**LEADER** • When you have a great surprise, what do you want to do after getting it? [*Allow kids to answer, but make sure to point out that we usually want to share that great surprise with others.*]  
· Bible Story Picture Poster

Jesus' appearing to the disciples was an amazing surprise. Although Mary and some of Jesus' other followers had told the disciples that they had seen Jesus alive, the disciples were confused. They were hiding in a locked room, trying to make sense of what had happened, when suddenly **Jesus appeared to His disciples!**

The disciples were afraid at first, but Jesus calmed their fears. Jesus showed them His hands and His side, and He also ate fish to show that He was not a ghost. Jesus was really, truly, physically alive! Jesus' disciples were so happy, they rejoiced. Then Jesus told them they had a job to do. He said that they were to tell everyone that He was alive.

### **Christ connection**

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

**LEADER** • Jesus, who had the power to defeat death, didn't just give the disciples a job to do in their own power. Jesus gave them power through the Holy Spirit so they could tell the world He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. As Christians, our job is to tell everyone that He is alive so that other people can believe the truth about Jesus and become His followers, or disciples. Only God can change a person's heart, but we spread the gospel so everyone has a chance to hear.

### **Questions from kids video (3 minutes)**

• "Easter, Session 5" questions from kids video

Show the "Easter, Session 5" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus appeared to His disciples. Guide them to discuss how we, who have never seen Jesus, believe by faith that He is alive and He will return again some day.



### **Missions moment (3 minutes)**

**LEADER** • Many people around the world and in our neighborhoods haven't heard the gospel. Remember the Dye family? They are missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia. They share this news everywhere they go. They also invite the people they meet to their church. Watch this video to see how God is changing lives at the Dye's church.

Show the "Casting the Dye (Part 3)" missions video.

**LEADER** • People who have not heard the gospel don't know that Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. Just like the Dye family, we can tell people this good news wherever we go too.

· "Casting the Dye (Part 3)" missions video

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 10:9.

· Key Passage Poster

**LEADER** • This key passage tells us that the good news is most important. Jesus' dying for our sins and raising from the dead is the best news ever, and it was God's plan to rescue people from sin long ago. The gospel isn't complicated—it all comes down to faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross!

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • Jesus' rising from the dead is the best news and can bring us much hope and joy. Let's praise Him now as we sing.

Sing together Easter-themed songs or other songs of your choice.

· Easter-themed songs or other songs of your choice

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, we thank You for the best news ever. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for our sin on the cross. We praise You because You have power over death and You raised Jesus to life on the third day as You promised in the Old Testament. Help us to share this amazing news with many other people. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24; John 20

**STORY POINT:** Jesus appeared to His disciples.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- ball of yarn

Display the key passage poster where kids can see it. Read the key passage together twice. Invite kids to stand in a circle. Give a ball of yarn to a child and guide him to say the first word to the key passage. He will then hold onto one end of the yarn and toss the ball of yarn to another child who will say the next word. Kids will keep tossing the yarn and saying the next word until the key passage is complete and they've formed a web-like pattern. If time allows, repeat and reverse the web until the yarn is rewound.

**SAY** • What great news our key passage shares! It will remind us of our job to share this great news with others.

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids practice finding the Gospel of Luke in their Bibles. Guide them to the New Testament. Point kids to Luke 24. If they struggle to find the book and chapter, help them use the table of contents at the front of their Bibles. Then help them understand that the large numbers in the text represent chapter numbers; the small are verses.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did the disciples think Jesus was when He first appeared to them? (*a ghost, Luke 24:37*)
2. How did Jesus show that He is alive? (*He invited His disciples to touch His hands and feet, and He ate with them; Luke 24:39-43*)
3. What job did Jesus give His disciples? (*tell people the news of Jesus' death and resurrection, Luke 24:46-49*)
4. Who at your school, on your sports team, or in your family needs to hear that Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from sin and is alive today? *Guide kids to think about people they know who may not know Jesus. Remind them that Jesus taught us to share the gospel with everyone we meet. Even people who already know Jesus can benefit from hearing the good news again and again.*
5. How would you tell that person about Jesus in your own words? *Guide kids through sharing the gospel. Encourage them to practice what they might say. You may use the gospel plan on page 79 of this guide.*
6. How do you feel when you think of sharing the good news of Jesus with others? *Allow kids to be honest. If they are excited, affirm them. If they are scared or worried to share, still affirm them and help them understand that Jesus gives His followers a Helper, the Holy Spirit. It is OK to be afraid, and they can ask for help from the Holy Spirit.*

**SAY • Jesus appeared to His disciples.** Luke was a follower of Jesus who wrote down what people who saw and knew Jesus told him about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The disciples were surprised that Jesus came back from the dead, but Jesus said He would!

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

- watercolor paper
- watercolor paint
- paintbrushes
- black permanent marker
- cups of water
- dry erase board or chalkboard
- dry erase markers or chalk

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

## LOW PREP

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Watercolor invites

Cut pieces of watercolor paper in half and fold each sheet in half to make a card. On the front of each card write, *You are invited* with a black permanent marker. Group kids at tables and give them each a card, paintbrush and pen or marker. Place cups of water and watercolor paint at each table. Explain that kids are going to make invitations to invite friends to church. Instruct kids to write a message inside their card, inviting someone they know or might meet to visit their church. Write the church address on a dry erase board or chalkboard for kids to also include in their cards. Invite kids to decorate the fronts (only) of their cards. Let the cards dry. Be sure to explain to parents that the cards are invitations to invite someone to church. Encourage them to help their child invite someone to church.

**SAY** • Part of the Dye family's plan to let people in Atlanta know that Jesus bought our salvation when He died on the cross is to invite everyone they meet to their church. We can invite people to our church too!

#### OPTION 2: Reverse charades

Assign one child to be the guesser. This child will step out of earshot with an adult helper. While the guesser's is gone, whisper to the rest of the class a job title (police officer, firefighter, doctor, teacher, veterinarian, chef) and explain they will silently act out the kind of work that person would do. When the kids are ready, the guesser will return and face them. The kids will act out the tasks, and the guesser will identify who would perform those tasks.

**SAY** • Sometimes it can be easy to guess the type of work

certain people do, but sometimes it can be hard. In today's lesson, **Jesus appeared to His disciples** to tell them they had a job to do. Their job was to tell others about Him. Jesus is still alive today and His followers still have the job to tell other about Him.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

*Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.*



