



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Gave His Life for Me  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 48

# The Resurrection

**Bible Event:** Matthew 28:1-10

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS RISEN – *He is risen indeed!*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** There is power through Jesus' resurrection. He is alive!

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn how amazing it was that first Easter morning and the tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead. Today, we can still share the joy by telling others that Jesus was born, died and rose again to wash away our sins. Kids will take home the point: **JESUS IS RISEN – *He is risen indeed!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects that will help the presenter tell the Bible event in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

Substitute a large Easter basket for the Mystery box in today's lesson. The basket needs to be filled with large plastic Easter eggs or colored gift bags numbered one through nine. The contents of the eggs/bags are as follows:

- One: a few strands of straw representing a manger
- Two: some small pieces of wood to represent carpentry
- Three: a small Bible or scroll to represent God's word
- Four: a fish net to represent the concept of "fishers of men"
- Five: a Band-aid to represent healing
- Six: oyster crackers and Goldfish crackers to represent miracles
- Seven: thorns from a bush to represent being arrested
- Eight: nails to represent the cross
- Nine: should be empty to represent the empty tomb – this egg needs to have a slip of paper attached to the outside instructing the presenter to read the Bible to see how the story ends

These objects are meant to teach the story of Jesus' life especially for children who seldom attend church and need a more complete view of who Jesus is.

How many of you have an Easter basket waiting for you at home? Is it exciting to get an Easter basket with candy or to hunt for eggs on Easter morning? Easter is about discovering a wonderful surprise. But the surprise is not just about candy or eggs, it is about something much more important. It's about the greatest surprise we could ever have. It's about God's surprise for us on Easter morning. Here's how the event goes.

This is a true event that happened many years ago. When God looked down at the world, he saw there were many hurt and sad people. It was because they had disobeyed him and had done many wrong things. So he decided to send his own Son into the world to help. He sent his Son to be born as a tiny baby and he was laid in a manger. Open egg number one. This straw reminds us that Jesus was born around animals and laid in a manger.

When Jesus began to grow up, his family on earth, Mary and Joseph, were in the carpentry business. That means they made things from wood. Like any other boy growing up, he helped his dad. Open egg number two. This wood reminds us that Jesus grew up and helped his dad build things.

One very important thing Jesus learned to do as he got older was to read, so he could read God's word. (Open egg number three.) He understood a lot about God's word because he was God's own Son. That meant that he could help teach others about it.

Jesus came to be friends to many people. He chose 12 special friends to be close to him. They were his helpers and they helped others to get to know Jesus, too. Open egg number four. This net reminds us that many of Jesus' special friends were fishermen and he said to them "I will make you fishers of men." Just like they caught fish with nets, Jesus would teach them to catch people with God's love.

Open egg number five. There's a Band-aid in this one. What did Jesus do that was like this Band-aid? Invite children to answer. Jesus healed people. He had God's power to heal and wanted to show everyone that God could help them.

Jesus could do other miracles, too. Once upon a time lots of people were hungry. Open egg number six. He took some small fish and loaves of bread and made a mighty miracle. He turned a few fish and loaves into enough to feed a large crowd. Jesus did lots of amazing things like this.

When the time was just right, Jesus let himself be arrested. Even when Jesus was doing these wonderful things for people, some people didn't like him. Soldiers captured him and carried him away. He even had thorns put on his head. Open egg number seven.

Jesus had never done anything wrong, but he was being punished. He wasn't being punished for anything he had done wrong, but he was being punished for all of the wrong things people have ever done. God had a plan to take our sins and put them on Jesus so he would take them away. Finally, Jesus was nailed to the cross. Open egg number eight. When he was on the cross, he said "Father forgive them." He was talking about us because we all need forgiveness. And he was taking our sin upon himself. Finally, he died. His friends were sad. They thought that was the end. Do you think it was? They took his body and laid it in a tomb. And then... Pick up egg number nine.

**This egg says to look inside the Bible to see what happened.**

*The following section can be clipped and inserted into your Bible to be read aloud as if reading straight from the Bible.*

It was early Sunday morning; the sun was just coming up. Two of Jesus' close friends, both named Mary, came to the place where Jesus had been buried. It was a tomb cut into the side of a hill. It had a large rock blocking the door. When they were on their way, the earth began to shake. Suddenly an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled away the stone with his mighty power. The guards saw him and were so afraid that they shook with fear and then ran away. The angel sat on top of the stone. He was as bright as lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. When the two Marys came and saw the angel, they were afraid. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I know who you are looking for. Jesus died, but look here – this is what you'll see. Open egg number nine. He's not here – it's empty! Jesus has been brought back to life, just like he said he would! Please go tell his friends that he is alive! He will see them soon. They will all see him!

What a surprise! Was it a happy surprise? Were they excited? What do you think they did? The Marys ran to tell Jesus' friends that he was alive. On their way, they ran into Jesus! And they knew that it all was true!

That is why God's surprise for us on Easter morning is the best surprise of all! Knowing that Jesus died on the cross but is alive again to save us from our sins is better than any candy or special Easter egg hunt. Is Jesus still alive today? Is he here? Even though we can't see Jesus today, when we trust and love him, he is always alive and with us. **JESUS IS RISEN – *He is risen indeed!***



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Have children assemble an angel snack. Use a Bugle as the angel's body, a Ritz Bitz cracker for the head, and arrange small triangles of cheese or knot pretzels as the wings.

**Drama Zone:** Provide a large empty box or table covered with a large blanket to be the empty tomb. Let children crawl in and out and practice the take-home point.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to tell each other about the best Easter surprise ever.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of the Resurrection from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #153, "The Resurrection" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

**Craft Zone:** Provide each child with a plastic egg. Allow them to fill the egg with confetti (store bought or cut out of construction paper). Using markers, crayons, glitter glue, stickers, etc., allow them to decorate a slip of paper with the take-home point pre-printed on it. Place the slip of paper into the egg as well, seal the egg with tape to get it home intact, and instruct children to open the egg at home and retell the Easter story. Another option: Choose a more special Easter craft of your choice. We recommend contacting [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) or [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com).

**Play Zone:** While adults or other helpers escort the children outside of the room, pretending they are en route to the empty tomb, hide wrapped Easter candies or other Easter trinkets or treats of your choosing around the room – enough for each child to find one. Once the children return to the room and hunt for their treats, explain that while it's fun for us to hunt for eggs or treats on Easter, we never have to hunt for Jesus. He wants to find us, instead. If we love and trust in Jesus, he will always be with us.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the resurrection.

**Music Zone:** Your choice of music.

**Coloring Zone:** "The Resurrection" coloring page.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes on stage holding an empty plastic Easter egg and sounding disappointed. He explains to the presenter that he went on an Easter egg hunt this morning and all he found was this dumb, empty egg. The presenter explains that can be one of the best surprises of all. Bubba is confused. How can an empty anything be a good surprise?

The presenter invites the kids to explain the surprise when the two Marys found something empty. The presenter prompts the kids to tell Bubba about the tomb being where Jesus' body was supposed to be after he died on the cross for our sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Instead, the tomb was empty because Jesus came back to life and it was a fantastic surprise. The fact the tomb was empty was a good surprise.

The presenter goes on to explain why today's Take-Home Point is important. When we say, "JESUS IS RISEN – *He is risen indeed*," we are talking about Jesus being alive again after he had died on the cross. **\*HE IS RISEN – *He is risen indeed*!**

The presenter concludes by telling Bubba he has a special surprise for Bubba this morning. Since Bubba has been such a good friend to him, the presenter got him a basket of candy and trinkets. Bubba is overwhelmed by the big basket and doesn't know what he could possibly do with all of the stuff in it. The presenter suggests that maybe Bubba could share the treats. Close with Bubba sharing his new basket of treats with the children.

### Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

#### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible Event
- large Easter basket
- nine large plastic eggs or gift bags, numbered
- straw
- wood pieces
- small Bible or scroll
- fish net
- script from pg 4 copied
- Band-aid
- oyster and goldfish crackers
- thorns
- nails
- slip of paper “Read Bible to see what happens” and tape

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- Bugles
- Ritz Bitz crackers
- cheese cut into triangles or pretzel knots

### *Drama:*

- large box or table with blanket

### *Craft:*

- plastic Easter eggs
- confetti (*store bought or cut construction paper*)
- slip of paper “Jesus is risen – He is risen indeed!”
- markers, crayons, glitter glue, stickers, etc.
- tape

### *Play:*

- small wrapped candies or trinkets for each child

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Music:*

- your choice of music

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #153, “The Resurrection” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

*Color page:*

- The Resurrection

*Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- empty plastic egg
- basket filled with miscellaneous treats and trinkets

*Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books