



Date: _____
Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 49

The King of Life

Take Home Point: *Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive! *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 28:1-10 Jesus' resurrection.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:5-6: "We were dead because of our failures, but he made us alive together with Christ. (It is God's kindness that saved you.) God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus...."

We will help kids know:

- What it means to be spiritually dead.
- Jesus has made us spiritually alive.




We will help kids feel:

- Joyful in the knowledge of their spiritual life.
- Reassured of Christ living in them.

We will help kids do:

- Make a visual reminder of Jesus living in their hearts.
- Identify those areas that reflect a spiritual life.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Pretending to be dead, the children will try to understand what being spiritually alive means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feather for each group • small cup of water
Large Group 	4 8-10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Life" Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew 28:1-10.</i> Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Life"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy dressed as a news reporter • news desk • a banner that says "News Center K-I-N-G" • a paper sign that says "Passover Week 30 A.D. " • video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew 28:1-10</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, Inc.
Small Group Application 	5-7 11-12	Kids discuss what it means to be spiritually dead versus spiritually alive. They make a craft that simulates Jesus living in our hearts. Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cup of garden beans for each group, one per child (seeds from the garden store soaked in water overnight) • a straw for each child • a paper doll shape of a person for group (see appendix) • two paper doll shapes per child (see appendix) • glue sticks and scissors • markers • <i>Option:</i> a small dirt filled paper cup for each child

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Before starting this lesson you may want to ask students what they know about death or what experiences they have had with death. It will give you an idea of those who may have had a recent death in the family or have been traumatized by the death of a loved one or pet. Be sensitive to those kids during this activity. It may also help identify false ideas they have about death you will want to clear up.

Let's play a game! I need a volunteer to play dead. This volunteer must lie down and be perfectly still. He will try to play dead while we do a test to see if we can make him move or flinch. We will test three people and see who does the best at playing dead.

If your setting is not conducive to having someone lie on the floor, the person can simply put his head down on the table.

The first test is the feather test. Lightly touch the child with a feather on the nose or ear and wait for a reaction.

The second is the iddy biddy poke test. Lightly poke (tickle) the child's ribs.

The third is the water torture test. Take a few drops of water and sprinkle them on the child's face.

Continue discussion after three volunteers have been tested.

What do you think it would feel like to be dead? Would you feel the feather tickle you at all? Would you feel anything poke you? That is called physical death when you can't feel or do any of these things anymore.

When someone is dead, is any part of that person still alive? (Yes, the spirit of the person can still be alive.)

There is another part of you that can be tested to determine if you are dead or alive. It is your spirit. Do you know what your spirit is? Your spirit is the invisible part that is inside you.

Let's pretend we are unzipping your body. We are going to look at what is inside to understand what the spirit is. It is not the stomach, the lungs, the bones or any of the body parts underneath your skin. Those are things of the body. Your spirit is inside you but you

cannot see it. It's the very deepest part of you. Your spirit knows your thoughts and feelings and personality but, most importantly, your spirit connects you to God. When you die, it is your spirit that goes to heaven.

But not all spirits go to heaven, only those the Bible calls spiritually alive. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, your spirit becomes alive. Your spirit is attached to God and you are called spiritually alive. Your spirit is filled up with God's Spirit. It's through God's Holy Spirit that Jesus comes to live in your spirit.

Shepherds, this is abstract thinking and will be difficult for younger children to fully grasp. For that matter, none of us can fully grasp the wonder of such a connection to God and being made spiritually alive.

To finalize, leave the kids with the following thought.

Who knows Jesus as his Savior? That means you trust that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead. The Bible says that Jesus lives in your life when you receive him. That means that by God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in *your* spirit. If you can say, "Jesus is my Savior and he lives in me," then you are spiritually alive. You know God as your friend deep, deep, deep inside in your spirit.

Today we will learn that **Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive!*

Author's Note: There are different schools of thought as to the definition of soul and spirit. I define the soul and spirit as two different entities. The soul is the composite of one's personality, thoughts, emotions, and desires. These all influence one's spirit, and may even be part of the spirit. But it is the spirit that connects us to God. Through our spirits, God enlightens our minds for understanding and faith, our hearts for feeling his love and presence, and our wills to be shaped in the conformity of his perfect will.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview:

Puppet Presentation: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Life."--- Gordy interviews Mary who has seen the risen Christ..

Video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew.* Show Matthew 28:1-10.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Life" ---Gordy learns what it means to become spiritually alive because of the power of Jesus' resurrection

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Matthew 27:46-28:10 in their Bibles.

When Jesus was on the cross, what happened to him spiritually and physically? What happened to Jesus to show he died physically? *(Matthew 27:46 shows Jesus experienced spiritual death. He said, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" God was placing the sin of the world on Jesus and turning his back on him. Jesus was experiencing spiritual death. Shortly after that, he died physically (Matthew 27:50). Jesus' body was dead. He quit breathing. He didn't flinch or cry out in pain when he was pierced with the spear. (John 19:33-36) This may be too abstract for smaller children to fully grasp. Simply continue on. It is still beneficial if they are simply introduced to the concept.)*

Read Matthew 28:5-7 with much excitement.

What excitement there must have been on Easter morning! The angel said, "Don't be afraid." What was the great news the angel had to give? *(Jesus has been brought back to life. Note the wording in verse six.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read Colossians 3:1 and ask:

What happens to us because Christ is brought back to life? *(We are also brought back to life.)*

What does it mean that we are brought back to life? *(We are no longer spiritually dead if we trust in Jesus as our Savior!)*

It says in Colossians 3:1, to focus on the things that are above because we are alive. What are those things? *(Things about God and heaven. Ways we can show on earth that we are spiritually alive.)*

You know a person is physically alive when he breathes, talks, runs and jumps. What kind of things would a person do if they are spiritually alive? *(Read God's word, want to worship God, be kind to others, be truthful.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: a paper doll cut out, two paper doll cut outs with hearts for each child (see appendix), a cup of bean seeds for each group, glue sticks and scissors, markers, a straw for each child.

Place the paper doll person in front of the group for all to see. Say:

Ephesians 2:5-6 says, “We were dead because of our failures, but he made us alive together with Christ. (It is God’s kindness that saved you.) God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus....”

When we are spiritually dead, what are some of our failures? Can you think of some things that spiritually dead people might do?

For each failure a child mentions, he can put a garden bean on the paper doll cut out. Then say:

**Because Jesus is alive, I don’t have to live like I am spiritually dead.
*Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive. The Holy Spirit breathes life into me and makes me spiritually alive.**

Take the straw and blow the beans off the person.

Look at verse five again. Why does the Bible say we are saved?
(Because of God’s great kindness.)

God loved us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to die for us. Then Jesus rose, and because of him we have new life—new spiritual life! Jesus is alive and now lives in my heart.

Give each child two paper doll cutouts. Have them color the heart of one of the paper dolls. Then have them write “Jesus” in the heart of the other paper doll. Be sure that all the letters are inside the heart.

Then glue the two cut-outs together (using a glue stick) back to back with a straw between them. As this straw is spun, the visual illusion is that the word Jesus will appear inside the heart.

Do you believe that Jesus died and rose for you? If so, he lives in your heart. That’s the same thing as being spiritually alive. It’s the

same thing as Jesus living in your spirit through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Have you ever said, "Jesus I want you to be in my heart?" If not, would you like to pray about that right now? The Holy Spirit brings Jesus to live in your heart, then you can be spiritually alive!

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus dying on the cross and coming back to life. He did that to take away all my sins. I'm sorry for my sins and I trust Jesus as my Savior. Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, let Jesus live in my heart. That means let him live in my spirit so that he will be with me always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let's each take one of the garden beans home and find a place to plant it. You can plant it in a cup of dirt you place on a window sill or in a special place in your backyard garden. As it grows, it can be a reminder that you no longer have to do all the spiritually dead things we talked about today. Instead, since **Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive*, we can grow and be spiritually alive!

Kids may lose the seeds before they get them home. Put them in a sealed envelope or plastic zip lock bag, or better yet, plant them in a dirt filled cup while having discussion.

Closing Prayer:

Take time for prayer requests. Present these requests before the Lord and thank him that because of Jesus' resurrection, we can be spiritually alive.

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.

Large Group Presentation

“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: the King of Life”

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: *Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive!

Setting: *A desk is at the center of News Studio K-I-N-G. A banner is hung above the desk that reads “News Center K-I-N-G”. On the front of the desk should be a sign that reads “Passover Week 30 A.D.”*

Characters:

Gordy: dressed as a news reporter, possibly wearing a tie and glasses

Mary: an actor or puppet dressed in period costume

Mr. King: presenter

Gordy: **Hello and welcome to K-I-N-G Eyewitness News. Today we have with us a very special guest.**

Mary: ***Hello. I am so excited! I’m excited! I’m excited!***

Gordy: **Of course you’re excited. You get to be here on TV with me, one of the world’s greatest news anchors. Thank you very much.**

Mary: ***Oh no! I’m much more excited than that. I’m excited! I’m excited! I’m excited!***

Mr. King: Gordy, she sounds excited.

Gordy: **Like I said, of course she’s excited. She’s on eyewitness news, isn’t she?**

Mr. King: I mean she’s *really* excited.

Mary: ***Yes, I’m really excited, really excited, really excited!***

Mr. King: Yes, Gordy, I think it’s more than just being on the news. Something really exciting must have happened. I wonder what it is. Tell us what happened?

Gordy: ***(Interrupting)* Wait a minute, Mr. King. Who’s the news anchor here? Let me do this right. Now, tell us what happened.**

Mary: *Well, it's all about Jesus. You know he was dead, but now, he's alive!*

Gordy: Well, there you have it ladies and gentleman. Jesus, once dead, is now alive. So what else new is happening today?

Mr. King: Oh, Gordy. Don't you know how important this is?

Gordy: Of course I do. I'm the new anchor, aren't I? Okay, so some guy was thought to be dead, but now he's alive, right?

Mary: *No! Jesus, who once was really dead, is now really alive!*

Gordy: You mean you saw him really dead and then really alive?

Mary: *Yes. That's what I'm trying to tell you. *Jesus is alive. And because of that we can be spiritually alive.*

Gordy: Wow! That sounds like a pretty big news story.

Mr. King: That's right, Gordy. Why don't we go to live coverage to see that **Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive.*

Gordy: Wait a minute. I'm the news anchor and I'll take care of this. Why don't we go to live coverage to see that **Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive.*

Show Matthew 28:1-10 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Matthew*.

“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: the King of Life”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Well I think that pretty well wraps it up. **Jesus is alive so we can be spiritually alive.*

Mr. King: One last thing, Gordy.

Gordy: Yes, Mr. King?

Mr. King: What does it mean to be “spiritually alive?”

Gordy: It means...well...that spiritually you are alive and not dead...and uh...I think that's about all the time we have for today's news!

Mr. King: Gordy, let me help explain just a bit. People are spiritual beings, right?

Gordy: Right. Kind of like angels.

Mr. King: Yes. Angels have a spirit and so do we, but we also have bodies. Our spirit lives inside our bodies; it is the *real* us. Because of sin, our spirits are dead. But Jesus died and rose again. If you trust in him as your Savior, then your spirit becomes alive. Then by the power of God's Holy Spirit, Jesus is alive right inside your spirit. You become spiritually alive. When your body dies, your spirit will be alive with Jesus in heaven.

Gordy: That's just what I was going to say. So, this is Gordy reporting with Mary here on K-I-N-G Eyewitness News. *(Pauses.)* Now you can say something, Mr. King.

Mr. King: What's that?

Gordy: Goodbye.

Mr. King: Not so fast, Gordy. Would you please say a closing prayer before the kids go to their small groups?

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King. Thank you, God, that Jesus took our sins on himself and experienced spiritual death or separation from you so that we don't have to. Thank you for making Jesus come alive again to conquer physical as well as spiritual death. Thank you because of that, we can be spiritually alive right now when we believe Jesus is our Savior. We praise you, God, for your wonderful works! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mr. King: Thanks Gordy, and now....goodbye.

