



Date: _____
Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 48

Live Forever

Take Home Point: *Because Jesus lives, we will live forever. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 24:1-12. Jesus' empty tomb

Key Verse: John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- Jesus foretold he must suffer and die, but he would rise again. He fulfilled this promise and rose from the dead.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, those who believe in him will also live with him in heaven.
- An empty Easter egg can remind us of Jesus and the empty tomb. This is a way we can share the Easter message with others.

We will help kids feel:

- Excited about Jesus' victory over death and the promise of life with him forever.
- Inspired to tell others about the meaning of the resurrection so they, too, will live forever.

We will help kids do:

- Make a special craft as a take home reminder of the resurrection event.
- Listen to and follow the reading of the Easter event.
- Hear a particularly moving account of how an Easter egg can tell about victory in the resurrection.
- *Optional:* Have an Easter egg hunt with a surprise winner.

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THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	3	<p>Kids discuss what it means for us that Jesus died and rose again while working on an Easter craft. <i>*Because Jesus lives, we will live forever.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase craft of your choice 6-8 weeks in advance for today's activities. Contact Oriental Trading Co. (www.OrientalTrading.com or 1-800-875-8480) or S&S Worldwide (www.ssw.com or 1-800-243-9232)
<p>Large Group</p> 	4 6 6	<p>Overview</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>Object Lesson Story: Kids listen to a story about a boy with an empty Easter egg that symbolizes the empty tomb of Jesus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic Easter eggs with candy and prizes inside • one empty plastic egg • extra candy
<p>Small Group Application</p> 	4	<p>Kids apply the truth of Jesus' resurrection to their lives and are encouraged to share this wonderful news by giving away their empty Easter egg.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic Easter eggs from large group • craft project from Small Group Warm-Up

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.

Supplies needed: purchase craft of your choice 6-8 weeks in advance for today's activities. See Oriental Trading Co. (www.OrientalTrading.com or 1-800-875-8480) or S&S Worldwide (www.ssw.com or 1-800-243-9232) for possibilities.

Adapt this lesson to best fit the needs of your children's ministry. Often on Easter Sunday, children's ministry is modified or omitted as the church changes its schedule for special worship celebration. Therefore, this lesson is designed for lots of flexibility.

One portion of time is given to small group time in which the children do crafts. These crafts can range in cost from 30 cents to a dollar each. There are enough different crafts to choose from so that whatever amount of time you would like to spend making crafts can be accommodated. Wonderful Easter-related crafts can be ordered from S&S Worldwide at www.ssw.com or from Oriental Trading Co., www.OrientalTrading.com. Select the crafts that best fit the needs of your group.

Children will be especially excited since this is Easter Sunday. Let them share spontaneously for a time so they can then focus on the lesson. Ask them what Easter Sunday is all about.

Then read John 11:25-26:

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

One of the reasons Easter is an especially happy time is that those who trust in Jesus as their Savior know that when they die, they will be alive in heaven with Jesus. They will live with many other believers in a perfect world.

For this to happen, we need to make sure we trust Jesus as our Savior. He died for our sins and rose again so we will live with him forever.

Think about this as we do our craft. **Because Jesus lives, we will live forever.*

Give directions for the selected craft, disburse supplies to the children and discuss the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Continue working on the craft until time to go to Large Group.

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Option 1: Easter egg Hunt

Option 2: Object Lesson story: Kids listen to a story about a boy with an empty Easter egg that symbolizes the empty tomb of Jesus.

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?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read the Resurrection account from Luke 24:1-12 while the kids finish their craft projects.

Ask:

What proofs does this Bible passage give that Jesus rose from the dead? *(Luke 24:2-4, 6, 8, 12. When the women went to the tomb the stone was rolled away and Jesus' body was not there. Two men in white (angels) suddenly stood beside them. The angels said Jesus was brought back to life. The women remembered that Jesus said he would come back from the dead. Peter looked inside the tomb and saw only of the strips of linen.)*

Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus from the dead in John 11. He told Martha before he died and before he raised Lazarus from the dead that he was THE RESURRECTION.

Listen again to the key verses from John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

How is this like Ernie in the “Best Easter Egg”? (*Ernie believed that Jesus was his Savior and was raised to life after he was crucified. Because Ernie believed this, he had the promise that when he died, he would live again in heaven with Jesus.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Supplies needed: plastic Easter eggs from Large Group, craft project from Small Group Warm-Up

Encourage the kids to take home their empty plastic Easter egg or use one from home. Have them share the Easter story with a friend or family member, telling them, “I’ve got something very special for you for Easter.” Give them the egg. The friend or family member may be confused or puzzled. But have kids point out that the best thing about Easter is when the disciples went to Jesus’ tomb and found it empty.

Because the tomb is empty and we trust in Jesus as our Savior, when we die, Jesus will take our souls to heaven. *Because Jesus lives, we will live forever.

Discuss:

With whom would you like to share the Easter message?

Closing Prayer:

Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life?

Ask yourself, “If I died tonight, am I sure I would live forever with Jesus?” This is the most important question you can ask. If you sense you need the Savior, then turn to God today in prayer. As I pray, you can talk personally to God—out loud or quietly in your heart.

Have the children bow their heads and follow you in prayer.

Dear God, I admit there are wrong things I have done. Pause. I admit that I need Jesus to take away my sin. Pause. I believe when Jesus died on the cross, he paid the price for my sin. Pause. I believe Jesus became alive again to defeat the power of death. Pause. I place my faith and trust in Jesus as my Savior. Pause. I ask Jesus to come and live in my life. Pause. Thank you, God, for making a way for me to live in heaven with you. Pause. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Thank the kids for coming to class. Dismiss with the comment that if anyone has further questions, they may come to you or talk to the Pastor.

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Large Group Presentation

Supplies needed: plastic Easter eggs with candy and prizes inside, one empty plastic egg, extra candy

Easter Egg Hunt:

Have an Easter egg hunt with plastic eggs filled with candy or objects mentioned in this story (*i.e. flower, butterfly*). However, have one Easter egg that is empty. After kids find their Easter eggs and return to their seats, ask who found the special Easter egg.

See if kids can figure out who has the special Easter egg as the following story is told. Let the kids eat their candy while they listen quietly to the story. (*Have extra candy available for those who do not have candy in their egg.*) It will be clear at the end of the story that the extra-special Easter egg is the one that is empty. The real treat in the Easter egg is not the candy inside, but the reminder of Jesus and the empty tomb.

Option if there is no Easter Egg Hunt:

This story can be told while plastic Easter eggs with candies inside are passed out. The children can eat the candy as they listen to the following story.

Is the egg best with the candy inside or without? Eat the candy right now, and after you listen to this story you will find out who has the special Easter egg.

“The Best Easter Egg”

Ernie was a special third grader who loved Jesus. He was special because he had some learning disabilities and handicaps. Ernie loved going to church on Sunday mornings, though he was often sick and could not come. Any time he could make it, he was most eager. Ernie loved his class and he loved to participate even though sometimes he didn't understand and gave the wrong answers.

A week before Easter, Ernie's Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Jacobs, gave the entire class plastic Easter eggs. She explained that the following Sunday was Easter. “We are going to talk about how Jesus is alive because Jesus rose from the dead. The tomb was empty. Because of that, all of us have new life.”

Mrs. Jacobs asked the students to take their plastic Easter eggs home. Each child should put something inside his Easter egg that reminded him of new life. “Bring your eggs back next Sunday,” she said, “and we will share our eggs with each other.”

There was excitement in the classroom on Easter. Mrs. Jacobs invited the children to put their plastic eggs into a basket in the middle of the group. One by one, she drew the eggs out to show the kids what everyone had placed inside their eggs to represent new life.

The first egg Mrs. Jacobs showed the children had a flower in it. “That was a wonderful idea,” said Mrs. Jacobs. “Whose egg is this?”

Susan was quick to raise her hand. “That’s mine. I put a flower in the egg because it reminds me of spring and all of the new life that happens.”

Ernie quickly raised his hand and said, “Choose mine, Mrs. Jacobs. Choose mine!”

Mrs. Jacobs was kind of worried because sometimes children made fun of Ernie’s answers. She picked up the next Easter egg, opened it, and a rock fell out. “Oh no,” she thought to herself. “This rock must be Ernie’s. I hope the children won’t laugh at him.”

Before she could even say anything about the rock, Josh spoke up, “That’s mine! If you look at the rock closely you can see a little bit of moss on the rock. That reminds me that there is something living even on a rock.”

“Wow. That’s a wonderful answer,” Mrs. Jacobs responded. One by one she continued to open the eggs. One egg contained a butterfly that was a wonderful reminder of Jesus giving us new life. Another egg held some candy that reminded the kids of how good it tastes to be alive because of Jesus.

With each opened egg, Mrs. Jacobs watched Ernie’s excitement grow. But as she skipped over Ernie’s egg, he looked disappointed. Mrs. Jacobs was afraid that if she showed Ernie’s egg the other kids might make fun of what he had put inside his egg.

Ernie again said, “Choose mine, Mrs. Jacobs. Choose mine!”

Mrs. Jacobs picked up the last egg and opened it. The class grew quiet as they saw what was inside the egg. Inside the egg was... nothing.

Mrs. Jacobs wanted to quickly move on with the lesson so Ernie would not be embarrassed. She thought he must have forgotten to put something in his egg.

Ernie spoke up, “That’s my egg, Mrs. Jacobs!”

“Yes, I can see,” answered Mrs. Jacobs. “It’s a very special egg.”

“Do you know why it’s special?” asked Ernie. “It’s special because it’s empty, just like Jesus’ tomb is empty. Because his tomb is empty, mine will be empty, too, when I die!”

The class looked at Ernie in silence. They realized Ernie’s egg was the best egg of all. Mrs. Jacobs held the empty Easter egg and realized that it wasn’t empty at all. The egg held a promise. Because Jesus’ tomb was empty, our tomb will be empty, too. **Because Jesus lives, we will live also.*

Later that year, Ernie became very ill and could not come to church anymore. His Sunday school class did not forget him, though. They made Ernie cards, said prayers for him, and visited him.

In late September, Ernie died. Everyone was very sad. At his funeral there were lots of people and lots of crying. It is okay to be sad when someone dies.

After the funeral, Mrs. Jacob’s class stood by Ernie’s casket. They were there all alone. They remembered Ernie and talked about him. They remembered Ernie’s excitement at Easter. When they left, there were eight plastic Easter eggs on top of the casket – one from each of the children. What was in the eggs? They were empty – except for the promise that was inside. Because Jesus’ tomb was empty, ours will be, also.

Kids, can you see that although there is some sadness in this story there is also some happiness? Ernie believed in Jesus, and, therefore, had the promise he and Jesus would be friends forever not just here on earth but in heaven, as well. Give this some more thought and discussion when you get back to your small groups.

Dismiss to small groups.