



Date: _____
Series: Signs Along Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 48

Jesus is Alive— Believe

Take Home Point: *Believe in Jesus and have life.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 19:38-20:31

Key Verse: John 20:31, "But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in him."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of the resurrection according to the Gospel of John.
- The resurrection proves that Jesus is the Messiah and our Savior.
- If you trust in Jesus as Savior, you have life with him now and forever.




We will help kids feel:

- Joyful because Jesus is alive for them.
- Confident that as they trust in him, they will live with him forever.

We will help kids do:

- Make an Easter craft as they discuss what Easter means.
- Pray a prayer of faith as they trust Jesus as their Savior.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Allow kids to share their excitement about Easter Sunday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> craft previously ordered during from S&S Worldwide www.swww.com or Oriental Trading www.OrientalTrading.com
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 6 8 8 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy and the Chocolate Easter Bunnies"—Gordy eats too many chocolate bunnies, but even though he loves chocolate bunnies, he understands the real meaning of Easter—Jesus rose from the dead. Video: the <i>Gospel of John</i> --- John 19:38-20:31 Signs Along Believers' Highway Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy and the Chocolate Easter Bunnies"—Gordy invites the kids to trust in Jesus to be their Savior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy construction worker outfit sign on stick that says, "<i>Jesus is alive. It proves that he is God.</i>" (p. 12) On back it says, "<i>_____ (Believe) in him today, have _____ (life) in every way.</i>" (p. 13) two or four chairs cardboard car front DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003 Order from: www.visualbible.com. optional video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible: <i>The Easter Story</i> (Warner Home Video, 1996) Order from: www.amazon.com
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Kids discuss why they believe in Jesus as their Savior while they finish the Easter craft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> craft from 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.

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.

NOTE: *the same text will be used in lesson 49 in the spring series, though the teaching point is slightly different. This will ensure that kids have a full teaching of the resurrection the week after Easter. If you choose not to use this, you have more than enough lessons for the spring series.*

A portion of time is given in Warm-Up and in Small Group Application for the children to make a craft. 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.

Kids will be especially excited this morning since it is Easter. Let them share spontaneously for a time so that they can focus on the lesson. Let each child share the following statements:

Tell me what has been your favorite part of Easter, so far.

Share how you celebrate Easter in your home.

Today we will hear that Easter is all about Jesus rising from the dead. Why is that so important? I wonder what the resurrection proves and how it will help us. These questions will be answered today as we learn to **believe in Jesus and have life.*

At this time, show an example of the craft kids will make. Depending on time, begin the craft or wait until after 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.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Chocolate Easter Bunnies”—Gordy eats too many chocolate bunnies, but even though he loves chocolate bunnies, he understands the real meaning of Easter—Jesus rose from the dead.

Video: the *Gospel of John*--- John 19:38-20:31

Signs Along Believers’ Highway

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy and the Chocolate Easter Bunnies”—Gordy invites the kids to trust in Jesus to be their Savior.

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?

Have kids refer to John 19:38-20:31 in their Bibles. If extra time is needed to work on the craft, discuss the questions while kids work.

What two men buried Jesus’ body? (*John 19:28-39. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.*) **How were these men alike?** (*They followed Jesus secretly.*)

When do you think the following people believed in Jesus as the risen Savior: John? (*John 20:8. John, who had arrived first, was the second person to visit the tomb. When he saw that Jesus wasn’t there and the linen garments folded, he believed.*) **Mary?** (*John 20:14-18. Through her sorrow she didn’t recognize Jesus. But when he spoke her name, she recognized him and later, in verse 18, called him Lord.*) **Thomas?** (*John 20:26-28. Thomas doubted the Jesus was the risen Christ until he was able to see Jesus himself and physically touched Jesus’ wounds. Thomas’ response was to say “My Lord and my God.”*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Today's key verse from John 20:31 says, *"But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in him."*

John was talking about all the miracles of Jesus. What do you think is Jesus' greatest miracle? Which miracle proved Jesus is the Son of God? Why?

Ask if anyone prayed for Jesus to be his or her Savior for the very first time today. Spend some time talking with them about it. Give them the assurance that Jesus has forgiven their sins and he will live with them now and forever. Encourage them to continue to come back to help them grow in their faith.

What do we receive when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again for our sin? (*Eternal life.*)

Remember, the Holy Spirit helps us to **believe in Jesus and have life.*

Application Activity:

Finish making the Easter craft from Small Group Warm-Up.

Closing prayer:

Thank God for the gift of his Son Jesus who gave his life for us to have life. Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to help us believe this wonderful news and to share it with others.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible. Order from: www.visualbible.com.

Supplies: construction worker outfit, sign on stick that says, "Jesus is alive. It proves that he is God." On back it says, "____ (Believe) in him today, have ____ (life) in every way," two or four chairs, cardboard car front

Gordy and the Chocolate Easter Bunnies Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

Presenter: Hello, kids! I hope you are having a great resurrection celebration today! Shall we see if Gordy is here?

Kids call Gordy. Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.

Gordy doesn't come up.

Presenter: Gordy, where are you?

Moaning sounds come from behind the stage.

Presenter: Gordy, is that you? What's the matter?

Gordy: *(Gordy barely appears over the top of the stage.)* I don't feel so good.

Presenter: Gordy, you look really bad. What happened?

Gordy: I ate breakfast.

Presenter: That's unusual that you feel bad after eating breakfast. Usually breakfast makes us feel better.

Gordy: That is just what I thought, but it doesn't.

Presenter: Tell me what you ate this morning.

Gordy: A chocolate Easter bunny about this big. *(Shows how big.)*

Presenter: You ate a whole Easter bunny? No wonder you are not feeling well. That is all that you ate though, right?

Gordy: I also ate his brother.

Presenter: What? You ate two chocolate Easter bunnies?

Gordy: No, not really. He had a sister, too.

Presenter: Gordy, three chocolate Easter bunnies? No wonder you are feeling so miserable.

Gordy: I know it wasn't very smart, but I just LOVE chocolate Easter bunnies at Easter.

Presenter: Is that your FAVORITE thing at Easter?

Gordy: Well, I also like church. It really makes Easter special unless you have a bad stomach ache.

Presenter: I am very sorry about your stomach ache. (Pause.) Gordy, can you tell us what is so special about church today?

Gordy: We are talking about Jesus being ALIVE!

Presenter: That's right! That is what Easter is really about. Do you know why it is so important that Jesus is alive?

Gordy: I guess it means that he's not dead.

Presenter: Right. Being alive also proves that Jesus really is who he said he is. He is God's Son and our Savior.

Gordy: Is that why people go around saying, "He is risen"?

Presenter: That's right, he is risen, indeed. Let's all do that, I will say, "He is risen" and you respond with "He is risen, indeed."

Presenter: He is risen!

Kids respond: He is risen, indeed.

Gordy: That is kinda like a cheer.

Presenter: Jesus' resurrection is worth cheering about! But, the best thing is that because he is alive, and we believe in him, we will live with him now and forever. We will talk more about that later.

Let's watch the Bible event on video.

Gordy: Can I lay down and watch? That will help my tummy feel better.

Presenter: That would be fine, Gordy.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 19:38-20:31. Begin just after narrator says, "And there is another scripture that says, 'People will look at him whom they pierced.'" and end it just after narrator says, "But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that through your faith in him you may have life." The length of the clip is approximately 8:00.

Video option:

Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible: The Easter Story (Warner Home Video, 1996). If you showed this video last week, you may want to watch the conclusion this week. Begin where the soldier says, "Surely this was the Son of God." BE SURE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COINCIDE.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 19:38-20:31

Presenter holds the sign that says, "*Jesus is alive. It proves that he is God.*" _____ *(Believe) in him today; have _____ (life) in every way.*" Be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for a game.

Presenter: I need two kids and one shepherd to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On “Believers’ Highway,” kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let’s go for a ride!

I’ve got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, “Jesus is alive. It proves that he is God.” and the back says, “_____ (*Believe*) in him today; have _____ (*life*) in every way.

Let’s ask our people in the car a few questions.

1. Who was the first person to see Jesus after he was risen from the dead? (*Mary.*)
2. Who did she think he was at first? (*The gardener.*)
3. What did he tell her to do? (*Go back and tell his disciples.*)
4. Who did Jesus appear to in a room behind locked doors? (*The disciples.*)
5. Who didn’t believe unless he could touch the scars on Jesus hands? (*Thomas.*)

The person who answers this next question first gets a shot at answering the rhyme on the sign. Let’s see who can answer this question first.

Jesus claimed that he was God’s Son. He said he would die for the sins of the world, and he would come back to life again. He did this and proved who he said he was, the Son of God. What do you have to do for Jesus to be your Savior, take away your sin, and live in your life? (*Believe in Jesus.*)

Have the child fill in the blanks of the sign. If the blanks of the rhyme are not answered correctly, take answers from the audience.

Gordy and the Cholcolate Easter Bunnies

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: Gordy, are you feeling any better yet?

Gordy: I sure am. I think that movie helped.

Presenter: Good.

Gordy: I had some popcorn here, too.

Presenter: Gordy!

Gordy: Just kidding. I really liked the movie though.

Presenter: What did you like about it?

Gordy: I like that since Jesus is alive, I can believe in him. He will live with me right here.

Presenter: Yes, and he will live with you forever in heaven.

Gordy: That's pretty wonderful, isn't it?

Presenter: It sure is, Gordy. It's a promise God offers to every person who puts his faith in Jesus. If you have never placed your trust in him and said, "Jesus, I need you to be my Savior," today could be the day.

Gordy: How do you do that?

Presenter: Believe that Jesus died for your sins—all the bad things you have done. Can you do that?

Gordy: Sure I can.

Presenter: Let's pray about that.

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

Kids, if you believe that Jesus died for all your bad things, will you please pray in your heart with me?

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 came 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.

The kids are ajourned to their Small Groups to finish their craft.

**Jesus is
alive. It
proves that
he is God.**

***(Believe)* in
him today;
have *(life)* in
every way.**