



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 48

# A Rock That Rolls

**Primary Scripture:** Mark 15:46 through 16:1-7

**Key Verse:** Mark 16:4, "When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. It was a very large stone."

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need confidence that Jesus is alive even after being put to death. The stone was rolled away from the tomb not to let Jesus out, but to let us see the proof of the resurrection. The image of the stone used in today's lesson connects with the reality of death. Jesus' death seemed final when the rock was rolled into place in front of his tomb. However, after Jesus rose from the dead, death itself was rolled back. Proof was there for all to see.

Jesus is alive and all those who believe in him will also live forever.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** Jesus gave his life as payment for our sins so that death cannot separate us from life forever with God.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus was raised to life, and through his Holy Spirit, sends his presence into our hearts that we might have the assurance of life with him forever.

**Jesus through us:** Having witnessed the stone of death rolled back, we can share the Good News of eternal life with others. The empty tomb points to the truth of the victory of the resurrection of Jesus.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: hula hoop, newsprint, tape*

In advance, wrap a hula hoop in newsprint so that it becomes a paper circle. Cover it completely as if wrapping a gift, and tape it securely. *(This will represent the rock that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb. Later in the lesson the presenter will cut a hole in the center and place his/her face through it as the rock tells of its experience at the time of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.)*



### Welcome: Introduction of the Rock

**Good morning. What a glorious day it is today! Who can guess what this might represent?**

Show the hula hoop covered with paper.

**Is it just a hula hoop covered with paper? No! This is a stone. With your imagination you can see that this is a BIG rock. But, this is not an ordinary BIG rock. I want you to think of this rock as a symbol of death. How can a rock be a symbol of death?**

## The Rock is a Reminder of Death

Many years ago after people died, their bodies were put in caves dug into a side of a hill. Then a big rock was rolled in front of the opening of the cave. Every time someone looked at that rock, they were reminded of death. Does anyone know who was buried in a tomb like that?

Take answers from audience.

Yes, it was Jesus. After he died on the cross, he was put in a tomb and a BIG rock was rolled in front of the door. People thought that was the end of Jesus and death had won.

## Death Did Not Win

Today is resurrection Sunday. Death did not win. Jesus defeated death. When several of his followers came to visit the tomb on Easter morning, where did they find the rock? It had been rolled away. They could look inside the tomb and see that Jesus was gone. Death had been rolled away, too. Jesus WON!

Today we will remember this rock and the story it could tell. You see, this was the rock that was rolled away to show that death could not hold Jesus. This rock was rolled away not to let Jesus out, but to let us in the cave and see the truth that Jesus is ALIVE! Let's praise him.

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

We are thankful that Jesus is alive. Where is Jesus now? Is he still walking through the garden by the empty tomb? Is that where people go to see that he is alive? No.

After Jesus came alive again, he showed himself to people and told them that even when they couldn't see him, he would be with them forever. He now lives in heaven, but his Holy Spirit lives in us and all around us.

**Anytime we face a problem, a challenge, or make mistakes, Jesus wants to be right here with us. All we need to do is trust him completely with our lives. We need to ask him to be with us, give us his forgiveness, and give us his strength. Let's pray for that now.**

**Dear Jesus, thank you that you are alive. We know that you are right here with us even when we cannot see you. Be in our lives today. We pray that you would forgive us for anything that we have done wrong against you or other people. We pray that you would help us become more like you in every way. Please help us with any problems that we face. Thank you for being the God that really cares. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Place the hula hoop covered in paper on the floor and let the kids place their offerings on it.

**This hula hoop, or our rock, is a reminder that Jesus gave his life on the cross and gave each of us the power over death by his coming back from the dead. Because of the gift he gave us, we tell him thank you with the offerings we bring him today.**

**You can lay your offering on the rock as a gift back to God.**



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Today's lesson will have the Bible event presented before the games since the games will tie into the event.*

## Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Supplies: hula hoop rock and Exacto knife or scissors*

### Dramatic Presentation: If a Rock Could Talk

Take your Exacto knife or scissors and cut an oval out of the center of the hula hoop rock. It should be about the size of your face.

**Today's Bible event comes from Mark 15:46 through 16:7. It will be told by a rock that can talk.**

Hold the hula hoop in front of your face and peer out as now the rock has come to life and tells its story of the resurrection.

### Introduction of the Rock

**Hi, everyone. Let me introduce myself. I am a rock. Not just an ordinary rock, but a rock that rolls and shows the truth that Jesus is alive. Let me tell you my story.**

**My story began when I was in a rock quarry. I was cut by the rock cutters and made into a shape like this so I could be a rock that rolls. I wondered where I would be rolled. A man named Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy man and a religious leader of the**

**Jews. He came to purchase me. It took seven men to roll me to my special place.**

### A Special Place for the Rock

**I thought this place would be in a special palace or garden, but I soon found myself just leaning against an opening that had been cut in a hillside. There was a very pretty garden all around. As I listened to the men talking, I realized that I was to be a rock that would be rolled in front of this rich man's, Joseph's, tomb when he died. That's okay. Joseph is a nice man. I didn't mind being the rock that is rolled in front of his tomb.**

### The Tomb is Filled

**One evening after I arrived, Joseph came with a man's body. The body had been wrapped in cloths. It was placed in Joseph's tomb. Many people cried as they laid this body in the tomb. This man who died must have been someone very important. They laid the dead man's body in the tomb and many men rolled me over to tightly cover the entrance to the tomb.**

**Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, leaned against me and cried. As I listened to them, I realized that I was the door covering death. It wasn't a very glamorous job.**

### Soldiers at the Tomb

**This all happened on a Friday. Soldiers were later placed around me to guard the tomb. At first, I thought they were there to admire me, but I soon realized they were there to make sure I did not roll away. The soldiers were afraid that some followers of the dead person in the tomb, a man they called Jesus, would come back to steal the body. No one would be able to get by *these* guards.**

**Who was this Jesus and how did he die? Why were so many people paying attention to me? Early Sunday morning, I felt a tremble that started small but soon was shaking the whole mountain. I felt myself as light as a feather and was rolled away from the doorway of the tomb.**

### An Unexpected Visit

**I saw the soldiers drop their spears and run. They were afraid of what was moving me. Then I saw him. It was an angel of God dressed in white and radiant. It was an angel that rolled me away. The angel sat down on top of me. The tomb was now open, but I could not see what happened to the body inside.**

**I do not know what happened next, but I heard people from a distance coming back to the tomb. They were asking how they could roll away the stone. They did not know that I was already rolled away. As they got closer and saw the angel, they screamed, but the angel told them, “Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus from Nazareth who was crucified. He has been brought back to life and is not here. Look at the place where they laid him.”**

### The Empty Tomb

**The people went inside the tomb. It was empty. All that was there were the grave clothes Jesus had been wrapped in. Jesus was alive! I had been rolled away to show that death could not hold him. The angel sat on me as if to say, “Death’s door has been opened.”**

**Later that morning, I saw Jesus comforting one of the ladies. He told her he would meet her and others later in Galilee and talk with them.**

**I am here to tell you that I am the rock that was rolled away. I saw the proof of the empty tomb. Jesus is not dead. He is alive!**

## **Application:**

*Application will be done through games.*

*Supplies: many hula hoops, masking tape to mark off a start and finish line for the hula hoop games*

### Game 1: Hula Hoop Loop

Divide kids into groups of eight to ten. Each group needs one hula hoop. Have each team do the following at the same time.

Say:

**I need one person in your group to place the hula hoop on your arm. Now everyone make a circle and hold hands. It is now your challenge to move your hula hoop all the way around the circle without letting go of your hands. You may need to step through the hula hoop or put it over your head and pass it on to the next person.**

### Teaching Point

**How does this game remind you of Jesus?**

Take answers.

**This hula hoop reminds us of the rock that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb. When we believe in Jesus, the tomb for us is not the end of life just like the hula hoop that could travel continuously around a circle. We know Jesus died, but the rock was rolled away and now Jesus is alive. If we believe this, we will live with him forever.**

### Game 2: Hula Hoop Rescue

Make teams of 5 to 8 kids.

Have one child from each team stay behind one masking tape line with the hula hoop while the rest of his/her teammates go across the room and stand behind the other line.

Say:

**When I say go, the person with the hula hoop will run down to his/her team and rescue one of his/her teammates. To rescue him or her, the hula hoop is to be placed over the head and arms of the one being rescued. He/She must stay inside the hula hoop as both the rescuer and the one being rescued run back to the starting line.**

**Now, the one who was rescued becomes the rescuer and runs down to rescue a new teammate. This continues until the entire team has been rescued. The first team with all of its members across the line wins.**

**Are we ready? Get set—GO!**

### Teaching Point

**How does this remind you of Jesus and his resurrection? Jesus, through the cross and tomb, rescued us from death and gives us eternal life. He saved us and will take us to be with him in heaven some day. Now, we can share this Good News with others. People can know that Jesus died and rose again for them—that through his death and resurrection, they can believe in him and have life with him forever!**

### Game #3: Hula-Rolla-Rama

Choose four kids to roll hula hoops. Two should stand behind one of the lines with hula hoops, and two more should stand at the other line. They will roll the hula hoops from one line to the other trying to hit the kids running through. The rest of the group needs to stand against a wall between the lines and kids with hula hoops.



Say:

**When I say “go” all those along the wall will try to run straight across the room without getting hit with a hula hoop. The four with the hula hoops will roll their hoops randomly as they see kids running through.**

**If a hula hoop hits you, you must stand behind one of the hula hoop rollers and take turns rolling it.**

**All the hula hoops will be retrieved after they are rolled to set up and roll again trying to get more kids out. Each time we will add one or two more hula hoops. Let’s find out who will be the last person left running.**

**Are you ready to run and roll? GO!**

### Teaching Point

After playing several minutes, regroup kids and say:

**How does this remind you of Jesus and his resurrection?**

**We all are going to die someday. Death will hit all of us. But, we are not out of the game. We will have even more fun in heaven living with Jesus face-to-face. We will never get hit in heaven. Isn’t that a cool thought?**



## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

**Does anyone know someone who was a believer in Jesus that died?  
If they believed in Jesus we know that they are living forever in  
heaven. Who would like to share something about that person?**

*This is a sensitive subject. We want them to be filled with the victory of the resurrection not the mourning of the loved one. Add statements into their responses rejoicing in the fact that they are in heaven because of Jesus' resurrection.*

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**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:**

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- hula hoop
- newsprint
- tape

## *Offering:*

- hula hoop

## *Bible Presentation:*

- hula hoop rock from *Attention Grabber*
- Exacto knife or scissors

## *Application Games:*

- many hula hoops
- masking tape to mark off the start and finish line for the hula hoop games

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