



# BECAUSE HE LIVES

## Jesus' Resurrection

April 4- 3 year olds and 4 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 28; John 20

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:8

**BOTTOM LINE:** Because Jesus is alive, I have a relationship with God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. Jesus was raised from the dead to show that He has defeated sin and death and to offer new life to all who believe in Him.

### Context

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner, by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine the surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciple stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom 6:5; 8:11)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:17 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ had not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil 2:9-10)

### TAKEAWAYS

- Everything about the world changed when Jesus rose from the dead.
- When you believe in Jesus you become God's friend. You have a relationship with Him that you can count on.
- Jesus' victory over sin and death provides us with victory as well because everyone who has faith in Him will live forever with God.

- **Bottom Line:** Because Jesus is alive, I have a relationship with God.

### **Social Activity: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt**

**What You Need:** Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Printable (1 per group), plastic eggs, and other objects on the scavenger hunt list, basket

#### **What You Do:**

Before you begin, ask a leader to help you hide the objects for the hunt around the room.

Break kids into teams of 2. As you read the items on the scavenger hunt list, send one team of 2 at a time to find the object hidden in the room. Celebrate with kids as they return with the objects they have found.

“Spring is right here around the corner and spring makes me think of Easter. Our game today really gets me excited about celebrating Easter with you. Our Bible stories are going to help us remember Jesus’ last week on earth as we prepare to celebrate Easter together. Let’s pray and listen to our story today.”

**Small Group Prayer:** “Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen.”

### **Introduce the Story**

“On the third day after Jesus died, Jesus’ friend Mary went to the tomb where Jesus’ body was. When Mary got to Jesus’ tomb, the huge stone was rolled away. Mary ran to get Peter and John. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found the cloth that was wrapped around Jesus, but Jesus was not there! Peter was confused, but John believed Jesus was alive. Mary was crying, and someone asked her what was wrong. Mary thought it was the gardener, but it was Jesus! Jesus sent Mary to tell the other friends the good news: Jesus was alive!”

### **Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku**

### **Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku**

### **Application Activity: Share the Easter Story**

**What You Need:** Easter Eggs (Empty), one prize egg for each kid to take home, Easter Story printable (1 per group), paper bags for kids to collect eggs in with invite card for next week

#### **What You Do:**

- Ask a leader to help you hide eggs around the room or weather permitting, outside.
- Each kid will find one of each color egg, plus a prize egg that will be a patterned egg.
- As kids finish collecting their eggs, invite them to join you in a circle as you tell the Easter Story.
- Ask kids to practice telling the story with you.
- Encourage kids to use their prize egg as a way to tell the Easter story to people they know.

**What You Say** “Jesus died on the cross and is alive. Many people saw Jesus alive, and one day He will return. God sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus obeyed God’s plan.”

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **When Mary met Jesus, what did He tell her to do?** (Go and tell the other disciples about His resurrection; Matt 28:10)
- **How did the religious leaders try to prevent people from learning about Jesus’ resurrection?** (They bribed the soldiers to lie, saying the disciples stole the body; Matt 28:12-15)
- **Why is it important to know Jesus rose from the dead?** Guide kids to think about what Jesus’ resurrection proved about His power over death. Had Jesus remained dead, it would show that His sacrifice was not perfect and did not fully pay for sin.
- **What does it mean that Jesus defeated sin and death?** Guide kids to think about the control sin has over the lives of those who are lost. Discuss the phrase “Dead in sin” and the implication that we are powerless against sin. Remind kids that sin leads to death, both physical (we all die eventually) and spiritual (we are separated from God). Jesus’ victory over sin and death means we will rise again to live forever with God in a perfectly restored world.
- **How do you feel when you think about Jesus’ resurrection?** Guide kids to think through and process their emotions. Do they feel happy? Excited? Unsure? Remind kids that our feelings do not define what is true, but they can help us understand the truth of the gospel.

- **Who can you share Jesus with this week? How?** Guide kids to think of ways they can talk about Jesus with someone this week and possibly share the activity they did this week in group.