

## Jesus Is Alive!

Bible Point: Jesus died and came back to life.

### Prayer

Read John 20:1-18.

Reflect: Knowing what we know about Jesus' death and resurrection, how is your life different from that of Jesus' disciples at this point in their lives?

Pray: God, open my children's heart and ears to how important it is to believe in Jesus. Help me to communicate your Word by the power of the Holy Spirit ...

### ■ *Setting the Stage*

SUPPLIES: *pencil*

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Form a circle and say: I'm going to show you something amazing. Hold up a pencil. I'll take this ordinary pencil and turn it into rubber!

Ask: • Do you believe I can do that? Why? (No, because that's impossible; I don't think so because I've never seen that happen before.)

Loosely grasp the middle of the pencil with your thumb and index finger. When you move the pencil up and down quickly, the pencil will look like it's bending. You may want to practice this ahead of time so it comes naturally.

Ask: • Now do you believe I can turn a wood pencil into rubber? (Yes; no; I don't know.)

• Do you think it was just a trick? Explain. (Yes, nobody can do it; yes, it's impossible to do things like that.)

Say: You're right. It was just a trick called an optical illusion—that means it just looked like a rubber pencil. It would be impossible to turn a wood pencil into rubber. But with God, nothing is impossible! In our story today, something wonderful really did happen, even though it seemed impossible. It was so amazing that people didn't believe it at first. The amazing thing I'm talking about is that Jesus died and came back to life. Let's get ready to hear this spectacular story!

### ■ *Hear and Tell the Bible Story*

SUPPLIES: *Bible, bedsheet, celebration streamers from Option 1, sandpaper crosses from Option 2, finger puppets from Option 3*

Before class, make a "tomb" by covering a table with a bedsheet. Be sure the sheet hangs over all four sides.

Gather near the tomb. Open the Bible to the book of Luke. Point to the Bible and say: Today's Bible story is from the book of Luke. Let's talk about what we have learned so far about Jesus' death and see if we can remember the facts. If I say something that's true, or right, put your finger on your nose. If I say something that's false, or wrong, put your hand on your head. Then I'll call on someone to tell me what really happened. Ready

1. Jesus entered Jerusalem on an ostrich. (False.)
2. The people waved flags and placed their pajamas on the road. (False.)
3. Jesus had a special supper with his friends. He asked them to remember him. (True.)
4. Jesus was weeding in the garden when some people came to help him. (False.)
5. Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but the people shouted for his death. (True.)
6. Jesus died on a cross to take away our sins so we could be part of God's special family. (True.)

Say: You've remembered our story very well. Let's hear what happened next....

After Jesus died on the cross, a man named Joseph took Jesus' body, wrapped it in a big cloth, and placed it in a special tomb. A tomb is like a deep cave where they put a person's body. Then helpers rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb to seal it up. It would be very hard to roll the stone away. Let's pretend this is Jesus' tomb and it's all sealed up. Motion to the covered table.

The day after the Sabbath, some women who were followers of Jesus brought spices to the tomb. Jesus' friends wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on Jesus' body. As the women came near the tomb, they wondered how they would roll the big stone away. But when they arrived at the tomb...they could hardly believe their eyes! The stone had already been rolled away! When they looked inside (lift one side of the sheet), Jesus' followers saw that the tomb was empty! Jesus' body was gone.

Ask: • What do you see in our tomb? (Nothing!)

Say: That's right, the tomb was empty, just like this one! Jesus wasn't there! The women didn't know what to think. Suddenly two men dressed in shining clothes appeared and asked, "Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead? He is not here; he has risen from the dead." Jesus' friends remembered that Jesus had said he would rise from the dead—he would come back to life—on the third day. They were so excited! They had to share the exciting news with Jesus' other followers!

The women ran back to where Jesus' followers were gathered and told everyone there what they'd seen and heard. Jesus died and came back to life! But that seemed impossible and the men didn't believe them. So Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. When he got there, he found it just as the women had said. The stone had been rolled away, the tomb was empty, and all that was left there was the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. It was true—Jesus died and came back to life.

Let's review our Bible verse for today. It comes from John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Because God loves us so much, he sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus knew beforehand everything that would happen to him.

Ask: • Why did the women go to the tomb? (To see Jesus; to put spices on his body.)

• What did the angels tell the women? (That Jesus had risen; that Jesus wasn't there; that Jesus was alive.)

Say: Jesus died and came back to life! That's wonderful news! The women couldn't wait to share their excitement with Jesus' other friends.

Ask: • Who do you like to share good news with? (My family; my best friend.)

• What do people do when they hear good news? (They smile; they say, “that’s great”; they congratulate me.)

• What can we do to celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive? (Have a party; cheer; sing; shout “hooray!”)

Say: Jesus is our forever friend. If we believe in Jesus, we will live with him forever. On Easter we celebrate the exciting news that Jesus died and came back to life. Just like the women at the tomb, we can share our happiness with others. Let’s do that now.

Craft:

Option #1:

Create a tomb like the one Jesus was buried in. Use legos, blocks, rocks, mud, paper and crayons, whatever you would like! Then, take a picture of the tomb you made and share it with us on Facebook, we would love to see.

Option #2:

Spice Bag

Have the child dip the cotton ball in oil (use a bowl with a shallow amount of oil).

They then rub the cotton ball in cinnamon and then in cloves. Have the child cut a circle out of felt about 6in in diameter. Add the cotton ball to the center and guide the child in pulling both strings. Tie in a tight knot with an added bow. Remind the children that the women brought spices to put on Jesus’ body, but he had risen from the grave. Tell them that they can put the bag in their sock drawer and it will make their socks smell good.