



LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Risen!

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 27–28](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Ministry leaders do all the things, amen? As a ministry leader, my planner is filled with lists of people to talk to do, emails to send, meetings to attend ... the list can seem endless at times. I relish the joy of crossing items off the list as each goal is met.

Have you ever accomplished all the things on your to-do list because you stayed focused on the tasks at hand? Sure, distractions popped up, but you kept your eye on the mission in front of you. What joy there is in crossing off those items and moving on to the next thing!

Jesus had one mission: to save the world from sin by dying on a cross and coming back to life three days later. His supernatural conception, His birth, every miracle, every lesson He taught, everything He modeled, even the situations that seemed to interrupt His daily plans, pointed back to His mission.

How does Jesus' mission inform your calling?

- Jesus is risen; His mission is complete! How does this truth impact the details of your daily life?
- What practices might help you live with increased awareness of His victory?

Three days after suffering unimaginable pain on our behalf, Jesus rose and proved that He is the King of Kings! Now that's something to celebrate! Mission accomplished.

—**Kathie Phillips**

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS
CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus, the Son of God, is the only One who was able to defeat sin once and for all. He willingly went to the cross, dying a painful death in our place. His death and resurrection prove Him worthy of the title “Lord” ([Romans 10:9](#)).

WHAT?

Crucifixion was a horrific and supremely painful form of capital punishment that Rome reserved for common criminals or people of low social standing. It was a brutal deterrent. Bodies of victims could be left to rot and be pecked by birds.

WHERE?

Jesus was crucified outside Jerusalem, where God’s temple housed His presence on earth. The temple curtain tore to show that believers can now enter God’s presence directly “by the blood of Jesus” ([Hebrews 10:19, NIV](#)). God’s presence, as the Holy Spirit, dwells in Jesus-followers.

WHEN?

Jesus died during the festival of Passover, when Jews remembered that God rescued and redeemed their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. His Sunday resurrection symbolizes a new creation.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

In [Genesis 3:15](#), God said that a seed of the woman would strike a blow to the serpent who tempted humans to sin. Christ’s death and resurrection were God’s plan: “‘He himself carried our sins’ in his body on the cross” ([1 Peter 2:24, NIV](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 5 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

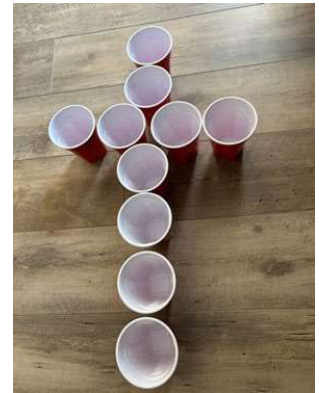
Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Curiosity Activity: Toss to the Cross

SUPPLIES: disposable cups (10), plastic eggs, basket, disposable bowls (optional, 10)

Leader Tip: If the cups keep falling when kids toss eggs, you can tape the cups to the floor for more stability. You can also use disposable bowls instead of cups.

Set up cups in the shape of a cross on the floor.



Fill a basket with empty plastic eggs. Gather kids together in front of the cups in a cross shape. **Today is a special day, and we're talking about something very important. You may have figured out what we are learning about from the activities. We searched for empty eggs. We also sorted through stones for a cross. These are all clues for what we're talking about. Does anyone have any ideas?** Allow kids to answer. **Yes! We are learning about when Jesus rose from the tomb!**

The story we're learning about today involves a cross. We're going to toss eggs into cups set up in the shape of a cross. Each of you will get a turn and then go to the end of the line. Then the next person will go. Have kids stand close to the bottom of the cross. Older kids can stand back a bit, and younger kids can stand right over it. **Great job getting the eggs in the cups! Part of the story we're going to explore today has to do with a cross and how Jesus is alive. We can celebrate that Jesus is risen!**



10:45 Service

Belief

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, we celebrate You today! We praise You because You are powerful! Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead. You are alive and powerful, and You are with us today! Help us focus on You and hear what You have to say to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p256

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of His mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins.

—from [Titus 3:5](#)

Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

God sent Jesus to save us. What does this show us about God?

How does it make you feel knowing Jesus will forgive all your sins when you trust in Him?



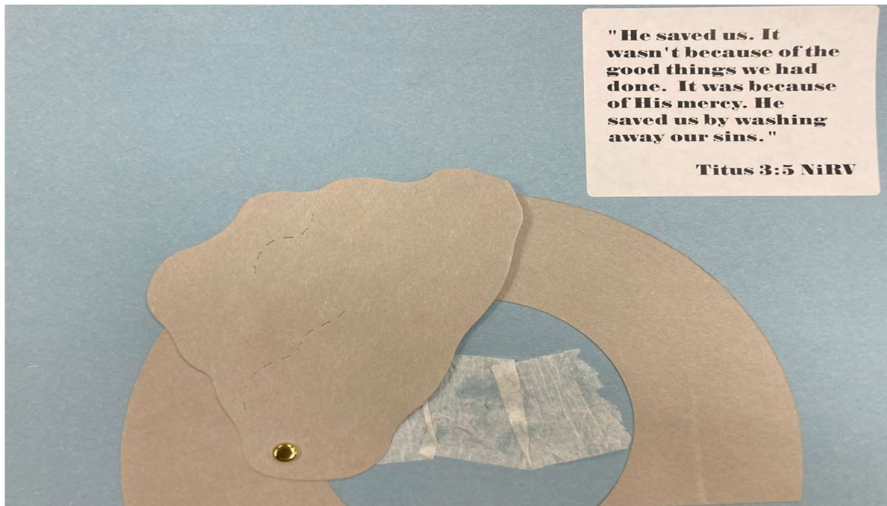
Faith

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Craft: Empty Tomb

SUPPLIES: blue construction paper, tomb and stone die cut, brass brad, Word of Wonder sticker, piece of white crepe paper, glue sticks



The religious leaders put a large stone in front of Jesus' tomb to protect His body. This ensured nothing went in ... or out—or so they thought! Jesus couldn't be held in the tomb by the stone—or anything else! When the women went to see Him in the tomb, they were surprised to see the angel had rolled away the stone and find that Jesus wasn't there. He had risen! We're going to decorate stones that you can take home to remind you that the stone was rolled away, and Jesus is risen.

Give each kid a piece of blue paper, a tomb and stone. Show them how to match the punched holes, glue the tomb and insert the brad. After they have completed the tomb, give them a piece of crepe paper to represent empty linen wrapping and a sticker with the Word of Wonder.

When most kids are done, have them hold up their "empty tomb". Let's say the Wonder Truth together: "Jesus is risen!" Take your craft home to remind you that He is risen.



10:45 Service

Identity

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking Jesus for dying on a cross to give us new life.

God, thank You for forgiving us when we sin and for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to take the punishment for us so we can spend forever with You in heaven! We celebrate You and praise You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you live with joy knowing that Jesus is alive and with us! He died for you and rose again because He loves you!

Closing Game: Hop to It!

SUPPLIES: masking tape, plastic eggs (2)

Set two eggs at one end of the room, with several feet between them. Make a line with masking tape at the other end of the room. If the room is large, make the line closer to the eggs. Have kids line up behind the masking tape in two equal teams.

How do you think the women felt when they saw the angel and then saw Jesus in front of them? Allow kids to answer. Yes! They were excited! They ran back to their friends to tell them the news! Let's show the same energy and excitement for this next activity! Imagine you just saw Jesus with your own eyes. **How excited would you be? How fast would you run to tell your friends?** Allow kids to answer. Don't rush them through this. They could even close their eyes to imagine they are meeting Jesus face to face.

We are going to hop, one at a time, to each egg, going around the egg, and then back to tag the next person in line. The first team to get everyone back after hopping around the egg wins. Remember to hop quickly, just like the women would have moved quickly to tell their friends about Jesus because they were so excited!

10:45 Service