



## 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

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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.*

## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (1 bag), small stones (6–12), buckets (2), Easter grass (1 bag), black permanent marker (prep only), coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Crucifixion and Resurrection Coloring Sheet](#) (1 copy per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?**

### **Play Station: Empty Egg Hunt**

**Set-up:** Put a small stone in every egg except three (leaving three eggs empty), and put all of the eggs in a bucket.. If you have a lot of kids, you could prepare several buckets.

**Play:** Encourage kids to dig through the bucket and find the empty eggs. They can try different tactics to figure out which are empty, such as judging by weight, sound, or by opening the eggs and looking inside.

### **Play Station: Find the Cross**

**Set-up:** Use a black permanent marker to draw a cross on one small stone. Put it and the other stones in a bucket filled with Easter grass.

**Play:** Kids will dig through the Easter grass to find the one stone with a cross on it. When one kid finds the stone, return the stone to the bucket and shuffle stones around for the next kid to take a turn.

### **Play Station: Crucifixion and Resurrection Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn over the sheet and draw a picture of how they celebrate Easter.



## 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.*

#### Active Game: Time to Eggs-ercise

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (15+), basket or bag, scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Eggs-ercise List](#) (1 copy)

**Leader Tip:** To engage older kids, have them do the eggs-ercises up front as leaders for the other kids to watch.

Before kids arrive, print and cut apart the slips of paper from the [Eggs-ercise List](#) and put each slip in a plastic egg. Put all the eggs in a basket or bag, along with empty eggs, all mixed together.

7 bunny hops  
2 summersaults  
4 giant kicks  
Spin in place 2 times  
5 jumping jacks  
2 tall carrot stretches  
Run in place for 10 seconds  
8 giant bear hugs to yourself  
3 bunny hops  
Touch your toes, then reach up 4 times

Are you ready to “eggs-ercise”?! I’m going to have one person pick an egg from the basket and hand it to me, and I will read the eggs-ercise that’s written on the slip inside. We’ll all do that activity, then someone else will choose a different one. If I open an empty egg, everyone will jump and yell, “The tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive!” Let’s practice saying that all together first. Lead the kids in saying, “The tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive!” Encourage them to say it with excitement and in unison.

**Who wants to be the first person to pick an egg?** Choose kids to pick an egg, one at a time, and then do the activity on the chosen slip. If the egg is empty, encourage them to jump and yell, “The tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive!” **Let’s show some eggs-citement for these eggs-ercises! Great job, everyone! We can be extra happy and cheer when we see an empty egg because it reminds us of the empty tomb that the women saw when they were looking for Jesus!**

#### Make It Inclusive!

For kids who can’t do the movements, modify the activities by allowing them to clap their hands over their head, raise their hands in the air, or reach down as low as they can.



## 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.*

#### Responding in Worship: Story of Jesus Bracelets

**SUPPLIES:** assorted colored beads (red, brown, green, grey, white; at least one of each color for each kid), string (at least 8", 1 piece per kid), letter beads (optional), pipe cleaners (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Leader Tip:** You could also use pipe cleaners that can easily be twisted together at the end instead of tying knots in string.

Cut string in lengths of around 8". Set out beads, watching closely to ensure kids don't put beads in their mouths or noses. Hold up a brown bead first. **We're going to make bracelets to remind us of God's big story about Jesus—the story of Jesus dying and returning to life through God's power so we can be saved and become children of God!**



**First, we'll put a brown bead on our bracelets. Brown reminds us of the crown of thorns that was put on Jesus' head when the soldiers made fun of Him. Brown also reminds us of the cross He died on.**

**Next, put a red bead on your bracelet. The color red reminds us of Jesus' blood when He died for us.**

**Then comes a grey bead that represents the stone that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.**

**Next, put on a white bead to remind us of the angel who rolled the stone away and surprised the women who saw the empty tomb.**

**Finally, put on a green bead to remind us of the new life that Jesus gives us when we trust in Him to save us!** Take time in between each color to let kids put the beads on the string. Younger kids might need help. You can use more beads of the same color and let the kids do a pattern to fill their string. You could also add letter beads to spell "Jesus" if you have letter beads. You could also use pipe cleaners instead of string to hold the beads.

## 9:00 Service

Help kids tie off their bracelets so the beads don't slide off. **Your bracelets look beautiful! Using the beads, take some time to practice telling someone nearby about God's big story of Jesus. Do you remember what each color stands for?**

**Brown stands for the crown of thorns and the cross where Jesus died.**

**Red stands for Jesus' blood when He died for us.**

**Grey stands for the stone and tomb.**

**White stands for the angel who told the women Jesus had risen.**

**Green stands for new life we can have in Jesus when we trust in Him as our Savior.**

Play music from the [Risen Early Childhood music flashdrive](#) while kids practice sharing the story by using the beads.

### 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!

9:00 Service