



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Lives!

SCRIPTURE: John 20

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

When your future feels uncertain, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When pain twists its knife, filling your days and stealing away your sleep, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When friendships strain or snap, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When bills pile up and you dread checking your bank balance, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When anxiety takes your breath away, remember: *Jesus lives.*

When death robs you of someone you can't live without, remember: *Jesus lives.*

Jesus lives.

Those two words—words you'll share with your kids in this lesson—fuel hope. More than hope, actually—they fuel a certainty that beyond whatever troubles tear at us today is an eternity of joy with Jesus. Because He lives, we will live. Because we're His, there's no need to fear that death will one day lay claim to us.

As you read John 20:1–20, put yourself outside that empty cave. Breathe in the morning air, feel the dew beneath your feet. Stare into the tomb and hear the angel's question: "Why are you crying?" (John 20:13).

Why, indeed? The reality that Jesus lives changes ... everything.

May the Holy Spirit instill in you the fresh hope that Jesus' first followers felt when they saw the risen Christ. And may the kids you serve discover that the hope that's in you can be the hope that fills their hearts too.

Jesus lives.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Mary Magdalene was part of a group of women who followed Jesus, traveling with Him and His disciples. Jesus had driven seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). She was present at the crucifixion (John 19:25) and saw where Jesus' body was laid (Mark 15:47).

WHAT?

Mary went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone removed. She thought Jesus' body had been taken, but Jesus had risen! After Mary saw two angels in the tomb, Jesus appeared to her. He sent her to tell the disciples, and He later appeared to them.

WHERE?

Jesus' body was laid in a tomb newly hewn from rock and belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb was in a garden near Golgotha, where Jesus had been crucified, outside the city gate of Jerusalem but still near the city.

WHEN?

Jesus died and was placed in the tomb on the Jewish Preparation Day before the Sabbath started at sundown. Jesus rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath, and the empty tomb was discovered by Mary early that morning.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' resurrection means a power greater than death has arrived on the scene of history. Jesus defeated death! The God of Scripture and of all history lives, and the good news is that He will also raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Empty or Full

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Empty or Full? Picture Cards

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Happy Easter, everyone! I have a few things that will help us celebrate this very special day.

Lead kids in a discussion to introduce the concepts of empty and full.

Show them the sets of pictures and discuss which is empty and which is full.

We saw some things that were empty and some that were full. Today, we are going to learn that Jesus' tomb was empty!





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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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: **Father God, as we listen and learn about the resurrection, may Your Spirit teach us, lead us, and show us Your love and plan. Show us how Jesus loves us and gave His life for 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 special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 453-461

Jesus is Risen and Jesus Returns

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

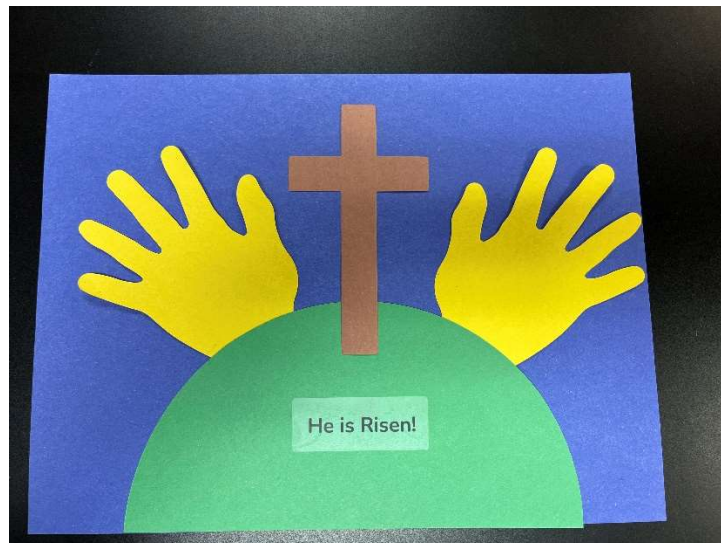
LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

He is Risen Craft

SUPPLIES: construction paper, yellow die cut hands (2 per kid), green half circle, die cut cross, He Is Risen! sticker

We celebrate Easter because Jesus is risen. That means He lives! Let's make a picture to take home. You can tell your family, "He is Risen!"

Assist kids with gluing the various parts of the craft to their construction paper. (See sample). Once everything is glued, the kids can put the sticker on their paper.



Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for Jesus' life and resurrection. **Thank You, God, that Jesus lives! Thank You for Your power and love. Thank You for this day to celebrate and remember all that You have done. 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 experience the joy of new life through Jesus, your living Savior! And may