



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

Game: Run to the Tomb

SUPPLIES: chairs (2), large blanket or sheet, stopwatch

Before the activity begins, place two chairs on the floor with about two feet of space between them. Place a large blanket or sheet over the two chairs to create a pretend tomb.

We're going to play a game to remind us of how Mary and some of the disciples discovered that the tomb was empty and that Jesus is alive! When Mary got to the tomb, the stone was not in front of it. She ran to tell Peter and John. Then Peter and John ran to the tomb. John got there first. They looked inside the tomb, but Jesus was not there!

Let's line up! Show kids where to begin the line and provide time for them to line up. **When I tell you to start, the first person in line will run to the tomb, lift the side of the blanket and shout, "The tomb is empty!" Then that kid will race back to the line and give a high five to the next person. When the next person in line gets a high five, it's the next person's turn to run and do the same thing. Keep going and giving high fives and running to the tomb until everyone has had a turn. I am going to use a stopwatch to see how long it takes for the whole group to run to the tomb. Are you ready?**

Start the race and the stopwatch. At the end of the race, let the kids know how long it took. If time allows, see if they can do it again and beat their previous time.



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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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus' body placed after He died?** *(in a tomb)*
- **What did Mary discover when she got to the tomb?** *(The stone was not in front of it, and Jesus was not there.)*
- **Who did Mary see outside the tomb?** *(two angels dressed in white, then Jesus)*
- **What did Jesus show the disciples in the room that night?** *(He showed them where His hands had been hurt to prove to them that it was really Him.)*
- **How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples that day?**
- **Why do you think we celebrate Easter?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus lives?** *(We can be saved from sin and live with God forever because Jesus lives!)*

Mary and the disciples were surprised that Jesus rose from the dead. It seemed too wonderful to be true—but it *is* true! Because Jesus rose from the dead and He lives, we can be in a forever friendship with Him. Let's pray and thank Him for that now.



Curiosity

Belief

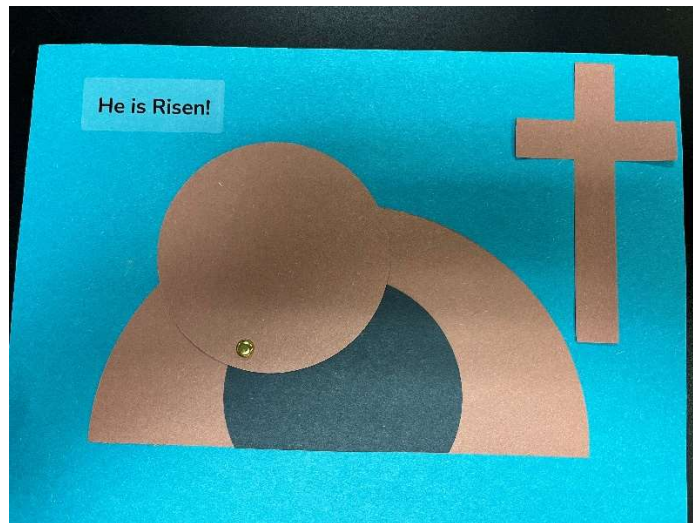
Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: He is Risen!

SUPPLIES: construction paper, cross, brown circle, black circle with some cut off, brown half circle, brad fastener, He is Risen sticker, glue sticks



To help us remember our story and that Jesus was not in the tomb because He is alive, our craft today is an **empty tomb**! Give each kid a sheet of construction paper and the large half circle and have them glue it on their paper. Glue the black circle in the middle, then help them use the brad fastener to attach the small brown circle. Have them glue the cross and add the sticker.

You will be able to open and close the tomb and see that it is empty. Jesus is no longer in the tomb! He lives!