

Jesus Is Alive!

Easter Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus died for our sins and rose again, just as He said. Nothing can stop what God has promised.

Bible passage: Matthew 27:57–28:10 and Luke 24:1–12, 36–43. Read them before class.

Memory verse: "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."
Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Two Truths and a Fib (5–10 minutes)

Read three sentences. Two are true and one is a fib. Kids vote on the fib, then you tell them where to check it. Round 1: *A rich man gave his own new tomb for Jesus* (true, Matthew 27:57–60). *The stone was so small one woman could push it* (fib: it was a great stone, 27:60). *Soldiers guarded the tomb* (true, 27:66). Round 2: *There was an earthquake* (true, 28:2). *The disciples believed the women right away* (fib, Luke 24:11). *Jesus ate fish with His friends* (true, 24:42–43). Say: "Today we will check every fact in the Bible itself."

2. Bible story: He Is Risen, As He Said (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Matthew 27. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Jesus is buried. Jesus was crucified at a place called Calvary, and there He died (Luke 23:33, 23:46). He died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). That evening a rich man of Arimathaea named Joseph, who was a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body (Matthew 27:57–58). **Look up Matthew 27:60.** Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, cut out of the rock, and rolled a great stone to the door. The **sepulchre** is the tomb. Luke says no one had ever been laid in it before (Luke 23:53). Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat across from it and watched (Matthew 27:61).

The seal and the guards. The next day the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate. **Look up Matthew 27:63.** They remembered that Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again." They were afraid His disciples would steal the body (27:64). So they made the tomb sure by **sealing** the stone and setting a **watch**, a group of guards (27:66).

Early on the first day. As it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb (28:1). Luke says the women brought spices they had made ready (Luke 24:1). **Look up Matthew 28:2.** There was a great earthquake, and the angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His **countenance** (face) was like lightning and his **raiment** (clothes) white as snow (28:3). The **keepers** (guards) shook with fear and became as dead men (28:4).



He is risen. The angel said to the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified" (28:5). **Look up Matthew 28:6.** "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said." Luke says the women went in and did not find the body, and two men in shining clothes asked them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:3–5). They reminded the women that Jesus had said He would be crucified and rise again the third day (24:6–7). The angel told them to go quickly and tell the disciples (Matthew 28:7). **Look up Matthew 28:8.** They ran with fear and great joy. On the way, Jesus met them! They held Him by the feet and worshipped Him, and He said, "Be not afraid: go tell my brethren" (28:9–10). **Brethren** means brothers; Jesus meant His disciples.

The disciples. The women told the eleven disciples and all the rest. Luke names Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James (Luke 24:9–10). **Look up Luke 24:11.** Their words seemed like **idle tales**, made-up stories, and the disciples did not believe them. Peter ran to the tomb, stooped down and saw the linen clothes lying by themselves, and he went away wondering (24:12).

Jesus stands among them. That evening Jesus Himself stood in the middle of the disciples and said, "Peace be unto you." They were terrified and thought they were seeing a spirit (24:36–37). **Look up Luke 24:39.** Jesus said, "Behold my hands and my feet... handle me, and see." **Handle** means touch. Then they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, and He ate it in front of them (24:42–43). Jesus was alive in a real body!

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The angel said Jesus rose "as he said" (Matthew 28:6). Why does it matter that Jesus did exactly what He promised?
2. The leaders sealed the stone and set guards (27:66). Could anything stop God's plan? What does that tell you about God?
3. The women ran with "fear and great joy" (28:8). Can you feel both at the same time? When?
4. The disciples first thought the women's news was "idle tales" (Luke 24:11). Why was it hard for them to believe?
5. Jesus told the women, "Go tell" (Matthew 28:10). Who could you tell that Jesus is alive?

Recall questions

1. What did the leaders do to make the tomb sure? (*Sealed the stone and set a watch, Matthew 27:66*)
2. What did the angel's clothes look like? (*White as snow, 28:3*)
3. What did Jesus eat in front of His disciples? (*A piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, Luke 24:42–43*)



4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **risen** means alive again after dying, and **lay** means was lying. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus rose again, just as He said. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). That is exactly what we read today. How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and like Jesus was raised from the dead, we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: like the women, go and tell. Tell one person this week that Jesus is alive, and tell them where it is in the Bible (Matthew 28:6).

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Matthew 27:57: Was Joseph of Arimathaea rich or poor? (*A rich man*)
2. Luke 23:53: Had anyone been laid in that tomb before? (*No. Never man before was laid there.*)
3. Matthew 27:63: What had Jesus said He would do after three days? (*Rise again*)
4. Matthew 28:4: What did the keepers (guards) do when they saw the angel? (*They shook and became as dead men.*)
5. Matthew 28:7: Where would the disciples see Jesus? (*In Galilee*)
6. Luke 24:10: Name one of the women who told the apostles. (*Mary Magdalene, Joanna, or Mary the mother of James*)
7. Luke 24:12: What did Peter see in the tomb? (*The linen clothes laid by themselves*)
8. Luke 24:36: What did Jesus say when He stood among the disciples? (*"Peace be unto you."*)

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, just as He said. Thank You that nothing can stop Your promises. Help us believe Your Word and be brave to tell others that Jesus is alive. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks "Why did Jesus have to die?": answer simply and gently. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and Jesus died for our sins because He loves us (1 Corinthians 15:3). He even said before it happened that He would be crucified and rise again the third day (Luke 24:6–7). He did, and He is alive.

