

Jesus Is Alive!

Easter Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is alive!

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

Memory verse: "He is not here: for he is risen" *Matthew 28:6 (KJV)*. The old word **risen** means alive again.

You need: a Bible, 3–4 plastic cups, a few small toys, a blanket over a table for a "tomb," a pillow or rolled-up gray blanket for the "stone," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 28. Drape the blanket over a table and set the pillow "stone" in front of the opening.

1. Opening game: Which Cup Is Empty? (5 minutes)

Turn the cups upside down. Hide a toy under every cup but one. Kids take turns lifting a cup to find the empty one. Mix them up and play again. Say: "You found the empty cup! Today we will hear a true story about an empty tomb, and why it made everyone so happy."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 28. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins (Luke 23:33, 23:46). *(Fold your hands and be quiet.)*

His friend Joseph put Jesus in a tomb. A tomb is a room in a rock (Matthew 27:57–60). *(Make a cave with your arms.)*

Joseph rolled a great big stone to the door (27:60). *(Push hard with both hands.)*

Soldiers guarded the tomb (27:66). *(Stand tall like a soldier.)*

Early in the morning, two women came to the tomb (28:1). *(Walk in place.)*

Boom! A great earthquake (28:2)! *(Shake all over.)*

An angel rolled back the stone and sat on it (28:2). *(Roll your arms. Kids roll away the pillow stone.)*

The angel said, "He is not here: for he is risen" (28:6). *(Peek in the tomb. Arms up high!)*

Say it with me: "He is risen!"

The women ran with great joy to tell (28:8). *(Run in place.)*

Jesus met them on the way (28:9)! **Say it with me: "Jesus is alive!"**

Later Jesus showed His friends His hands and feet (Luke 24:39–40). *(Hold out your hands.)*

He ate a piece of fish with them (24:42–43). *(Pretend to eat.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is alive!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was in front of the tomb? (*A great stone, Matthew 27:60*)
2. Who rolled the stone away? (*An angel, 28:2*)
3. Is Jesus alive? (*Yes! He is risen, 28:6*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The angel said, 'He is not here: for he is risen.' Risen means alive again." Teach the motions: shake your head for *He is not here*, then throw both arms up high for *for he is risen*. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 28:6" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

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.

6. Activity: Draw the Empty Tomb (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big rock with a dark door and a round stone rolled to the side. They color a yellow sun coming up in the sky. While they color, ask: "Who rolled the stone away? Is Jesus alive?" Kids who finish early can take turns rolling the pillow stone away from the blanket tomb and saying, "He is risen!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, that Jesus is alive.

Help me tell my friends. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child help roll away the stone. If they get wiggly, do the earthquake shake and the "He is risen!" arms again. Keep the cross to one quiet sentence. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks why Jesus died: answer simply and gently. Jesus died for our sins because He loves us (1 Corinthians 15:3). But He did not stay dead. He rose again, and He is alive (Matthew 28:6).

