Jesus Is Alive!

Easter Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus died for our sins and rose again, just as He said. He is alive!
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, 4–5 paper bags, a few small items (a crayon, a block, an eraser), a chair with a sign that says "disciples," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: a blanket and a pillow for a "tomb" and "stone."
Before class: put a small item in every bag but one. Leave one bag empty. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 28.

1. Opening game: Which One Is Empty? (5–10 minutes)

Line the bags up. Kids take turns guessing which bag is empty. Peek inside after each guess. Mix up the bags and play a few rounds. Then ask: *Is an empty bag usually good news?* Say: "Today we will hear about the most important empty place in the whole world, and why that empty place was the best news ever."

2. Bible story: He Is Risen! (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 28, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words, gently and with reverence:

Jesus died on the cross at a place called Calvary (Luke 23:33, 23:46). He died for our sins. That evening a rich man named **Joseph**, from the town of Arimathaea, came. Joseph was a follower of Jesus. He asked the ruler, Pilate, for Jesus' body (Matthew 27:57–58). Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb. A tomb is a room cut into a rock. Then Joseph rolled a **great stone** to the door (27:59–60). Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary sat across from the tomb and watched (27:61).

The next day, the leaders went to Pilate. They remembered that Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again" (27:62–63). So they sealed the stone and set soldiers to guard the tomb (27:66).

Early on the first day of the week, just as the sun was coming up, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb (28:1). Suddenly there was a **great earthquake**! An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it (28:2). His face was bright like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow (28:3). The guards were so afraid that they shook and lay there like dead men (28:4).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

The story continues: The angel said to the women, "Fear not: I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified" (28:5). **Read Matthew 28:6 from your Bible:** "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Say: "That means Jesus is alive again, just like He said!" The angel told them, "Go quickly, and tell his disciples" (28:7).

The women ran from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were full of **great joy** (28:8). On the way, Jesus Himself met them! They held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Jesus said, "Be not afraid: go tell" (28:9–10).

The women told the disciples, but at first the disciples did not believe them (Luke 24:9–11). **Peter** got up and ran to the tomb. He looked in and saw only the linen clothes lying there by themselves (24:12).

That evening, while the disciples were talking, Jesus stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be unto you." They were scared. They thought He was a spirit (24:36–37). Jesus said, "Behold my hands and my feet." That means, "Look at My hands and My feet. Touch Me and see" (24:39). Then He asked for food, and He ate a piece of broiled fish right in front of them (24:41–43). **Jesus was really, truly alive!**

3. Questions to ask (5–10 minutes)

1. What did Joseph roll to the door of the tomb? *(A great stone, Matthew 27:60)*
2. Who rolled the stone away? *(An angel of the Lord, 28:2)*
3. What did the angel say? *(He is not here: for he is risen, 28:6)*
4. Who met the women on the way? *(Jesus Himself, 28:9)*
5. What did Jesus eat to show He was alive? *(A piece of broiled fish, Luke 24:42–43)*

4. Memory verse: Come and See (5 minutes)

Teach the verse with motions: *He is not here* (shake your head) / *for he is risen* (arms up high) / *as he said* (point to your Bible) / *Come, see* (wave the kids toward you) / *the place where the Lord lay* (point down). *Matthew 28:6.* Explain the old words: **risen** means alive again after dying, and **lay** means was lying. Say it in a normal voice, then a whisper, then a happy loud voice. Then let kids take turns leading.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The tomb was empty because Jesus is alive! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! That is the story we heard today. The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away. Then we come up out of the water to a new life, like Jesus came out of the tomb alive (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: like the women at the tomb, go and tell! Say "Jesus is alive!" to one person every day.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Jesus Is Alive word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/resurrection-word-search), the Jesus Is Alive coloring page or empty tomb craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/resurrection), or **Run and Tell:** make two teams. One at a time, each child runs to the "disciples" chair, says "He is risen!" and runs back to tag the next teammate. The women ran to tell the disciples too (Matthew 28:8).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, just as He said. Thank You that He is alive! Help us be brave and tell others the good news. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks "Why did Jesus have to die?": answer simply and gently. Jesus died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3) because He loves us. But that was not the end. He rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:4), and He is alive.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post