
JESUS IS ALIVE

SERIES: LIVE FOR HIM

Join us throughout the months of March and April as we learn different Bible stories that show us what it looks like to LIVE FOR HIM! We will be going through the books of Matthew and John.

REMEMBER VERSE

GALATIANS 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

SCHEDULE

All Services

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|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 0:00—0:10 | Welcome (Check-in) |
| 0:10—0:15 | Transition to Large Group (Outdoor) |
| 0:15—0:30 | Outdoor Large Group |
| 0:30—0:35 | Transition to Small Group (Classroom) |
| 0:35—1:05 | Lesson and Respond Activity |
| 1:05—1:15 | Bless and Dismiss (Check-out) |

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: Jesus Is King

Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday)

WEEK 2: CSI: Christ Scene Investigation

Jesus Rises (Easter)

CURRENT WEEK: Jesus Is Alive

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

WEEK 4: Jesus Redeems

Jesus Reinstates Peter

WEEK 5: Remember & Celebrate

ZONK! Review Weekend

EQUIP

Jesus is alive! He proved His deity by rising from the dead. In John 20, He appeared to the disciples (with Thomas present) and showed them the holes in His hands and side—to give them evidence of His resurrection. We weren't present at that meeting, but other evidence exists that we can use to defend the reasonableness of the resurrection.

Jesus appeared not just to His chosen disciples, but also to individuals, to small groups of people, to large crowds—not just once or twice, but multiple times over a period of 40 days. He appeared at different times of day, sometimes indoors and sometimes outside. These appearances weren't simply vague hallucinations experienced by an emotionally overwhelmed few—they were real encounters with the living God.

Archeological evidence substantiates the burial practices we see in the biblical account. Jesus' body was confirmed dead by His own executioners. His tomb was guarded by His enemies and also verified as being empty by all who saw it. All anyone had to do to disprove the resurrection account was to produce a body. No one ever did. And there is no account in history of anyone claiming to do so.

Jesus' disciples and family underwent a profound change of disposition, going from an attitude of disbelief to one of overwhelming confidence. This radical change led them to undertake a worldwide mission of evangelism, and they suffered persecution and martyrdom because of their confidence in the resurrection.

For these and many more reasons, we can have the confidence and faith that Thomas initially lacked and stake our eternity on the fact that Jesus is alive.

ENCOURAGE

"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions . . . For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:4-5, 10

The word for "handiwork" in Greek is the word *poema*, which means "delicate craftsmanship"—like the work of a painter or a poet. It's amazing to know that we are the handiwork of God!

Read through Ephesians 2, the chapter that describes how we've been made alive in Christ and how that new life gives us the right to be "fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:19). Then, make a list of the ways this passage describes you as a child of God. Write a few of these descriptions on index cards and place them in locations where you'll see them frequently—perhaps on your bathroom mirror or on your car dashboard. Ask God to let your identity as His child permeate everything you do this week

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: Have you ever told a person something and he or she didn't believe you? If so, what was it?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

Jesus is alive! John 20:31 says, "By believing you may have life in His name." This means that through faith, we get to have life forever with Jesus. It also means that we get to have a full life here and now. Real life only comes through Jesus, because He is alive.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Jesus Is Alive Template. Have them cut off the bottom half along the dashed line. Then, have them color each of the hearts as well as the background of the top half of the page. Instruct them to cut out and glue down the hearts all over the top half. Using the messages on the hearts as a starting point, invite them into a conversation about who Jesus is, what He did, and how we can respond to His gift of life. Ask them if they would like to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior if they haven't yet.

SUPPLIES:

- Jesus Is Alive Template
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Glue

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

Jesus came to bring life to us. He died on the cross and rose from the grave—Jesus is alive! In Jesus we can have a new life with Him that lasts forever!

- What did Jesus do when He appeared to the disciples? *John 20:19–20*
- How did the disciples respond when they saw Jesus? *Luke 24:37–41; John 20:20*
- What did Jesus do when He spoke with Thomas? How did Thomas respond? *John 20:26–29*
- Who are those who "have not seen and yet have believed"? *John 20:29; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:8–9*
- What do we receive through belief in Jesus? *John 20:31; 1 Timothy 1:16*
- What does it mean to do something in the name of Jesus? *1 Corinthians 6:11; Acts 3:16; 4:29–30*
- How does it make you feel to know that when you trust in Jesus, you become a child of God?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

JOHN 10:10 – [Jesus said,] "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

BLESSING: Children, may you experience the full, large, real life of Jesus here on this earth and in all of eternity. May His life give you strength and joy. May you rejoice in the fact that Jesus is alive!

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Box with figurine/toy
- John 1:12 Image

STORYTELLING

After Jesus died on the cross, His friends and disciples looked for Him in the tomb—but He wasn't there! He had risen from the dead! Before we begin, let's ask the Holy Spirit to teach us today. *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the third day. He proved that only He has power over death. Jesus is the Creator of life and the One who gives us eternal life. Jesus is alive!

Before Jesus died, He spent time with His disciples telling them exactly what was going to happen. But they still had a hard time fully believing this without being able to see, hear, and touch Jesus. Even so, Jesus lovingly gave each person what he needed to believe and receive life in Him. Jesus is alive!

Bring out the box. By a show of hands, how many of you think there is a (toy figurine you chose) in this box? *Invite a few kids to share their opinions.* Today's part of The Big God Story takes place right after Mary encountered the risen Jesus at His empty tomb. You see, before Mary saw Jesus, she ran and told the disciples that Jesus' tomb was empty. So, two of Jesus' disciples—Peter and John—ran as fast as they could to Jesus' tomb to check it out.

Invite the children to open their Bibles and follow along as you read John 20:6-7. Though this might not seem strange to us, it was probably strange to Peter and John! When people were buried, they were wrapped with cloth and strips of linen. Sweet-smelling oils and perfumes were placed between these wrappings. So, to see the cloths and strips lying there would have been very strange.

When John saw this, he must have known that something amazing was happening. In this next verse, John is called "the other disciple." *Invite the children to follow along as you read vv. 8-9, or ask a volunteer to read these verses.* So, John and Peter went home—puzzled, but aware that God was at work. Let's see what happened later that day. *Invite the children to follow along as you read John 20:19.* Wow! Can you imagine what that must have been like for the disciples? The last time they'd seen Jesus, He was dying on the cross—and all of a sudden He was standing with them. Jesus has power over death! Jesus is alive!

If that hadn't been enough to prove to the disciples that Jesus really was alive, watch what else Jesus did. *Have the*

children follow along as you read John 20:20 or ask a volunteer to read it. When Jesus was put on the cross, soldiers hammered nails through His hands and pierced His side with a sword. So when Jesus showed the disciples His scars, He proved that He had died and risen again! The disciples were overjoyed. In that moment, they must have finally realized that Jesus really is the Son of God. Now, remember when I asked you if you believe what I said about what's in this box? Well, let's see what's inside. *Open the box to reveal the toy figurine.* Maybe you weren't sure before, but you're sure now that I was telling the truth, because you can see what was inside. Sometimes it's easier to believe in what we can see, but Jesus wants us to trust Him even though we can't see Him.

Now one disciple, named Thomas, wasn't with the rest of the disciples when they saw Jesus. *Invite the children to follow along as you read vv. 24-25.* Later, Jesus responded to Thomas' declaration by returning to see His disciples while Thomas was there. *Invite the children to follow along as you read vv. 26-29.* Jesus helped Thomas to believe in His resurrection and that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is alive! And did you notice who Jesus said was blessed in that last verse? *Invite responses.* That's right—us!

We weren't there when Jesus was alive on earth, but we're able to believe because of the witness of Jesus' disciples and because God's Holy Spirit teaches us and helps us to understand. It's so cool that even way back then, Jesus was blessing us—those who would believe without seeing. But what's even cooler is that by believing, we can have life in Jesus' name (v. 31). Jesus can give us life because He is alive! The Bible says Jesus is the One in whom all life was created, in whom all life exists, and in whom all life will ever exist. Because of this, He has the authority to give life to everyone who believes in Him. He has the authority to give to all who believe in Him "the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). *John 1:12 image.*

When we choose to follow Jesus, we're given the gift of eternal life. Because of His sacrifice, we're given the right to live with God forever—to be His children forever. This is the best news we could ever hear! We can receive eternal life as children of the Most High God. Jesus is alive! *Share a story of a time you rejoiced in the truth that you've received life through Christ.*