



Easter

Matthew 27 & 28

God Statement: Jesus is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8b, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Alive

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

Does anyone know what the word “hope” means? **Let kids respond.** Hope is when we really want something to go a certain way. Maybe we hope our mom let's us go to our friends house. Or maybe we hope our brother or sister forgives us after we were mean.

Did you know that Jesus is our Hope?! Remember at the very beginning of the Big God Story how Adam and Eve disobeyed God? What do we call it when we do something that makes God sad? **Let kids respond.** That's right, sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, it meant that they were separated from God and couldn't be with Him in Heaven.

I bet Adam and Eve hoped God would forgive them! For many years, God told people that He was going to send a Savior...someone to help fix this sadness of being separated from God. These people waited and hoped that God's message would come true because they really really wanted to be saved from their sin.

And did God keep His promise? He sure did! He sent Jesus to the earth to save everyone from their sins. And that's what we celebrate on Easter – Jesus brought hope because He died on the cross to take away all of our sin. He made a way for us to be with God in Heaven again!

That's what we're going to talk about today for our Easter lesson! But before we do that, let's play a game to help us think about this lesson.

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, do this activity!

Resurrection Story Craft

Supplies: Resurrection story printouts, scissors, brads, crayons or markers

Say: *Today we get to make a very special craft. When Jesus died on the cross, he was buried in a tomb. But what happened 3 days later? He was alive! We're going to make a craft to help us remember this special story.*

Directions: Have kids color their resurrection story craft. Then, if not already cut out, cut the circles out along the lines. Use the metal brad to connect the two circles together, with the Easter one on top. Show the kids how to spin the wheel to tell the story together.



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8b, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: EMPTY BOX (EMPTY TOMB)

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

What is this? Does anyone know? It looks like a box but what's in the box? That's right. It's an **empty box**! Why would we have an empty box today? What do you think? Let's find out more. Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our Hope – Easter

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: worship song provided in PowerPoint

Prepare ahead: none

When Jesus died on the cross, the people were very sad. Can you show me a sad face?

But the good news is that Jesus didn't stay dead. God had a plan and 3 days later, Jesus rose from the dead because God is powerful!

Jesus is the hope that everyone was waiting for and He is alive! That makes us very happy! Can you show me a happy face?!

Today, we are going to celebrate that Jesus is alive by having a dance party while we worship and sing!

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, always remember that Jesus loves you so much that he died on the cross for you. But he didn’t stay dead – He is alive!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Matthew 27 & 28).**
2. **When Jesus died and was buried in the tomb, how did the people feel? (sad!)**
3. **Did Jesus stay dead? (no!)**
4. **How many days later was Jesus raised from the dead? (3)**
5. **How did the people feel that Jesus was alive? (happy!)**
6. **How can you share Jesus’ hope with others? Who can you tell this story to?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY – Jesus is Alive Freeze Dance!

Supplies: music

Directions: Find the “Easter” playlist in Plex. Have the kids spread out around the room. Start the music and tell the kids to dance around the room. When you stop the music, the kids have to freeze while saying “Jesus is alive!” If someone moves after the music stops, they must sit down. Play until the last person is standing, then repeat.

Say: *Jesus is alive! And we get to celebrate that, not just at Easter time, but everyday. Let's play a game to help us celebrate this special holiday!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.



