

EASTER WEEKEND

April 11th & 12th
2 & 3 year olds



Spring Lesson 6

Bible Passage: John 19—20
(Easter)

Jesus Is Alive

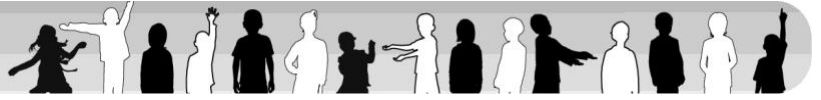
Schedule

1. Gather: Big God Story
2. Respond: Worship, Optional Activity
3. Bless: Speaking God's Truth over your child

Supplies

- Bible
- Easter eggs (6-8)
- Megaphone (made from a rolled-up piece of paper)
- Basket
- Stuffed animal

GATHER//25 minutes



Children experience and learn more about God through traditions, song, and storytelling from *The Big God Story*.

Normally we use a hedgehog puppet (Hamilton) to help introduce the Big God Story. Since Hamilton is social distancing to keep others safe, choose a stuffed animal from your home and introduce him as "Hamilton's friend." You might explain, "Hamilton needs to be home with his family right now just like we are staying home so his friend _____ came to help us tell the story today."

Welcome

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Hamilton puppet friend (choose a stuffed animal from home to help tell the story)
- Megaphone
- Basket
- Easter eggs (6–8)

Ponder Point: Jesus Is Alive

Hi, family! Welcome! I'm so excited to be here with you today and hear a part of *The Big God Story*. Before we begin, let's invite Hamilton the Hedgehog's friend _____ to join us. I brought something with me today that we can use to call him. This is a megaphone. When you talk into it, your voice will sound louder. On the count of three, let's call him together. Are you ready? One, two, three. [Inserts Hamilton's friend's name], where are you? Encourage kids to call for _____. You may consider allowing a child to help you call Hamilton's friend using the megaphone. After a few calls, Hamilton's friend comes out of his house carrying a basket with eggs inside.

Hi, _____! I'm so glad you heard our loud voices and came out to learn more about Jesus. What did you bring today? Hamilton's friend moves his head toward his basket. That's a very nice basket. Hamilton nudges an egg inside his basket. Hmmm ... I wonder if these eggs are going to help us with *The Big God Story*! Hamilton's friend nods excitedly.

Are you ready to hear this part of the story? Children will respond. Do you think _____ is ready? Kids will answer. Let's ask him. _____, are you ready to hear about Jesus and *The Big God Story*? Hamilton's friend nods excitedly. Me too! It's time to dig, dig, dig right into God's Word to find out what He has to say to us. Let's all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.

Bible Song (sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Now it's time to hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

Now it's time to hear God's Word

So let's look in the Bible

The Big God Story

This is the “meat” of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people’s lives. The Big God Story is written for a three-year-old audience. It can be told in its entirety or shortened if your child is on the younger side.

Jesus Is Alive From John 19—20

SUPPLIES

- Sad Face and Happy Face drawn on small pieces of paper (egg 1 & 6)
- Easter eggs
- Gauze or cloth (egg 2)
- Rocks (egg 3)
- Tissues (egg 5)
- Basket
- Hamilton’s friend puppet/stuffed animal
- Basket

PREPARE AHEAD

Make one set of eggs for the Storyteller to use throughout the story and invite your kids to help come open each egg. Number eggs 1-6. Place the corresponding items in each egg.

SET UP

Place the basket filled with eggs next to the Storyteller (you).

RELATE

Before we go any further, let’s all pray together and ask God to teach us about Himself and His Son, Jesus. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Family, Jesus is alive! The last time we were together, we heard how Jesus died for our sins and then rose from the dead after three days. There’s no one like our God. Only He is stronger than death! Today I have some special eggs for each of you. We’re going to use the eggs to help us remember this part of The Big God Story. Hamilton will join us too! Hamilton’s friend _____ nods excitedly while holding his basket with the eggs inside.

Let’s open our first egg and see what’s inside. _____ peers at the egg as if anxious to know what’s inside. **Open egg #1** and take out the picture of a sad face. **What’s this?** Invite children to respond. **That’s right. It’s a sad face.** Hamilton’s friend _____ looks down as if he’s sad. **What sad thing happened to Jesus?** Invite responses; interact with children and their answers. **That’s right. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Many people were very sad when Jesus died.**

Let’s open our next egg. **Open egg #2** and have _____ pull out the piece of gauze or cloth and hold it up. **What’s this?** Invite responses. **It’s a piece of cloth. What did Jesus’ friends do with His body after He died?** Encourage responses. **That’s right! Jesus’ friends wrapped His body in cloth and laid Him in a tomb.**

Let’s open our next egg. **Open egg #3** and take out the small rock. **What’s this, friends?** Allow kids to respond. **How did the soldiers use the rock?** Hamilton’s friend pretends to push the rock. Invite children to respond. **That’s right. They put the rock in front of the tomb where they placed Jesus’ body.**

Let’s see what’s inside egg number 4. **Open the empty egg.** **What’s inside?** Invite children to respond. Hamilton’s friend looks side to side as if confused. **That’s right! Nothing—it’s empty. After three days, Mary came to see Jesus. What happened to the rock?** Allow children to answer. **Was the tomb open or closed?** Invite responses. **It was open, and the rock had been rolled away. Was Jesus inside the tomb?** Allow children to answer. **No! The tomb was empty. Jesus wasn’t in there anymore. He rose from the dead.**

Open egg #5 and have Hamilton’s friend take out the tissue. **What do we use tissues for?** Invite kids to respond. _____ uses the tissue to pretend to blow his nose or dry his tears. **That’s right—we use them to wipe our noses, and sometimes we use them to wipe our tears away. Mary was so sad that Jesus was gone. His tomb was**

empty, and she didn't know what happened to Him. What happened to Jesus? Children will answer. That's right—He's alive!

Let's see what we find in this egg. **Open egg #6** and take out the picture of a happy face. Why do you think we have a happy face inside this egg? Invite responses. **Mary was sad and crying until she heard someone call her name. Who called her name?** Allow children to answer. **That's right! Jesus did. Jesus is alive!** Hamilton's friend _____ jumps up and down excitedly. Have children put the egg and the happy face inside their paper bags.

What did Jesus tell Mary to do? Encourage answers. **He told her to go and tell the people that He is alive! It's so exciting that Jesus isn't dead, but that He's alive! Is Jesus alive today too?** Invite children to respond. **Yes, He is! He's alive today, tomorrow, and forever.**

Friends, there's no one like our God. He's the only One who is stronger than death! **Jesus is alive! When you go home with your family, tell them that Jesus is alive!**

Have the children say good-bye to Hamilton's friend.

Listen to God

Have the children sit quietly or lay down without touching anyone. **We just were talking about how Jesus is King. Can you say that with me quietly? "Jesus is King." Let's listen to God. Does He want to tell you anything? Sometimes we hear Him in our heart or in our brain. He usually doesn't say things out loud. Listen quietly and see what He wants to tell you.** Let the children listen for 30 seconds to 1 minute. **All right. Let's sit up. Did you hear God say anything?** Give them a chance to tell you what God said to them.

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

//Optional Activities//

Great News Megaphones

Children create a megaphone to help them tell everyone that Jesus is alive.

SUPPLIES

- Paper (1 sheet per child, construction paper)
- Washable markers
- Stickers (several per child)
- Tape or stapler

SET UP

Place one sheet of heavy paper at each child's seat and set the markers and stickers in the center of the table.

RELATE

When Jesus rose from the dead, it was very exciting. Jesus told Mary to tell everyone that He was alive. Today, we're going to make megaphones to help us tell everyone that Jesus is alive. First, we're going to decorate sheets of paper.

Encourage children to use the stickers and markers to decorate their sheets of paper. After each child has decorated his paper, roll it up and either staple or tape it closed. After the children have finished, practice saying, "Jesus is alive!" through the megaphones.

Celebration Parade

Children march in a parade and shout into their megaphones, “Jesus is alive!”

SUPPLIES

- Megaphones (from Activity 2)

SET UP

Line up the children and give each one his megaphone.

RELATE

We’re going to have a parade using our megaphones. We’re going to march around shouting, “Jesus is alive!” We want everyone to hear the exciting news about Jesus. Have children stand up and march around the room, shouting “Jesus is alive!” If you have time, consider playing a game like Follow the Leader and allow each child to lead with his or her own actions, e.g., waving the megaphones, hopping, giant steps, etc. Consider going outside walk with your family and using your megaphones to shout, “Jesus is Alive!”

BLESS// 5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Ask children to sit on the floor with you. Before speaking the blessing, encourage children to clap and cheer to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Then pray this prayer of blessing over them:

Children, Jesus is alive! May you know His great love for you today and always.

Open a Bible and read Luke 24:6a:

He has risen!