

Spring Lesson 5

Bible Passage: John 19—20
(Easter)

Jesus Is Alive

Schedule

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

Supplies

- Empty containers with lids that are not clear (4-5)
- Small rock
- Paper plates or paper (3)
- Marker
- Craft sticks or sticks from your yard
- Bible
- Stuffed animal

CONNECT//15 minutes



//Optional Activity//

Is It Empty?

Children learn the concept of empty versus occupied as they look for a rock inside different containers.

SUPPLIES

- Empty containers or boxes (4-5, not see-through with lids)
- Rock (small enough to fit inside containers and boxes)

SET UP

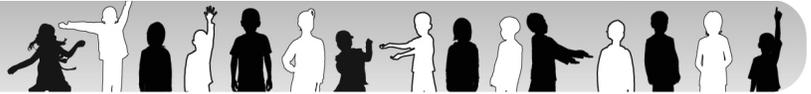
Place the items on the table. Set the rock inside of one of the containers and put the lid on each.

RELATE

Invite your children and family to the table. **What do you see on the table?** Encourage answers. **There's a rock hidden inside one of these containers.** Point to each one. **Which one do you think has the rock inside?** Invite children to take a guess. **Let's see which is empty and which one has the rock. Are you ready to find it?**

Assist the children if they're having difficulty with the lids. As they open the containers, ask: **Is this box or container empty?** Invite answers. **Does it have anything inside?** If the container/box is empty, say: **You're right, it's empty.** If the container/box has the rock, say: **Oh my, it has a rock inside. It's not empty.** Continue looking inside each container/box so they understand the concept of empty versus occupied.

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)
- Rock

Ponder Point: Jesus Is Alive

Hi, family! Welcome! It's time to hear a part of The Big God Story. Family, have you seen Hamilton the Hedgehog's friend this morning? Children will answer; respond to their participation. **Let's call to him and see if he'll come and join us. On the count of three, let's call him together. Are you ready? One, two, three. [Hamilton's friend's name], where are you?** Encourage kids to call for Hamilton. **Do you think he can hear us? Let's all stand up and shout, "[Hamilton's friend's name!] Ready, set, shout! [Hamilton's friend's name]!** Stuffed animal peeks his head out of his house.

Hi, _____! I'm so glad you heard our loud shouts. He pushes his rock out in front of him. **That's a very nice rock, _____.** **Did you roll that rock all the way over here all by yourself?** He nods. **Wow! You're very strong. Family, why do you think Hamilton's friend brought a rock with him today?** Interact with the children and their responses. **I wonder if a rock is going to be a part of The Big God Story.** _____ nods and jumps up and down.

What do you think? Do you think _____ is ready? Kids will answer. **Let's ask him. [Hamilton's friend's name], are you ready to hear about Jesus and The Big God Story?** He nods excitedly. **Me too! It's time for us to dig, dig, dig right into God's Word and find out what He has to say to us. Before we do, 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

DEVELOPMENTALLY SPEAKING

Childhood development research shows that children this age are beginning to understand the concept of death. Young children realize that some things, once they leave, don't return—a loved one, a pet, etc. They may use the phrase “all gone” to show their basic understanding of this concept. Today in The Big God Story we'll be talking about Jesus' death and resurrection. Be sure to emphasize the point that after a short time, Jesus came back to life! Also reinforce that there's no one like our God, and only God is greater than death!

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

- The Big God Story images #1–4
- Bible
- Rock
- Tape
- Paper plates (3)
- Craft sticks or sticks from your yard (3)
- Marker
- Hamilton's friend and rock

PREPARE AHEAD

On the front side of the paper plates, use the marker to draw a happy face on one, a sad face on another, and a mad face on the last one. Using tape, attach a craft stick or stick to the back of each paper plate, leaving at least half of the stick hanging at the bottom of the paper plate (creating a handle for each face).

SET UP

Place the paper plate faces within reach of the Storyteller.

RELATE

It's just about time to hear another part of The Big God Story. Before we go any further, let's all pray together and ask God to teach us. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Invite Hamilton's friend to help you tell the story. Make sure he has his rock with him. **Friends, did you know that you're alive?** Hamilton's friend will nod. **You are! Let's all take a big breath and blow it out.** Take a big breath in and blow it out. Hamilton's friend will do this with the children too. **Can you stand up and jump up and down? Come on, stand up and let's jump.** Jump together. **Wow, you're great jumpers! You can do all of those things because you're alive. Today in The Big God Story we're going to hear about Jesus dying and then becoming alive again!**

One day some people who didn't like Jesus said some mean things to Him. Hold up the mad face. Can you make a mean face? Invite children to respond. **They said He wasn't God's Son and that He wasn't our King. Family, we know that Jesus is God's Son. We know that He's our King. But these men didn't want to listen to God. So they decided to kill Jesus. It was a terrible thing to do. Jesus died. This was so sad. Hold up the sad**

face. Can you make a sad face? Pause for response. Jesus had to die on the cross to take away our sins. Show image #1.



IMAGE #1

But wait ... there's more to the story. God had a special plan for Jesus. After Jesus died, His friends took Him to a tomb. A tomb is like a cave. They wrapped Jesus up in cloth and laid Him inside. Then they rolled a huge rock in front of the tomb. Let's all stand up and pretend to roll the big rock in front of the tomb. Model this and encourage children to do the same. The big rock closed the tomb like a giant heavy door. Show image #2.



Wait a second—[Hamilton's friend's name], where's your rock? Have stuffed animal roll his rock over to you. _____ has a rock too. **The rock in The Big God Story was very, very big. Is this rock little or big?** Point to Hamilton's friend's rock and allow children to respond. **Three days passed. Let's count to three. One, two, three. Great job!**

One day Jesus' friend Mary came to the tomb and saw that the huge rock was gone! Mary didn't see Jesus inside the tomb. Hamilton's friend looks around as if pretending to be Mary. Encourage children to look too. **He was gone! The tomb was empty.** [Show image #3.](#)



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Mary was sad and cried. **Show the sad face.** Can you make a sad face? Pause for response. **Just then, two angels came. An angel asked Mary why she was crying. She told them that Jesus was gone, and she didn't know where He was. Then Mary turned around and saw someone. Whom did she see? Children will answer. Jesus! Show image #4.**



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But Mary didn't know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said her name, "Mary." Mary was so excited. Jesus was alive! **Show the happy face.** Let's all make a happy face. Make a happy face with the children. Can you stand up and cheer with me? Let's shout, "Jesus is alive!" Stand up and shout. Jesus wasn't dead anymore. Jesus is alive! Jesus told Mary to tell everyone that He is alive.

Jesus died because He loves us so much! He was in the tomb for three days. On the third day, Jesus came back to life. This was all a part of God's plan. God knew that Jesus would have to die for our sins, but He also knew that Jesus would come back to life! When it was time, Jesus went up to heaven to be with God the Father. Let's celebrate together that Jesus is alive!

Listen to God

Have the children sit quietly or lay down without touching anyone. **We just were talking about how Jesus is alive. Can you say that with me quietly? "Jesus is alive." 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 worship, creative activities, and games.

Song of Celebration

Do you think Mary and Jesus' friends were happy that Jesus was alive? Invite responses. **Yes, I think so too! When I'm excited and happy about something, it makes me want to dance. Today I'm excited that Jesus is alive. We're going to dance and sing to a fun song!**

Lead kids in a celebratory worship song of your choice from your favorite place to play music.

BLESS//5 minutes



This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Gather the children in a circle and encourage them to hold hands. Speak this 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!

April

Matt. 28; John 19-20

2-3 year olds



MORNING TIME

Say this blessing over your child, "[Insert child's name], Jesus is alive! May you know His great love for you today and always!



MEAL TIME

Read John 20. Ask your child, "Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb?" Because He is alive!

Did you know that some believe that the stone sealing Jesus' tomb weighed more than a thousand pounds?!



CAR TIME

Remind your child that Jesus wants us to tell everyone the good news. Discuss some people in your life who need to hear the gospel. Brainstorm with your child how you can share the good news!



BED TIME

Open a Bible and read Isaiah 6:3b; "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Practice saying together the verse a few times. Try different voices (tiny voice, big voice, robot, etc.)