

April 14

9:00am & 11:00am

Three and Four Year Olds

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES

(Luke 24)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this very good news.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible. .

KEY PASSAGE: John 17:3

Key Passage Phrase: People who know God will live forever. John 17:3

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Flash the classroom lights and invite children to sit with you in the group time area. Tell the children that you will say several statements about the life of Jesus. If they think the statement is true, instruct the children to stand up. If they think the statement is false, then instruct the children to remain seated. Make several statements about Jesus that are all true, such as “Jesus was born in Bethlehem,” “Jesus grew up,” “Jesus was baptized,” “Jesus healed a blind man,” “Jesus had twelve disciples,” and so forth. End with the phrase, “Jesus died on a cross.” (*If children are unclear about the statement, gently guide them by saying the statement is true.*)

SAY *We stood up for all of our statements about Jesus because everything I said about Jesus was absolutely true. Our Bible story takes place several days after Jesus died on a cross. Some of Jesus’ disciples were saying that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive. Were they right? Listen carefully and find out.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today’s date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *The big picture question asks, **How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.** Anytime we want to know about God, we can open our Bibles and read about Him. In the Bible story we heard today, we learned that Jesus is alive and that He appeared to His friends, the disciples. We learned from our Bible that Jesus talked to His friends and explained the Bible to them. We learned that Jesus told His friends that the Bible is all about Him.*

4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Read the verse aloud to the children. Then, prompt children to repeat the verse after you. Help preschoolers create motions to use as they say the key passage. You can use the key passage song video for inspiration. Some of the motions you also might use are: “This” (*point down with both hands*); “life” (*create an L with thumb and forefinger*); “they” (*point away from you*); “know” (*point to your head*); “you and God” (*point up*); “one” (*show one finger*); and “Jesus Christ” (*sign language sign for Jesus*).

SAY *To have eternal life means that those who believe in Jesus will live forever with God. Our key passage tells us that we have eternal life when we know and follow God and the one He sent, Jesus. In the Bible*

story we learned that God sent Jesus. Jesus died so that people could be forgiven of their sins. He was raised from the dead and is now alive. Jesus helps us to know about God.

5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Who came and stood among the disciples? (*Jesus*)
3. How did Jesus' friends feel when they first saw Him? (*They were afraid.*)
4. How did Jesus demonstrate that He really was alive? (*He said "touch Me." He showed His hands and side. He ate some fish.*)
5. What job did Jesus give to His friends? (*to tell other people to turn away from sin and be forgiven*)
6. **How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.**

SAY After His death, Jesus appeared to His friends, the disciples. In our story, Jesus came into a house where they were meeting and stood right among them. He proved to them that He was really alive by showing them His hands and side, and by eating some fish. He explained that the Bible is all about Him. In the Bible, we can read about how God made Jesus alive again and that He visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this very good news.

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY Thank You, God, for sending Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to die for our sins. Thank You, also for raising Him from the dead and that He is alive today. Help me to tell my friends and family this good news. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

MOTION TO SHOW GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Tell the children that sometimes we motion "thumbs-up" if things are good and "thumbs-down" if things are not good. Practice thumbs-up and thumbs-down a couple of times. Tell the children to show you thumbs-up if you tell them good news and thumbs-down if you tell them bad news. Say things like, "Your grandmother is in the hospital"; "You have a new baby sister"; "You just got a new bicycle"; "Mom said that you need to clean your room"; "You are going to get ice cream after church tonight"; "Dad fixed meatloaf for lunch"; "Your brother let you play with his remote-controlled car."

SAY Things happen to us every day, and we hear about things that happen to other people. Some of those things are good news and some are bad news. When Jesus came and stood among His friends, was that good news or bad news for them? [Allow responses.] Seeing Jesus alive was very good news for His friends! Jesus wants us to tell this good news to other people.

MAKE A PLAY DOUGH MEAL

Provide **play dough, paper plates, and plastic knives and forks**. Guide children to make a meal on their paper plates and pretend to eat it. Talk about favorite foods.

SAY When Jesus appeared to His friends, they served Him some fish. Do you think the friends liked fish? Many of them were fishermen, so they probably did like to eat fish. Seeing Jesus alive was very exciting to them! They listened to Jesus and He explained what the Bible says about Him. Jesus' friends told other people about seeing Jesus and eating with Him. We can tell others that Jesus is alive! And that is great news!

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (*please send this home with parents*)

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the The Christ Connection.

SAY God made Jesus alive again! Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this very good news.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Colossians 1. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES

STORYTELLING TIPS

Sit around a picnic: Spread a blanket or tablecloth on the floor and add some toy dishes and food to create a simple picnic. Place a Bible in a basket and put it in the center of the picnic. Invite children to sit around the picnic as you tell the story. Show the Bible in the basket when Jesus says, “The Bible is about Me.”

Reveal the picture: Before the session, cover the front of the Bible story picture poster with sticky notes so that the picture is completely covered. As you tell the story, continually pull the sticky notes off the picture until the picture of Jesus is completely revealed.

*On the first day of the week, in the evening, **Jesus’ disciples met together in a house. Some of the disciples were saying they had seen Jesus alive. Could it be true?***

As the friends talked, Jesus came and stood right there with them. “Peace to you!” He said.

Jesus’ friends were afraid! Was this really Jesus? Maybe they were seeing a ghost.

“Why are you afraid? It’s Me!” Jesus said. “Look at Me. Touch Me. A ghost does not have skin and bones, but I do. I am not a ghost.”

Jesus showed them His hands and His side. They saw where Jesus had been hurt. Now Jesus was alive! What good news! The friends were so happy to see Jesus!

Jesus’ friends gave Jesus some fish to eat. Jesus talked to them and explained the Bible to them. “The Bible is about Me,” Jesus said. Then Jesus told them that they had a job to do.

Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. Jesus’ friends needed to tell other people to turn away from sin and be forgiven.

Christ Connection: God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

April 14
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES
(Luke 24)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God made Jesus alive again! We can tell others this good news.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus rules over everything.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: People who know God will live forever. John 17:3

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: LOOK UNDER CUPS

Place several **people figures** on the floor in front of the toddlers. Cover each figure with a **plastic cup**. Say, "Can you see the people?" Remove one of the cups to reveal a people figure. Encourage the children to remove the other cups. Replace the cups and replay as interest allows. Read the gospel gems as the toddlers play.

SAY *You can see the people. In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends were so happy to see Him alive again. Let's listen to learn more.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

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3. LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Say the key passage phrase in different voices (whisper, underwater, shouting, etc) Ask the children how they think Mary may have sounded when she ran back to tell everyone the good news that Jesus was alive.

SAY *Our Christ connection reminds us that God raised Jesus from the dead to be King over everything. We can tell everyone the good news of Jesus: He is alive!*

ACTIVITIES

COVER A FROWN

Gather **paper plates (two per child)**. Draw a sad face filling the center of one paper plate. Cut the other paper plate in half and draw a smile (without eyes) on the semicircle. Display the paper plates as you talk about the Bible. Invite each toddler to cover her frown with a smile.

SAY *Were Jesus' friends happy or sad that Jesus died? Yes. Jesus' friends were very sad that He died. But God made Jesus alive again! Jesus' friends were very happy He was alive!*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the main points below:

Jesus' friends saw Jesus alive.

Jesus said the Bible is about Him.

Jesus is still alive today.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Luke 24 and tell the following Bible story:

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES

Jesus' friends met together in a house. As the friends talked, Jesus came and stood right there with them. Jesus' friends were afraid! Were they seeing a ghost? Jesus said, "Look at Me. Touch Me. A ghost does not have skin and bones, but I do. I am not a ghost." Jesus was alive! What good news! The friends were so happy! Jesus' friends gave Jesus some fish to eat. Jesus talked to them and said, "The Bible is about Me." "

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.