

7. Easter (Luke 24:1-12)

“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
What's Hard for You to Believe?
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Go and Tell
Personalized Cross
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Offering basket | Pencils | Markers | Ribbon | Handheld paper punch | Scissors

Gather: TV/DVD player

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Open space | Box cutter and foam board or cardboard crosses | Variety of washi tape | Tablecloth | LED candle | Easter lily

Bless: Tablecloth | LED candle | Easter lily | TV/DVD player

Before You Teach

Happy Resurrection day! Today, we explore one of the most important stories of the Christian faith—the story of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Our Bible story begins as some of the women of the community of believers who were close to Jesus arrive at Jesus’ tomb. They have come to anoint his body with fragrant spices, as was the tradition for burials at the time. (This was typically done before burial, but those who put Jesus’ body there had not handled it properly.) When they arrive, they find the tomb empty and Jesus nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, two men in “gleaming bright clothing” appear (verse 4). We understand these men to be angels. Their bright clothing denotes power from God. The women are naturally frightened and bow before them. The angels quickly put them at ease, asking, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (verse 5). The angels tell the women that Jesus is not there because he has been raised from the dead. They also remind the women of Jesus’ prophecy about the events of his own life. The women leave the tomb and go to tell the disciples and others what they have seen. The others don’t believe the women, but Peter goes to the tomb to check things out. Peter sees for himself that the tomb is empty and goes home wondering what has happened.

This week’s Bible story offers an opportunity to discuss belief and to explore what we believe and why we believe it. We’ll also play a game to help us remember how word of Jesus’ resurrection spread. There is also an option for making a colorful cross keepsake to help remember the story. In addition, we’ll celebrate Easter! Overall, you’ll want the children to come away from the session with an understanding that though it was hard for Jesus’ followers to believe then, and is hard for some to believe now, Jesus was raised from the dead and that is why Easter Sunday is a day of celebration!

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display either attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16–17 or 15 & 18) at eye level.

- Play “Part of the Story” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the children mark the “Attendance Chart” by signing their first names on week #7.

SAY: Today is Easter!

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 7 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “What’s Going On?” (Activity Sheets—p. 15). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “The Angels Said” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 16).

SAY: Today, we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus!

OR

B—What’s Hard for You to Believe? (Discussion)

Before class: Think about things that are hard for you to believe so that you can contribute to the discussion.

ASK: Can you imagine being one of the women who went to Jesus’ tomb and found that he had been raised from the dead? Can you imagine seeing or talking to angels?

SAY: There are many things in our Bible story that would be hard to believe.

ASK: What are some other things that are hard for you to believe?

- Allow the class to discuss their thoughts, and contribute your own information where it is appropriate to do so.

ASK: When something is hard to believe, what makes you believe in it anyway?

- Discuss and contribute your thoughts where it is appropriate to do so.

TIP: *Be prepared to steer the conversation in the appropriate direction if the children get off topic.*

Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring a chair or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a helpful way for children to move easily from one activity to the next.*

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What have you seen that was so unbelievable that it was hard to believe your eyes?
 - Did you tell anyone about what you saw, and how did they respond to what you told them?
 - What are some of your favorite Easter memories?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—Luke 24:1-12).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 7.

SAY: Today, we’re celebrating Easter!

ASK: The Easter lily reminds me of Jesus. What reminds you of Jesus?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Easter” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 7).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 2 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 7 & 26).

- Tell the children the Bible verse: “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9).
 - Invite the children to say the verse with you.
 - Have the children greet other children in the room by saying the Bible verse to them followed by, “Happy Easter!”
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Go and Tell (Game)

Before class: Clear a space in your classroom or find an open space in which to play.

SAY: In our Bible story, the women who discovered that Jesus had been raised from the dead went to tell the disciples and others. Let's play a game to help us remember how they spread the news of Jesus' resurrection.

- Have the children form teams, and line up with half of their team on one side of the room and half on the other side. Begin the game by whispering a message to the first person in line for each team on one side of the room. Consider using, “He isn't here, but has been raised” (verse 5) as the message. The first person in line for each team will move quickly across the room and whisper the message to his or her teammate. The listening teammate will then move back across the room and whisper the message to the next person in line for their team. The first team to have all team members receive the message wins.

OR

Personalized Cross (Craft)

Before class: Gather a box cutter, foam board or buy or order generic cardboard crosses from a craft supply source, scissors, a handheld paper punch, ribbon, markers, and a variety of washi tape. If using foam board, use “Cross” (Leader Guide—p. 48) to trace and cut out enough crosses for your class.

SAY: Let's make a cross to remind us of Jesus.

- Give each child a cross. Allow the children to decorate their cross using either markers with a washi tape border (by wrapping the cross's edges in tape) or covering the entire cross in washi tape. When they are finished, have them use the paper punch to make a hole at the top of the cross. Then let them thread a piece of ribbon through the hole and tie it in a knot or bow to make a hanger.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Tear out the Benjie, Cinnamon, baby elephant, and the Zoo figures (Class Kit—p. 19).

- Allow the children to work together to assemble the figures.
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Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, Easter lily, and an LED candle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 2 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 30) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about Easter. Let’s learn to sign a Bible verse that people used to express their joy about Jesus!

- Gather the children around the Bible Verse Signs poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
 - Teach the children to sign the verse.
 - Have the children sign the verse to another child in the class.
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Praising

Before class: Gather a TV/DVD player and the Adventure DVD.

SAY: In honor of Jesus’ resurrection, let’s celebrate with song and dance.

- Play “Part of the Story” on the Adventure DVD.
 - Let the children dance and sing along.
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Blessing

SAY: Let’s share the news of Jesus’ resurrection with one another as we remember the Bible story and the women who shared the news that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

- Gather around the worship center, and light the candle.
- Have the children greet as many children in the class with the words, “happy Resurrection day!”
- When all have had a chance to greet one another,

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to save us all and for raising him from the dead. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about Easter? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets—Session 7 and the Unit 2 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Cross

