

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
Easter
Resurrection Rolls
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

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

3. Respond

Suncatchers
Share the Good News
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape | Yarn

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares | Recipe ingredients and utensils (p. 48)

Explore: Bell

Respond: Awl | Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Sidewalk chalk | Food coloring | Lids (small, plastic) | Multipurpose lighter | Toothpicks

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

The Christian church has chosen to gather on Sunday mornings. It is to remind ourselves of that early Sunday morning many years ago when it was discovered that the tomb was empty. We come together to praise God and give thanks for the good news of the empty tomb!

Although their accounts differ in details, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each give an account of the empty tomb. However, no Gospel describes the Resurrection itself. Jesus' Resurrection remains part of the mystery of our faith. Ours is a Resurrection faith, one that does not rely on evidence of how the Resurrection occurred. We know Jesus is alive because of the witness of those who experienced the presence of the risen Jesus, and by our own experiences of Jesus' presence with us.

In Luke's account, the women followers discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty. They weren't looking for an empty tomb. They were going to the tomb with spices they had prepared to take care of Jesus' body. When they arrived, the stone was rolled away. Not knowing what to make of this, they looked inside, but Jesus' body wasn't there. Luke wrote that at this point two angels suddenly appeared, frightening the women and asking them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

According to Luke, the disciples heard from the women the news of the empty tomb. The disciples thought the women were talking nonsense and didn't believe them. Peter ran to the tomb and discovered for himself that it was empty, but didn't encounter any angels.

Enjoy celebrating Easter with your children. Easter is a time to celebrate God's great, never-ending love. Jesus is alive!

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “Part of the Story” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Easter (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 7).

- Distribute “Run and Tell”/”Names” (pp. 15-16).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Resurrection Rolls (Cooking)

Before class: See the recipe (Leader Guide—p. 48) for ingredients to obtain.

SAY: Today we will make rolls to represent Jesus and Jesus’ Resurrection.

- Follow the directions to make the rolls.
 - When the rolls are cool, let the children enjoy a snack.
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Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

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

ASK: What reminds you of Jesus?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 7).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the two Narrator roles, then present “Easter.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 2 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 12 & 21). Review Unit 2 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 95).

- Recite the Bible verse: “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Suncatchers (Art)

Before class: Obtain plastic lids (one per child), awl, food coloring, toothpicks. Cut 12" yarn lengths.

- Distribute lids. Direct the children to fill the lids with glue. Then they will put a few drops of food coloring on top of the glue. Only use two or three colors.
- Use toothpicks to make designs by moving the tips of the toothpicks through the colored glue.
- Let the suncatchers dry (outside, if possible). Then the lids can be peeled off the suncatchers.
- With an awl, poke one hole in an edge of each suncatcher. Then direct children to thread yarn through the holes and tie. Hang suncatchers in the room or send them home with the children.

SAY: In today's Bible story, the women found the empty tomb at sunrise. When we see our suncatchers, we can remember that Jesus is alive!

OR

B—Share the Good News (Collaborative Art)

Before class: Obtain sidewalk chalk. If necessary, get permission to draw on the church sidewalks.

SAY: Today we celebrate the goodness of Jesus!

ASK: What good news would you like to share about Jesus?

- Take the children outside. Distribute chalk and let them draw or write messages about Easter.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and the cut out Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Poster: Lent (Class Kit—p. 31).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about Easter.

SAY: Today is Easter! Alleluia!

ASK: What special things do you do with your family to celebrate Easter?

SAY: When you go home today, talk to your family about Jesus.

- Read together the prayer on the Lent poster.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares, then sit in a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 2 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 12 & 21). Obtain envelope containing cut out Poster Pieces: Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Kit—p. 29).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Easter” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to know Jesus will always be with us. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets for “Part of the Story” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Part of the Story” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

SAY: Let’s say an affirmation of our faith—a reminder of who we are called to be as Christians.

- Invite the children to repeat each phrase after you.

I believe in God, who loves me and wants me to love others.

God is the Creator of all things.

I believe in Jesus, who shows me God’s love.

He hoped for a world where everyone could live in peace.

I believe in the Holy Spirit—a Spirit that we cannot see but feel.

The Holy Spirit helps me know God is everywhere.

God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit teach me that I can be the Church,

reminding everyone of God’s power and grace. Amen.

At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 7 leaflet.

Resurrection Rolls

- 1 can crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- water
- cinnamon
- sugar

1. Gather the ingredients and preheat the oven the temperature noted on the dough packaging.
2. Unroll the dough, separating each section. Explain that this represents the cloth they wrapped Jesus in.
3. Give children a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus.
4. Roll the marshmallow in water. This symbolizes the embalming oils.
5. Mix the cinnamon and sugar in a bowl. Roll the marshmallow in mixture. This represents the spices used to prepare Jesus' body for burial.
6. Wrap the marshmallow in the dough, being sure to pinch the dough together securely on the sides. This represents how Jesus' body was wrapped.
7. Repeat with each marshmallow and place the rolls in the oven (symbolizing the tomb). Bake for 8 to 10 minutes.
8. When the time is up, open the tomb and remove the rolls. When the rolls are cool enough to handle, distribute to the children. Let them open one to discover what happened to the marshmallow. It has disappeared! This signifies how Jesus was resurrected.

