

7. Easter (Luke 24:1-12)

Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Clothespin Butterflies
Egg Rolling
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

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Flower Cross
Alleluia!
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Glue | Construction paper | Plain white paper | Scissors

Gather: Small, zip-top plastic bags | Dry cereal, crackers, carrots, or grapes | Clothespins | Small self-adhesive googly eyes | Plastic Easter eggs | Small boxes | Coverups | Washable tempera paints in small cups | Plastic spoons

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Lily bulb(s) | Full-grown lily plant(s) | Spring-themed stickers and other craft materials (optional)

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

The Christian church chooses to gather on Sunday mornings to be reminded of that early Sunday morning many years ago when some of Jesus’ followers discovered the empty tomb. Every Sunday morning is a “little Easter” when we gather to praise God and to give thanks for the risen Christ! Enjoy celebrating Easter with your children. Easter is a time to celebrate God’s great, never-ending love. Jesus is alive!

Although the details of their accounts differ, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the story of the empty tomb. None of the Gospels, however, describe the Resurrection itself. Christ’s resurrection remains part of the mystery of our faith. Ours is a resurrection faith, one that does not rely on evidence of how it 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 were the ones who discovered that Jesus’ tomb is empty. The women 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. Then two angels suddenly appeared, frightening the women and asking them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” When the rest of the disciples heard the news of the empty tomb, they didn’t believe the women. Peter ran to the tomb and discovered for himself that it was empty.

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GATHER

Greeting

- Play, “Part of the Story” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD and Leader Guide—p. 92) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
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A—Clothespin Butterflies (Snack)

Before class: Place snacks in a small zip-top bag for each child. You may wish to use dry cereal, crackers, or grapes (cut in half) and carrots. Leave some space in each bag so the snacks can be separated into two sides as butterfly wings. Always remember to check for food allergies and have the children wash their hands before any activity involving food.

SAY: When it is time for metamorphosis, a caterpillar will go into a chrysalis. When the chrysalis opens, the caterpillar emerges as a butterfly. Caterpillars and butterflies remind us of how Jesus was in the tomb for three days, and on Easter he rose from the dead. Let’s make a healthy snack that you can take home with you or share with a friend.

- Give each child a clothespin and two small, self-adhesive googly eyes. Encourage the children to color their clothespins and add the eyes to one side of the clothespin.
 - Give each child a bag of snacks, and help the child attach his or her clothespin butterfly body to the center of the bag, creating a wing on each side of the butterfly’s body.
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OR

B—Egg Rolling (Art)

- Place a piece of paper inside the bottom of a small box. Then have the child choose one or more colors of paint and add a few drops of the paints onto the center of the paper inside the box.
 - Invite the child to place a plastic Easter egg on top of the paper and then carefully tilt the box back and forth so that the egg rolls and creates a design on the paper.
 - Remove the egg and the child’s paper. Set the paper aside to dry, and rinse off and dry the plastic egg. Repeat the activity for each child.
 - Allow time for the children to admire one another’s creations.
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Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up, and then move to the Bible story circle shouting, “*Happy Easter.*”

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: Today is Easter! Let's get ready to celebrate!

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about an amazing miracle!

- Tell the children the story, “The Tomb Is Empty” (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 388).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 7 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: What reminds you of Jesus?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of “Easter” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 7).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

TIP: Printable “Word Cards” for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 2 (Class Kit—p. 5) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 95 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 2 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity while shouting, “*Jesus is alive!*”

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post “All Are Welcome” (Class Kit—p. 27) on a wall or bulletin board. Purchase or find at least one lily bulb and a full-grown lily plant.

- Play, “All Are Welcome” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: In the Adventure video today, the kids helped Abuela cut lilies to decorate the church. She explained how a lily grows from a bulb.

- Show the children a lily bulb and a full-grown lily plant.
 - Give the children the opportunity to explore the bulb(s) and plant(s).
 - Have the children wash and dry their hands after handling the bulbs and lily plants.
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A—Flower Cross (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheet—Session 7.
- Encourage the children to create Easter crosses according to the instructions.

OPTION: *Let the children add more decorations to their paper crosses. Provide spring-themed stickers and other craft materials for them to use.*

OR

B—Alleluia! (Art)

Before class: Make a copy of “Alleluia! Easter Lilies” (p. 48) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Alleluia! Easter Lilies” (p. 48) and invite him or her to color the poster.
 - **SAY:** *Alleluia* is a word that is used to joyfully praise God. What are some other ways we can joyfully praise God? (*Allow time for responses.*)
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up, and then move to the Bible story circle shouting, “*Happy Easter! Jesus is alive!*”

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the Walking with Jesus Mural Pieces (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Walking with Jesus Mural (Class Kit—pp. 2 & 31) on a wall or bulletin board. Find and prepare one or two pictures of people in your church, family, or community to add to the mural.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the three happy followers of Jesus (**H**) somewhere on the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

SAY: We will be adding more pictures of people from the Bible who knew Jesus two more Sundays. Some of them knew Jesus before Easter, and some didn't know Jesus until after Easter. We know Jesus too! I wonder who you can think of who is “Walking with Jesus” like the people in our Bible stories.

- Tell the children about the pictures you prepared before class, and then tape the pictures to the mural. Invite the children who brought in their own pictures to tell about them and add them to the mural. Remind the children they are invited to bring their own pictures of people who are “Walking with Jesus” to add for two more Sundays.
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Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “Jesus Is Alive!” (Class Kit—p. 25).

TIP: If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

Blessing

- Invite the children to sit in a circle. Encourage them to sing with you the song, “Jesus Loves Me.”

PRAY: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us! Amen.

At Home with God

ASK: What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 7. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

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

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Alleluia! Easter Lilies

