

“Dead Or Alive?”

Easter Lesson

Main Focus:

Jesus rose from the grave!



Power Verse:

“I am the living one. I died, but look - I am alive forever and ever!”

- Revelation 1:18a



Whatchagaddaknow:

“Jesus Was Dead, But Now He’s ALIVE!”

LEADER’S INFO

Easter is the most significant celebration in Christianity, yet millions of people still question: “Is Jesus really alive?” Throughout history, some have believed that Jesus’ resurrection was just a myth, a hoax, or even a trick. But the truth is Jesus was dead... and now He is ALIVE!

This lesson will take kids on a mystery-solving adventure as they investigate the biggest question of all time: “Is Jesus dead or alive?” Your kids will be like detectives on a case—examining the evidence, studying the account of “eyewitnesses,” and uncovering the truth of the resurrection.

Through this thorough investigation, kids will actively engage in discovering the truth for themselves—and once they do, they’ll never forget it! Your kids will discover and declare the truth: Jesus is alive, and that changes everything!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Dead Or Alive?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Wiggy Pop teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Hoppy Easter”



Bible Story

“Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”



Power Verse (No Video)

“I am the living one. I died, but look - I am alive forever and ever!”

- Revelation 1:18a



Call To Action

“Dead Or Alive?”



Rewind

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

Jesus rose from the grave!



Power Verse:

“I am the living one. I died, but look -
I am alive forever and ever!”

- Revelation 1:18a



Whatchagaddaknow:

“Jesus Was Dead, But Now
He’s ALIVE!”

Lesson Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Wacky Wally” Theme Graphic/Music
- An Easter Basket
- A Chocolate Bunny

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Hoppy Easter” Game Graphic
- One Dozen Plastic Eggs
- Twelve Small Pieces Of Paper

Bible Story

- “Jesus’ Death and Resurrection” Graphics

Power Verse (NO Video)

- “Power Verse” Graphic

Call To Action

- “Dead Or Alive?” Graphics
- White Cotton Handkerchief
- Small Bottle Of Iodine
- Large Bowl
- Bleach

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Plastic Easter Eggs
- A Timer

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“Hoppy Easter”

Bible Story

“Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”

Power Verse (NO VIDEO)

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Call To Action

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Rewind

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! I have a question for you—do you like a good mystery? Ever tried to solve a mystery?
(allow response)

There have been some BIG mysteries in history that people have tried to solve for years! Like...

What really happened to the lost city of Atlantis?
Is there really a Loch Ness Monster?
And what about Bigfoot—does he really exist?

People have spent years searching for clues, asking questions, and trying to figure out the truth about these mysteries! Admittedly, those are kind of silly. But today, we are investigating a mystery that is even bigger and more important than all of those combined.

It’s a mystery that has been talked about for over 2,000 years! Some people believe one thing, while others believe another. To find out what that mystery is, I want you to check out this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video”)

Leader: “Is Jesus dead, or is He alive?” Some people say Jesus was just a good teacher, but He died and stayed dead. Others say He was the Son of God and He actually came back to life! So...which one is it? Dead...or Alive?

Well, today, we are putting on our detective hats and searching for clues in the Bible! We are going to look at the evidence, hear the account of eyewitnesses, and discover the TRUTH about what really happened on that first Easter morning!

Let’s start our investigation with a special video to learn “Whatchagaddaknow!”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Wacky Wally” *(A quirky young man who dreams of being a superhero. What he lacks in superpowers he makes up for with enthusiasm.)*

Wally: *(Enters dragging an Easter basket, mumbling to himself)* I knew it! I knew it! The chocolate bunny was a trap!

Leader: Wacky Wally?! What happened to you?

Wally: *(Eyes wide)* It was an ambush! I was out hunting Easter eggs—minding my own business—when I saw it. The mother of all chocolate bunnies. Solid. 92% cocoa. And when I went to take a bite—BOOM! Chocolate explosion! I still can’t feel my tongue!

Leader: *(Trying not to laugh)* Sounds like quite the Easter adventure.

Wally: You have NO idea! I’ve eaten seventeen Peeps, two chocolate bunnies, and an entire basket of jelly beans. Now my insides feel like a bouncy castle full of sugared-up hamsters!

Leader: Wally... you do know that Easter isn’t just about candy and finding eggs, right?

Wally: Yeah... I kinda figured. I mean... I was thinking about it. Everyone says Easter is about Jesus, but like, is He dead or alive? Like, for real?

Leader: That’s a great question, Wally. What do you think?

Wally: Well, I know Jesus died on the cross. That’s the Good Friday part, right? But I also heard He came back to life! So, which is it? Is He dead or alive?

Leader: *(Smiling)* He’s alive! That’s what makes Easter so incredible! Jesus didn’t stay in the tomb. On the third day, He rose from the grave. The angel at the tomb said, “He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead!”

Wally: *(Drops jaw)* Whoa! So He actually came BACK to life? He’s not half alive like some kind of zombie, right?

Leader: *(Laughs)* I assure you, Jesus is NOT a zombie! Jesus came back with God’s power—fully alive. It proved He was the Son of God and He defeated sin and death for us.

Wally: So we don’t just celebrate fun eggs and chocolate... we celebrate Easter because Jesus is ALIVE!

Leader: Exactly! Because Jesus is alive, we can have new life, too. Easter is the best news ever!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Wally: *(Grabs a chocolate bunny)* Sorry, Choco-Bun-Bun. You're sweet and all, but you didn't save my soul. I'm celebrating JESUS now!

Leader: That's the best decision you'll ever make.

Wally: Next year, I'm skipping the sugar coma and throwing a "Jesus is ALIVE" party! I'm gonna get a T-shirt that says: "SAY NO TO CHOCOLATE!"

Leader: Well, it's okay to have SOME chocolate... maybe cut down just a little. But its always a good idea to celebrate Jesus!

Wally: *(Waves to the kids)* Happy Easter, everybody! Jesus is RIIIIISEN! And I'm gonna RISE... straight to brush my teeth. These jellybeans are turning my tongue all purple!

(EXITS AS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME!

“Hoppy Easter”

Items Needed For Game:

One dozen plastic eggs; twelve small pieces of paper

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Preparation:

Choose six boys and six girls to participate in this game. Write various point amounts on each of the pieces of paper. Place one piece of paper inside each of the twelve eggs. Scatter the eggs throughout the room.

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How To Play:

Each participant must hop (*one at a time in a relay*) to retrieve an egg of their choice. Once all of the players have retrieved an egg, open the eggs to reveal the point totals. Add up all of the points for each team. The team with the most points is the winner!



Bible Story

“Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”

Materials Needed:

The Bible Story graphics; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 23:50-24:12; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell it

The Story:

Today, we are going to go straight to the source to find out the TRUTH about the mystery we are trying to solve, today. Jesus - “Dead or Alive?”

Jesus started His ministry on Earth at the age of 30. (*show pic*) He spent three years preaching God’s love to the world and performing miracles. Jesus’ twelve disciples knew He had promised to set up God’s Kingdom on Earth. He was going to be the ruler of the world.



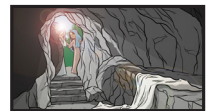
One day, something terrible happened. (*show pic*) Jesus was arrested, beaten, and sentenced to death. His hands and feet were nailed to a cross. The soldiers laughed at Him and made fun of Him. The disciples couldn’t believe it. They expected Jesus to fight back and defeat His enemies. Jesus didn’t fight back. Instead, He prayed for God to forgive the people who were hurting Him. Sadly, Jesus died on the cross that day.



(*show pic*) The disciples were sad. They could not understand. They wondered, “How could this be happening? Jesus had such an incredible ministry. He had promised to set up His Kingdom, but now He is dead.” Jesus’ body was placed in a tomb, and a large stone was rolled over the entrance.



So, you are probably thinking, “Mystery solved! You just said that Jesus died.” That’s true, but let’s hear the rest of the story! You see, three days later, some women came to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body with some perfume. Guess what they found? (*show pic*) The tomb was open, and Jesus’ body wasn’t there - only His grave clothes were. Wow!



Suddenly, an angel appeared to the women and said, (*show pic*) “Why are you looking for Jesus? He isn’t here. He is risen from the dead!” The women went to find the disciples to tell them the good news - Jesus was no longer dead! Jesus was ALIVE!



(*show pic*) Jesus later appeared to the disciples and many others, showing that He was, indeed, alive! Because Jesus is alive, we celebrate Easter! We celebrate because Jesus conquered death and the grave! So, the next time someone asks you...you can tell them, “Mystery solved! Jesus is ALIVE!”





Call To Action

“Dead Or Alive?”

Materials Needed:

“Dead Or Alive?” graphics; white cotton handkerchief; small bottle of iodine; large bowl; bleach

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Dead Or Alive?”; pour some bleach in the large bowl

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we have been tackling the mystery of whether Jesus is dead or alive. While we have definitely proven that Jesus is alive...there’s still a pretty big question. Why did Jesus die in the first place? While it’s true the soldiers and religious leaders plotted to kill Jesus, what was the real reason?

Jesus didn’t have to die. Jesus chose to die. You see, Jesus could have called 10,000 angels from Heaven to come defend him against the soldiers. He would have had no problem defeated them. But instead...

Jesus Died To Pay For Our Sins *(slide)*



(Hold up a clean, white handkerchief) Take a look at this handkerchief. It’s perfectly clean. It’s going to represent our lives - pure and without sin. But there’s a problem. The Bible tells us in **Romans 3:23** that “everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” That means every single one of us has done things that go against what God says is right. Lying, disobeying parents, being mean to others—these are all sins. And sin is like a stain on our lives.

(Hold up a bottle of iodine) Let’s say this iodine represents sin. Every time we sin, it stains us. *(Drip iodine onto the cloth)* Sin destroys our lives—leaving a horrible stain! No matter how hard I try, I can’t just rub this stain off. And sin is the same way. We can’t erase our own sins, no matter how hard we try to be “good enough.” The Bible tells us in **Romans 6:23** that “the wages of sin is death.” That means the punishment for sin is separation from God forever. That’s a BIG problem!

But here’s the good news! God loves us so much that He made a way for our sins to be completely washed away. The Bible says in **Romans 5:8**, “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Even though we were covered in sin, Jesus came to take our punishment. He never sinned—not even once! But He chose to take all of our stains, all of our mistakes, and all of our sins onto Himself when He died on the cross.

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Call To Action

(Continued)

When Jesus died on the cross (*dip the handkerchief into the bleach mixture and gently stir*) He took our sin, paying the price for us. And - (*pull out the clean handkerchief and hold it up*) washed our sins away! The stain of our sin is gone and Jesus makes us clean again!

You see, Jesus died to pay for our sins, but He didn't stay dead...

Jesus Came Back To Life On The Third Day (slide)



Early on Sunday morning, some women went to visit Jesus' tomb, and when they got there, they saw that the stone had been rolled away! Jesus' body was gone! But wait—how do we know this really happened? Maybe someone just took Jesus' body, right? Nope! The Bible tells us in *1 Corinthians 15:3-6* that after Jesus came back to life, He appeared to over 500 people! That's a LOT of eyewitnesses! And not only that, but the people who saw Him were willing to die rather than stop telling others that Jesus was alive. If they were lying, do you think they would have risked their lives? No way! People don't die for a lie. They saw Jesus with their own eyes, and they couldn't stop talking about it!”

And guess what?

Because Jesus Is Alive, I Can Have Eternal Life (slide)



When Jesus rose from the dead, He didn't just do it to show off. He did it so that we could have eternal life with Him. The Bible tells us in *John 11:25*, “Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’” That means that when we put our trust in Jesus, He gives us a brand-new kind of life—life that never ends! We don't have to be afraid of death because Jesus already defeated it!

You see, Jesus' resurrection wasn't just for Him—it was for us, too! He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and have a relationship with God forever. But here's the thing: we have to choose it. Jesus already did everything for us—He died, He rose again, and He made a way for us to be with Him forever. We have to make the choice to accept Jesus and the eternal life He offers.

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Give every child an opportunity to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and give them eternal life. Easter is the perfect day for this. Jesus is alive, and He wants to live in their hearts. Pray for every child to receive Jesus as their Savior. Then celebrate the fact that Jesus is ALIVE!



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “Jesus Was Dead, But Now He’s ALIVE!”

2. What did they place in front of Jesus’ tomb?

Answer: A Large Stone

3. How many days was Jesus dead?

Answer: Three

4. Who were the first to see that the tomb was empty?

Answer: A Group of Women

5. Who told the women that Jesus was alive?

Answer: Angels

6. According to our lesson today, “_____ Died To Pay For Our Sins.”

Answer: Jesus

7. According to our lesson today, “Jesus Came Back To Life On The _____ Day.”

Answer: Third

8. According to our lesson today, “Because Jesus Is Alive, I Can Have _____ Life.”

Answer: Eternal

9. True or False: We don’t have to be afraid of death because Jesus defeated it.

Answer: True

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Revelation 1:18a