He Is Risen *Bible lesson*

Luke 19, 22–24 · 30-minute core or 60-minute full lesson



BIG IDEA

Jesus is alive!

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 24:6 BSB

“He is not here; He has risen!”

LESSON AT A GLANCE

0–6	**Welcome** · Coats on the road	
6–10	**Hook** · The empty box	
10–20	**The Story** · The Story	●
20–30	**Talk** · Talk	●
30–35	**Memory Verse** · Memory Verse	●
35–40	**Sing** · Sing	
40–50	**Activity** · Roll the stone review	
50–55	**Respond** · Good news to tell	
55–60	**Pray & Send Home** · Pray & Send Home	●

● Core step. Teach just these for the 30-minute version.

Leader prep

Bible background

On the Sunday before He died, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, and the crowds spread their cloaks on the road and praised God, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:35–38). Many hoped for a king who would fight Rome. Jesus came as a King who serves (Mark 10:45).

On Thursday evening He ate the Passover meal with the Twelve. He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, “This is My body, given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19). In the garden on the Mount of Olives He prayed, “Yet not My will, but Yours be done.” (22:42), and was arrested that night. Pilate found no basis for a charge against Him but gave in to the crowd (23:4, 13–25). The soldiers made Simon of Cyrene carry the cross behind Jesus (23:26), and Jesus was crucified. He said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.” and breathed His last (23:46). Joseph of Arimathea laid His body in a tomb cut into the rock (23:50–53).

Very early on the first day of the week, the women came with spices and found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty (24:1–3). Two men in shining clothes asked them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” (24:5–6). Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb weeping until Jesus spoke her name, and she went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:11–18). That evening Jesus stood among His friends and said, “Peace be with you.” (Luke 24:36).

Where is Jesus in this story?

This whole story is Jesus: it is the center of the Bible’s big story. Jesus was not a victim who lost control. He chose to give His life, taking the punishment for our sin so we could be forgiven and be friends with God (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4). Then God raised Him from the dead, which shows that sin and death are beaten. Point kids to what Jesus did for them, not to how good they must be. Because He is alive, He knows their names, just as He knew Mary’s.

Supplies

- Green paper palm branches (one per child)
  Prep: Cut simple leaf shapes from green paper, or use real leaves.
- A few jackets or towels (the coats on the road)
- A shoebox with a lid, and a folded white cloth or napkin
  Prep: Put only the folded cloth inside and tape the lid lightly shut.
- A soft ball or cushion (the stone) and a strip of tape for a finish line
- Printed story cards, verse poster, coloring pages and parent pages
  Prep: Print from the Classroom resources section.
- A screen for the story video (optional)

Questions kids might ask

“Why did Jesus have to die?”

Every one of us does wrong things, and wrong things pull us away from God. Jesus never did anything wrong, and He took the punishment for our wrongs so we could be forgiven and be friends with God. He did it because He loves us.

“Did it hurt Jesus?”

Yes. Be honest and calm, without details: it hurt very much, and it was the saddest day there ever was. Then move to the good news: Jesus is not hurting now. He is alive, and He will never die again.

“Why didn’t Jesus stop them? He’s strong enough.”

He was strong enough. He chose not to stop it, because dying for us was the reason He came. Nobody took His life against His will; He gave it.

“My grandpa died. Will he come back like Jesus?”

Go gently, and it’s fine to say you miss him too. Jesus rising is God’s promise that death doesn’t get the last word. The Bible says that one day Jesus will make everything new and wipe away every tear, and everyone who belongs to Him will be with Him forever. Until then it’s OK to be sad. Jesus cried when His friend died, too.

If a child shares something serious

When kids share what scares or worries them, some may mention something serious, like someone hurting them or a big fear at home. Listen, thank them for telling you, and don’t promise to keep it secret. Tell your ministry leader the same day and follow your church’s child-safety policy. Some kids in the room may have lost someone, or have someone sick at home. Watch for kids who go quiet or upset, sit with them, and let their parent know after class. Never promise that sick people always get better; say that Jesus is with us when people are sick, and one day He will make everything well, forever.

Teach it

SAY read aloud DO leader action KIDS SAY call and response

1 Welcome 6 min

Full lesson

Coats on the road

DO Make two teams. Each team gets two jackets or towels. Teams race to build a ‘road’ to the wall by laying the coats down, picking up the back one and laying it in front, while one player walks the road waving a palm branch.

SAY That’s what the crowds did for Jesus: they laid their coats on the road like a royal carpet. They thought they knew what kind of King He was. They were in for a surprise.

2 Hook 4 min

Full lesson

The empty box

DO Show the taped shoebox. Tell kids a guard watched it all weekend and nobody saw anyone touch it. Let one child open it: nothing inside but a folded cloth.

SAY What could explain this? Hold on to your ideas. On the first Easter morning, some women found a tomb just like this box: empty, with the cloths left behind (John 20:6–7).

3 The Story 10 min

Core

DO Play the He Is Risen video (4 min), or read it aloud with the story cards.

SAY Listen for what Jesus did on purpose, and what Mary saw in the garden.

DO After the video, have kids open their Bibles to Luke 24:1–8. Ask a confident reader to read it aloud.

SAY Jesus wasn't trapped. He chose the cross to take away our wrongs, and He told His friends ahead of time that He would rise on the third day (Luke 24:7). And He did.

KIDS SAY **He is not here; He has risen!**

4 Talk 10 min

Core

The crowds cheered "Hosanna!" on Sunday. Why do you think a crowd shouted against Jesus a few days later?

Listen for: Many wanted a king who would fight Rome, not a King who serves. Some leaders were jealous and stirred the crowd up. Crowds can change quickly.

Could Jesus have stopped the soldiers? Why didn't He?

Listen for: Yes. He chose to give His life, because He came to take away our sins (Luke 22:42).

Why did Mary think Jesus was the gardener? What changed when He said her name?

Listen for: She was crying and wasn't expecting Him alive. When He said "Mary," she knew Him at once (John 20:15–16).

Why is "Jesus is alive" the best news in the world?

Listen for: It means His death really did take away our sin, death is beaten, and Jesus is with us today.

OLDER KIDS Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–4. Paul says this news is "of first importance." Why do you think Jesus rising matters more than anything else about Christianity?

5 Memory Verse 5 min

Core

DO Write the verse on a whiteboard or hold up the poster. Teach the motions.

> **“He is not here; He has risen!”**
>
> Luke 24:6 · BSB

MOTIONS

- **He is not here;** Shake your head, hands out, palms up, and look all around.
- **He has risen!** Crouch low, then jump up tall with both arms high.

PRACTICE IT THREE WAYS

1. Say it with motions.
2. Disappearing words: erase or cover one word at a time until kids say it from memory.
3. Say it fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

6 Sing 5 min

Full lesson

> The Little Lantern song for this story is coming soon. For now, sing a favorite worship song about Jesus being alive.

7 Activity 10 min

Full lesson

Roll the stone review

DO Make two teams, each with a soft ball or cushion ‘stone’ at a start line across from a tape finish line. A right answer lets the team roll its stone one big step toward the finish. First stone across wins.

What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?
Listen for: A young donkey.

What did Jesus give His friends at the special supper, and what did He say?
Listen for: Bread and a cup. “This is My body, given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Who helped Jesus carry the cross?
Listen for: A man named Simon (Simon of Cyrene).

Who stayed in the garden crying, and what made her recognize Jesus?
Listen for: Mary Magdalene. He said her name.

Finish the verse: He is not here;...
Listen for: ...He has risen! (Luke 24:6)

> Prefer a quieter room? Use the activity sheet or coloring page instead.

8 Respond 5 min

Full lesson

Good news to tell

DO Kids write: “Jesus gave His life for me and He is alive. One person I want to tell this week is ____.”

OLDER KIDS Write a sentence to Jesus saying thank you for one specific thing He did in this story.

9 Pray & Send Home 5 min

Core

DO Pair kids up. Each shares one thing they want to thank Jesus for, and their partner prays a short thank-you for them.

SAY Close: Jesus, thank you for giving your life to take away our wrongs. Thank you that you rose again and you are alive today. Help us tell others the best news in the world. Amen.

DO Hand out parent pages.