



Lesson 6

## The Empty Tomb

Based on: Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33–24:9; John 19:38-42

*“How good it is to sing praises to our God.”*

Psalm 147:1



*Preschool*

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# Teacher Preparation

## Supplies

-Lesson 6 Teacher Guide - GL Preschool Year 2 Spring

You can use the [Teacher Preparation Sheet](#) to help plan for this lesson.

You can order the *Preschool Music #2 CD* or physical copies of lesson posters and other resources while supplies last by calling 800-446-7735.

## Who?

Jesus, religious leaders, Jesus' friends, two angels

## What?

After Jesus let people kill Him, God made Him alive again (Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33–24:9; John 19:38-42)

## When & Where?

About A.D. 30, in Jerusalem

## Why?

To help children thank God that Jesus is alive

## Goals For Each Child

1. **Tell that Jesus' friends were glad when they learned that Jesus is alive**
2. **Name a friend he or she wants to tell that Jesus is alive**
3. **Thank God that Jesus is alive**



## Teacher Challenge

**Read Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33—24:9; John 19:38-42.**

How has history's most important event made a difference in your life? What new change can it bring to your life this week?

It looked as if death had triumphed; but while Jesus' disciples cowered in fear, Jesus was bursting through the gates of hell "with laughter," as Keith Green described it in his song "The Victor"—putting to death the power of death!

Jesus' resurrection is the pinnacle of history: in it, Satan was dealt the deathblow that would eventually finish him off. Jesus did exactly what He had said He would do, what the prophets predicted He would do, completing the task His Father had given Him to do!

-What is the most meaningful way you'll celebrate Jesus' resurrection?

-How can you communicate your joy to the children you teach?

Because most young children have not yet had firsthand experience with death, they may not comprehend what Jesus' death and resurrection are about. But let them share the joy and wonder that Jesus' victory has wrought in you! They'll respond gladly to the good news that "Jesus is alive!"



30 minutes

# Play to Learn

*Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities*

## Bible Story Activities

### Art Center

#### Supplies

- Bible
- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Crayons or markers
- Popped popcorn
- Glue

#### Prepare

On butcher paper draw a simple garden scene with a tomb and several trees.

#### Do

Children color scene with crayons or markers and glue popcorn to tree branches to make blossoms. Children snack on additional popcorn as they work.

#### Teaching Tip

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.

#### Tip For Younger Children



Instead of using popcorn, children glue colored cotton balls to trees.

## Game Center

### Supplies

- Bible
- Index cards
- Marker

### Prepare

Print "Good News!" on one index card for each child.

### Do

Place stack of prepared index cards on one side of the room. Children line up behind cards. Leader stands several feet away. Children take turns picking up a card and carrying it to leader. Leader and child say, **Good news! Jesus is alive!** Continue until each child has had a turn.

### Enrichment Idea

Suggest children move in different ways (hop, take large steps, crawl, etc.) as they bring you the Good News cards.

### Tip For Younger Children

Instead of writing, draw or photo copy a picture of Jesus on each card. Say, **Jesus is alive!** when child hands you card.

### Talk About



-Refer to open Bible. **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." In our Bible story, two angels told some woman the news that Jesus is alive. The women were glad to know that Jesus is alive. They thanked and praised God for the good news. The women ran to tell Jesus' other friends that Jesus was alive.**

-**Rachel, you have a smile on your face. Smiling shows that we are glad. What things make you glad? I'm very glad that Jesus is alive.**

-Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, that Jesus is alive. Amen.**

## Bible Verse Activities

### Blocks Center

#### Supplies

- Bible
- Transportation mat
- Blocks
- Toy people

#### Prepare

Lay out transportation mat in an open area in the Blocks Center.

#### Do

Children build a neighborhood by stacking blocks to make houses. Children use toy people to visit the different houses. **We can tell our friends and neighbors that Jesus is alive!**

#### Teaching Tip

If you do not have a transportation mat, draw a simple street scene with several intersections on a large sheet of butcher paper.

#### Tip For Younger Children



Build houses for children. Invite children to play with the toy people or add blocks to make the houses taller.

## Snack Center

### Supplies

- Bible
- Plastic egg for each child
- Cereal
- Large paper bag

### Prepare

Fill each plastic egg with a small amount of cereal. Place eggs in paper bag.

### Do

Invite children to line up several feet away from the paper bag. Children run to bag, pick up an egg and carry it back to a table. Children wash their hands and then eat cereal snack. **We can thank God for our snack.**

### Teaching Tip

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.

### Tip For Younger Children

Place snack in sandwich-sized plastic bags instead of plastic eggs.

### Talk About



**-Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." Praising God means that we thank Him. At Easter, we praise God because we are glad that Jesus is alive.**

**-It is good to know that Jesus is alive. You can tell your friends this good news. Shelby, who can you tell that Jesus is alive?**

**-Easter is a good time to thank and praise God that Jesus is alive. It is a good time to tell our friends that Jesus is alive.**

**-Pray, Thank You, God, that Jesus is alive. Amen.**



15 minutes

## Listen to Learn

### Large-Group Time

#### Supplies

- Bible
- Skitter puppet
- Tape
- Leaves
- Real or artificial flower
- Flannel board
- Optional—God's Story for Me Bible storybook
- Activity Poster 3 - GL PreK/K Year 2 Spring
- Story Figures 24-28 - GL PreK/K Year 2 Spring

*One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse*

### Prepare

Tape leaves to Skitter puppet.

### Come Together

Use this song to signal the beginning of Listen to Learn time. Doing the suggested motions, sing the following words to the tune of "Jingle Bells":

**Come and sing, come and sing.  
Wiggle, won't you please?  
First your fingers, then your arms,  
Wiggle now with me.**



Repeat.

Sing song several times, replacing the third line with other body parts to wiggle ("Next your shoulders and your head," "Now your legs and then your toes," etc.).

## Bible Verse

Show Activity Poster 2. **If you see someone singing, put your hand on your head. Jayce, point to someone you see singing.** Repeat with other pictured worship activities. Open your Bible to Psalm 147:1. **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." When we sing about God's love, we are singing praises.** Repeat verse several times with children.

## Enrichment Idea

Children clap as you play "How Good It Is."

## Prayer

**Let's thank God that Jesus is alive.** Pray with children **Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive today. Amen.**

## Song

**Singing about Jesus makes me glad! Let's jump and sing to show that we are glad that Jesus is alive.** Play "Jump, Shout!" several times, inviting children to sing along with you and to jump when they sing that word.

## Puppet Time

### Supplies

- "Spring" Puppet Script - GL Preschool Year 2 Spring

Use Skitter puppet covered with leaves to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.



## Spring

***(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)***



**Skitter:** *(Enters with leaves stuck all over him.)*

**Leader:** *(Begins to pick leaves off of SKITTER.)* Skitter, what happened to you?

**Skitter:** I was playing in the trees. Um . . . I think there is one more leaf on my back. *(Turns back towards kids.)* Can you get it?

**Leader:** Sure. *(Picks leaf off SKITTER's back.)* So you were playing in the trees.

**Skitter:** Yeah! I love, love, love playing in the trees, especially when the leaves are back.

**Leader:** When they're back? What do you mean?

**Skitter:** Right before winter, all the leaves fall, fall, fall off the trees.

**Leader:** Yes, they do.

**Skitter:** Well, I think the trees look really sad without their leaves. Every winter I think that maybe the trees died. BUT then in the spring the leaves grow, grow, grow back. Spring is always fun because everything comes alive again—the flowers grow, the grass grows, the leaves grow and then that means acorns grow, too!

**Leader:** You sure do like acorns.

**Skitter:** Yes, yes, yes! And when the leaves grow back on the trees, I can play, play, play in them again. I like to play all sorts of games with my friends, like Hide and Seek.

**Leader:** That sounds like lots of fun.

**Skitter:** Yes, it is. *(Sighs.)* Spring, spring, spring is wonderful!

**Leader:** I have to agree with you, Skitter. Spring is a wonderful time of year. But you know why I like spring?

**Skitter:** Why?



**Leader:** We celebrate Easter in the spring.

**Skitter:** Oh, oh, oh, that sounds like fun! What is Easter?

**Leader:** Easter is the time we celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive! The Bible tells us that Jesus died on a cross, but three days later He rose from the dead.

**Skitter:** Jesus is alive?

**Leader:** Yes, Jesus is alive!

**Skitter:** That's way, way, way more exciting than the leaves coming back on the trees!

**Leader:** You're right, Skitter! Bye!

**Skitter:** See you later! Bye, bye, bye!

## Bible Story

### The Empty Tomb | Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33–24:9; John 19:38-42

Use real or artificial flower and Figures 24-28 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

## Introduction

Show flower. **Where do flowers grow? What other things might you see in a garden?**

Volunteers respond. **Listen to our Bible story today to find out why Jesus' friends went to a garden.** (Hold your Bible open to Matthew 28 as you tell the following story.)

Very, Very Good

When Jesus was here on Earth, Jesus did many wonderful things for people. He made sick people well. He taught people about God. Jesus loved people very much. And many people loved Him.

Very, Very Bad

But not everyone loved Jesus. Some religious leaders hated Jesus. They wanted to hurt Jesus.



They didn't like it that many men and women wanted Jesus to be their leader! These angry leaders said, "If we let Jesus go on like this, everyone will believe in HIM, and we won't be in charge anymore!" These people hated Jesus so much that they killed Him.

### Very, Very Sad

Jesus' friends were very sad when Jesus died. They didn't know God had a good plan for Jesus! The sad friends put Jesus' body in a tomb in a garden. (The tomb was a little room cut out of the side of a hill.) Jesus' friends rolled a big stone in front of the opening of the tomb.

On the first day of the week, some women who were Jesus' friends walked to the tomb. The women were still very sad. They thought Jesus' body was in the tomb. But when the women got to the tomb, God had a big surprise for them! The big stone in front of the tomb had been moved. Jesus was GONE.

### Very, Very Happy

Suddenly, the women saw two angels. The angels wore shining white clothes. "Jesus is not dead anymore," the angels said. "He is alive again!" NOW Jesus' friends weren't sad anymore. The women were happy to hear this good news! The women ran to share the glad news with Jesus' other friends. "Jesus IS alive!" they said.

## Conclusion

**Jesus' friends were so glad to know that Jesus is alive. We're glad to know that Jesus is alive, too. We can praise and thank God that Jesus is alive. The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God."** (Optional: Review story by using pages 425-430 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

## Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Draw a sad face on one side of a paper plate and a happy face on the other side. Show the appropriate side of the paper plate as you tell the Bible story.



15 minutes

## Talk to Learn

*Teachers guide small groups of children to complete TalkTime activity pages and other activities as time allows*

### TalkTime Activity Page

#### Supplies

- Bible
- Markers or crayons
- Lesson 6 TalkTime Activity Page - GL Preschool Year 2 Spring

**You Need:** Bible, Lesson 6 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

#### Do

Hand out *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.

### Family Funtime Page

Show page 1 of [Lesson 6 Family FunTime](#), review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

### Bible Story Game

#### Do

**In our Bible story today, some women went to a garden early in the morning. Who**



**did they see in the garden?** (Angels.) **The angels told the women that Jesus is alive! There might have been flowers in that garden. Let's pretend that we are in a garden full of flowers.** Lead children in a walk around the room. Stop several times to "smell" the flowers and "water" them with a pretend watering can. You may also look high in the air and pretend to see a bird in a tree, or put hands in a pretend garden fountain.

## Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Jump Shout", "Welcome, Hello!" and/or "Good-Bye for Now".

## Talk About

**-Jesus' friends thought that Jesus was dead and that His body was in the tomb. They were very sad. They didn't know Jesus is alive.**

**-Who told the women that Jesus is alive?** (Two angels.) **What did the women do when they heard the good news?** (They ran to tell Jesus' friends.) **How did Jesus' friends feel when they learned that He is alive?**

**-Read verse to children. We can praise and thank God that Jesus is alive. We can be glad because we know that Jesus is alive.**

**-Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.**





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