



Use Week of:

Easter • Session 5

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT: Jesus appeared to His friends.

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Only a few days had passed since Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. His followers were undoubtedly afraid and confused. They met together in a house, locking the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Would the Jews do to them what they had done to Jesus? They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead?

But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Could it be true? The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

“Peace to you!” He said. What good news. Imagine how Jesus’ words might have calmed the disciples’ anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn’t show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Even though Jesus had foretold His death and resurrection (Matt. 20:17-19), Jesus showed His disciples physical proof that He was alive. He showed them His hands and His side. With His resurrection, Jesus’ mission was accomplished. He paid the debt for sinners, and the transaction cleared. But the disciples’ work was just beginning.

Jesus gave His followers a job to do: “As the Father has sent me, I also send you” (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospel of John’s version of the Great Commission. Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done—to the world.

Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that Jesus is alive today. We haven’t seen Him for ourselves, but we believe this by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24; John 20

On the first day of the week, in the evening, **Jesus' friends met together in a house. They locked the doors because they were afraid.** They didn't want to be killed too. But now **some of the friends were saying they had seen Jesus alive. Could it be true?**

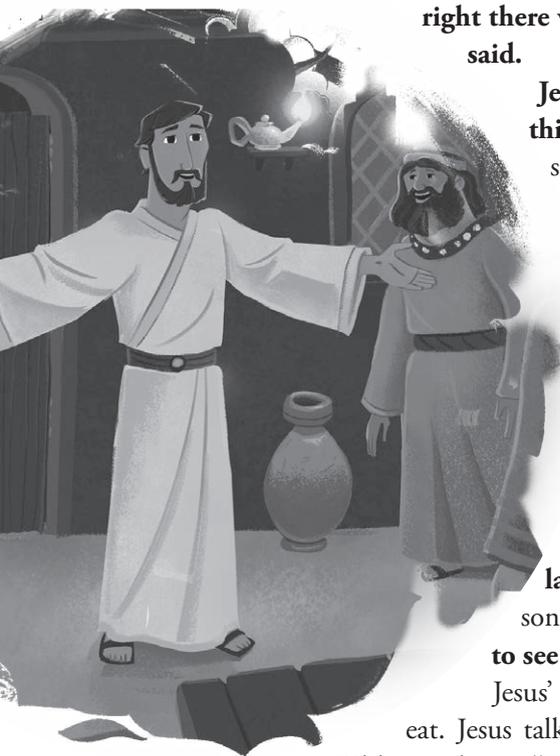
As the friends talked, Jesus came and stood right there with them. "Peace to you!" He said.

Jesus' friends were afraid! Was this really Jesus? Maybe they were seeing a ghost.

"Why are you afraid? It's Me!" Jesus said. "Look at Me. Touch Me. A ghost does not have skin and bones, but I do. I am not a ghost."

Jesus showed them His hands and His side. They saw **where Jesus had been hurt.** Now Jesus was alive! **What good news! The friends laughed and danced and sang songs because they were so happy to see Jesus!**

Jesus' friends gave **Jesus** some fish to eat. Jesus talked to them and **explained the Bible to them. "The Bible is about Me," Jesus said. Then Jesus told them that they had a job to do.** Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. Jesus' friends needed to tell other people to turn away from sin and



be forgiven.

“Peace to you!” Jesus said again. “God sent Me to earth. Now, I am sending you.” Then Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Jesus sent out His friends to tell all the people that He is alive.

Christ Connection: God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this good news!

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use an alternate location:** Before the session, locate another room in which to tell the Bible story. Make sure the room is free of safety hazards. As you transition to the “Tell the Story” portion of the session, lead preschoolers to the room. Explain how Jesus’ friends were hiding together in a house with the doors locked. As you tell the Bible story, invite preschoolers to huddle together as they might if they were scared.
- **Use emotions:** Tell the story. Pause from time to time and ask preschoolers to show you with their faces and bodies how they would feel if they had been there with Jesus’ friends. Would they feel afraid? Amazed? Happy? Joyful? Determined?

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.

Welcome time

- upbeat worship music
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play upbeat worship music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Find the Bibles" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to use the key to find the Bibles. Younger preschoolers may need help locating the Bible under the lamp.

SAY • Good job finding the Bibles! Last time we learned that Jesus taught two of His friends that all the Scriptures point to Him. In today's Bible story, Jesus appeared to more of His friends and explained the Bible to them.

LOW PREP

Play "I Spy"

Lead preschoolers in a game of "I Spy." Identify an item in the room. Say, "I spy with my little eye something [*adjective describing the item*]." Allow preschoolers to take turns guessing the item. Offer additional details if preschoolers struggle to guess. Choose another item in the room and play again. Consider letting older preschoolers choose the

item and describe it to the rest of the group.

SAY • Great job guessing what I spied! In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends spied a most amazing sight while they were hiding together in a house. They could hardly believe their eyes! Listen to our Bible story to hear what the friends saw.

Guess what appeared

Place various small items in an opaque bag, such as a pillowcase. Place one item from the bag on a tray and cover it with a cloth. Remove the cloth and invite preschoolers to look at the tray. Cover the tray again. Add another item from the bag to the tray, taking care that preschoolers cannot see the item you are adding. Remove the cloth and invite a preschooler to point to the item you added. Continue adding items and letting preschoolers guess the new item each time. When there are too many items on the tray, start over with one item and play again as time allows.

- various items
- opaque bag
- tray
- cloth

SAY • You had to really pay attention to figure out what was new each time you looked at the tray. In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends were in a room. All of a sudden, someone else was standing in the room with them. Can you guess who this new person in the room was?

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to tiptoe to Bible study as if they are hiding like Jesus' friends.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Place a bookmark at Luke 24 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the only book that has God’s words in it. Everything in the Bible is true. Today’s Bible story is from Luke and John in the New Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • **Jesus appeared to His friends.** His friends did not need to be afraid. God made Jesus alive again just like He said He would! Jesus even showed His friends where He had been hurt so they would know it was really Him. Then Jesus sent them out to tell everyone the good news—Jesus is alive!

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- dry erase board or chalkboard
- dry erase marker or chalk

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Romans 10:9. Invite a child

to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Print the first word of the key passage on a dry erase board or chalkboard as you lead preschoolers to say the verse. Continue writing one word each time preschoolers say the verse until the entire verse is written. Emphasize the word you write as preschoolers say it.

SAY • Our key passage says that to be saved from sin, we must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus' friends believed God raised Jesus from the dead when they saw Jesus with their eyes. We cannot see Jesus with our eyes, but we know He is alive because the Bible tells us so!

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Can you answer our big picture question? *Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.* Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, but He did not stay dead. Jesus is alive! Jesus sent out His friends to tell all people that He is alive. Jesus wants us to tell others this good news too!

Lead children in singing worship songs that glorify Jesus.

• Big Picture Question
Poster
• worship songs



Missions moment

SAY • Remember the Dye family? They are missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia. Watch this video to see how God is changing lives at the Dye's church with the good news that Jesus is alive.

Show the "Casting the Dye (Part 3)" video.

SAY • We can tell people the good news that Jesus is alive and saves people from sin, just like the Dye family!

• "Casting the Dye
(Part 3)" video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

Create a special handshake

Assign preschoolers to work in pairs. Invite them to create their own special handshake. Give preschoolers freedom to be creative, but make sure each special handshake ends with “high five, Jesus is alive.” Allow preschoolers to demonstrate their handshakes to the rest of the group. Form new pairs and play again as time allows.

SAY • God made Jesus alive again! **Jesus appeared to His friends.** Jesus did not greet His friends with a handshake. He said, “Peace to you!” Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. He wants us to tell others this good news!

Visit friends

•stickers

Guide preschoolers to spread out around the room at least arm’s length apart from one another. Give each preschooler three stickers. One at a time, invite a preschooler to “visit” a friend and trade one sticker with her. Continue play until all preschoolers have had at least one turn visiting friends. To avoid tears over sticker preferences, assure preschoolers that they will get a sticker of their choice when the activity is complete, or consider using only one kind of sticker for this activity.

SAY • Jesus visited His friends in the house where they were hiding. **Jesus appeared to His friends.** Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus. Jesus wants us to tell our friends the good news that He is alive!

Make an eye color graph

On a large sheet of paper draw a grid with four columns. Label columns with blue, green, hazel, and brown. Use markers or crayons that match each color to write the label for each column. Invite preschoolers to use nonbreakable hand mirrors to look at their eyes. Help preschoolers determine their eye color. Fill in a block on the grid in the proper column using the proper color for each preschooler's eye color. Be sure to affirm the beauty and uniqueness of each child's eyes, even if all of the children have similar eye colors.

- large sheet of paper
- marker
- blue, green, hazel, and brown crayons or markers
- nonbreakable hand mirrors

SAY • What eye color do most of the friends in our class have? What eye color do the fewest of the friends in our class have? We use our eyes to see. **Jesus appeared to His friends.** Jesus told His friends to look at Him. Jesus had skin and bones. God made Jesus alive again! We cannot see Jesus with our eyes because He is in heaven with His Father. One day, Jesus will come back, and we will see Him. Until then, He wants us to tell others this good news!

Open locks

Provide various padlocks and keys for children to explore. Consider placing a bit of duct tape on a lock and its key to help children more easily identify sets. Mention that Jesus'

- padlocks and keys
- colorful duct tape

friends were hiding in a locked room.

SAY • Even though the friends had locked the doors, Jesus came and stood right there with them. **Jesus appeared to His friends.** They saw Jesus alive! Jesus ate with them and gave them a job to do. What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.



Make invitations

Cut and fold watercolor paper to form cards.

On the front of each card write *You are invited* with a black permanent marker. Cover a table with a disposable tablecloth or newspaper. Set out watercolors, paintbrushes, and cups of water. Guide preschoolers to paint their cards. As preschoolers work, guide them to think of whom they can invite to church with their invitation. Set aside cards to dry. Encourage preschool parents at pickup and with an email during the week to help their preschooler fill out the inside of the card with your church's information and deliver it.

SAY • When **Jesus appeared to His friends**, He told them they had a job to do. Jesus' friends needed to tell other people to turn away from sin and be forgiven. One of the ways the Dye family tells people in Atlanta this good news is to invite everyone they meet to their church. We can invite people to our church too! Whom can you give your invitation to?

- smocks
- watercolor paper
- permanent marker
- scissors (adult use)
- disposable tablecloth or newspaper
- watercolors
- paintbrushes
- cups
- water

Option: Print a label with your church's information for preschoolers to stick inside the invitation.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve fish-shaped crackers for snack. Remind preschoolers that when **Jesus appeared to His friends**, the friends gave Jesus some fish to eat. Only living things eat. Jesus is alive! God made Jesus alive again! Jesus visited many people so they would know He is alive. ***Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.***

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Where were Jesus' friends when He appeared to them? (*in a house with the doors locked*)
2. What was the first thing Jesus said to His friends? (*Peace to you!*)
3. What did Jesus show His friends so they would know it was really Him? (*His hands and His side*)
4. What did Jesus send out His friends to do? (*tell all people that He is alive*)
5. ***Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page or play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- fish-shaped crackers (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers