Scripture: Matthew 26:30-56

Lesson Goal: We will learn how Jesus died but then was raised to a new life with a new body. His resurrection shows us how we too will be raised to life.

Introduction: This is the seventh lesson in Unit 5: The Passion Week--the last week of Jesus' life here on earth. This lesson is about what happened when Jesus was resurrected from the tomb. This lesson is about how Jesus was resurrected on the third day and was seen by Mary, the women, and the disciples. It is told by four different people in the Bible--Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Attention Getter: “Spring”
In the fall plants seem to die. The trees lose their leaves. Flowers and bushes just become sticks in the ground. All winter long everything is bare, brown and cold. Nothing seems to be alive. But when spring comes--everything seems to come back to life! The grass turns green. The trees bud and the flowers bloom! Even the birds sing! Spring is a wonderful time of the year. Spring helps us understand about the new life that Jesus had after his death on the cross. In 1 Corinthians 15 the resurrection is compared to planting a seed in the ground. First, the seed must die or be planted, then it is raised in a new "body" or plant.

In this lesson we will see how Jesus died but then was raised to a new life with a new body. His resurrection shows us how we too will be raised to life.

Opening Prayer:
Dear Father in heaven, Thank you for sending your son Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you that He died on the cross for our sin and three days later He came back to life! We know that we can believe in Him because He performed many miracles and especially because He rose from the dead! Forgive us our sins and help us to tell others about your gift of salvation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse:
Our memory verse is John 20:31 "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Lesson Video: http://youtu.be/8eE1zgJsZqQ
We have been learning about the last week of Jesus’ life. On Friday of the Passion Week Jesus was tried and sentenced to a cruel death on the cross. He was crucified on a hill called Calvary. Jesus willingly laid down on the cross and let the soldiers put nails in his hands and feet. His death was not an ordinary death. He was the perfect Son of God and He did not deserve to die. He could have saved himself but instead he willingly died for the sin of all people.

When Jesus died the whole earth shook. It was noon and in the middle of the day but the sun stopped shining and darkness filled the land for three hours. The earth began to shake and the rocks began to split apart! The Roman centurion, in charge of the crucifixion, who had been watching Jesus die, suddenly praised God and said, "Surely this was the Son of God!"

Surrounding the cross were several people who loved Jesus very much. Along with Mary the mother of Jesus were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joses and Salome. John was also with them. They were all weeping and crying. This was the saddest day on earth. They knew that the soldiers would soon be taking down His body from the cross.

A good and upright man, named Joseph from Aramethea, who was a member of the Jewish council, went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus. Pilate agreed. Carefully Joseph of Aramethea lowered Jesus' body down from the cross. Along with him was Nicodemus who helped him wrap the body in linen cloth. Together they
took the body of Jesus to Joseph's brand new tomb in a beautiful garden. No one had ever been buried in this tomb. The women followed them to the tomb. No doubt there was much sorrow and weeping.

They wrapped the body in strips of linen with spices of myrrh and aloes that Nicodemus had brought. Because the Sabbath was about to begin and there was not time to prepare Jesus' body correctly, they folded a cloth and laid it over his head. Then they laid the body on a large carved stone inside the tomb. The men rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. The women promised they would come back after the Sabbath was over and finish the job. They loved Jesus and wanted to bring more spices to prepare his body for burial.

The next day the chief priest and the Pharisees began to be afraid. They remembered that Jesus when he was alive had promised, "After three days I will rise again!" The chief priests were afraid that Jesus' disciples would come and steal Jesus' body. So they told Pilate. Pilate said to his soldiers, "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how! Put a seal on the stone and post guards so no one can come and take Jesus' body!"

Three days later on the first day of the week, very early in the morning there was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord had come down from heaven and had rolled back the stone that was guarding the entrance to the tomb. The soldiers who had been put on guard were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men!

The angels did not roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb so Jesus could get out. No, it was rolled away so others could get in and see for themselves that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, just as He said he would do. Now the angel was sitting on the stone! His appearance was as bright as lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so petrified they trembled and ran off.

Just after sunrise, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James took the spices that they had prepared and went to the tomb. They were going to anoint the body of Jesus. As they were walking to the tomb, they wondered to themselves, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

When the women arrived at the tomb, they had a very big surprise. They noticed the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled back. As they entered the tomb they saw the angel and were alarmed. Then angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for the Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

When the women entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed their faces to the ground. But the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here is has risen! Remember how he told you while he was still with you in Galilee. "The son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

But go and tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him as He told you. " Then the women remembered that Jesus had spoken these words! They were afraid but were filled with joy! They did not say anything to anyone because they were afraid. The women then left the tomb and ran to tell the disciples the exciting news.

Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves what had happened to Jesus. John was younger so he outran Peter and got to the tomb first. He stooped down and looked inside and saw the empty tomb. He saw the linen cloths which had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying there but he did not go in. When Peter got there he went into the tomb: and he too saw the linen cloths lying there. Immediately he knew that Jesus' body had not been stolen. The only way that the linen cloths would be left like that was if Jesus was resurrected. A grave robber would have taken the cloths with Jesus' body. And the cloths were still shaped like a body. Jesus had come back to life!

The disciples went back to their own homes but Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping. As she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

Since Mary knew that the disciples would not have taken Jesus' body, she believed that grave robbers had stolen it. Mary stood by the tomb and was weeping. Once again the angels spoke to Mary and said, "Woman why are you weeping?"

Mary answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him." She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. She thought it was the gardener.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"
Mary answered, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him and I will take Him away." She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" which means to say, Teacher!

Then Jesus called her by name, "Mary." At that moment Mary recognized Jesus! She started to fall down and worship Him. But Jesus said, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father." So, she ran to tell the disciples.

Shortly after Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, he met the other women who were returning from the garden. Suddenly Jesus became visible to them, too. These women were Joanna, Mary the mother of James and some others. "Greetings!," Jesus said. The women came up to Jesus and clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee and there they will see me."

Then they too ran to tell the disciples that they had seen Jesus! What excitement they must have had when they were talking all at once trying to tell the eleven disciples about how they had all seen Jesus and He was alive!

Some of Jesus’ disciples were so amazed that they thought these women must have made a mistake. But it wasn’t a mistake. Jesus WAS alive. Jesus had appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then to the other women. Mary was so full of joy she couldn't wait to tell others about Jesus. She wanted to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with the disciples and others. We, too, should be excited to tell others that He wants them to believe in Him and live with Him forever in heaven. Jesus is alive. He has conquered death and has come back to life!

Mary and the other women did not meet the risen Christ until they had discovered the empty tomb. Like Mary and the disciples, we cannot know Jesus as our Lord and Savior until we believe without a doubt that He is indeed alive and that His tomb truly was empty.

Isn’t it wonderful that because Jesus arose from the dead you too can receive Him as your Savior? Will you believe? Then you will have the spring of new life in your heart! Remember Jesus is alive!

Review Questions: Human “Tic-Tac-Toe” Game
Preparation: Use masking tape to make a tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. If you have a large group you will need to make multiple game boards.

Procedure: Form two teams for each game board. Show the tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. Say:
A member of each of the teams will answer one of the following review questions. Each team may "conference" with each other to give the answer. If they answer the question correctly then their team may place one of their members in a space on the board. The first team to place three members in a row will win a point. We will alternate between the teams to give the questions. We will play until all the review questions have been answered.

1. Where did Jesus die on the cross? (He died on a hill near Jerusalem called Calvary.)
2. What happened to the earth when Jesus died? (When Jesus died the whole earth shook. It was noon and in the middle of the day but the sun stopped shining and darkness filled the land for three hours. The earth began to shake and the rocks began to split apart!)
3. What did the Roman soldier who was in charge of Jesus’ crucifixion say about His death? (The Roman centurion, in charge of the crucifixion, who had been watching Jesus die, suddenly praised God and said, "Surely this was the Son of God!")
4. Who was at the foot of Jesus’ cross mourning his death? (Along with Mary the mother of Jesus were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joses and Salome. John was also with them at the cross.)
5. Who buried Jesus in his own tomb? (Joseph from Arimetha, who was a member of the Jewish council, went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus.)
6. Who helped Joseph of Arametha bury Jesus and was called a secret disciple? (Along with him was Nicodemus who helped him wrap the body in linen cloth. Together they took the body of Jesus to Joseph’s brand new tomb in a beautiful garden.)
7. What was special about this tomb? (No one had ever been buried in this tomb.)
8. After the crucifixion how did the women and Joseph of Arimetha and Lazarus prepare Jesus’ body for burial? (They wrapped the body in strips of linen with spices of myrrh and aloe that Nicodemus had brought. Because the Sabbath was about to begin there was not time to prepare Jesus’ body correctly, they folded a cloth and laid it over his head. Then they laid the body on a large carved stone inside the tomb.)
9. What was put across the entrance of Jesus’ tomb? (A stone was rolled across the entrance and sealed with a Roman seal.)

10. After Jesus died, what were the Pharisees afraid might happen? (That someone might try to steal His body.)

11. What happened to the earth three days after Jesus was buried? (Three days later on the first day of the week, very early in the morning there was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord had come down from heaven and had rolled back the stone that was guarding the entrance to the tomb.)

12. What happened to the soldiers who were guarding the tomb of Jesus? (The soldiers who had been put on guard were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men!)

13. Why did the women go to the tomb early on Sunday morning? (The women--Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James--came to put spices on the body of Jesus to complete his burial.)

14. What problem did the women think they would face when they got to the tomb? (As they were walking to the tomb, they wondered to themselves, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”)

15. What did the women see when they went to Jesus’ tomb? (They saw that the stone had been rolled away. An angel was sitting on the stone.)

16. What did the angel say had happened to Jesus? (Then angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for the Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”)

17. Which disciples ran to the tomb when the women told them that someone had taken the body of Jesus? (Peter and John ran to the tomb.)

18. After looking in the tomb how did Peter and John know that Jesus’ body had not been stolen? (The white linen wrappings had not been moved and were all in the shape of Jesus’ body. The head wrapping was folded and laid to the side.)

19. Who saw Jesus first after His resurrection? (Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the resurrected Jesus.)

20. At first who did Mary think was standing beside her in the garden when she was crying? (Mary thought that Jesus was the Gardener.)

21. How did Mary recognize Jesus after His resurrection? (He called her by name and asked why she was crying.)

22. Who were the second group of people to see the resurrected Jesus? (Shortly after Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, he met Joanna, Mary the mother of James and some others who were returning from the garden.)

23. What did Jesus say to this small group of women? ("Greetings!" Jesus said. The women came up to Jesus and clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee and there they will see me.")

24. Where did Jesus say the disciples should go to see Him? (Galilee)

25. What did some of Jesus’ disciples think about the news that the women told? (Some of Jesus’ disciples were so amazed that they thought these women must have made a mistake.)

26. Where is Jesus today? (He is alive in heaven at the right hand of God.)

Bible Memory Verse Activity: “Progressive Verse”

*Preparation:* Bible and a beanbag, small ball, or soft stuffed toy (something children can pass quickly); a pianist or recorded music

Say: “Our memory verse is John 20:31. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." This verse is telling us that Jesus did many other miracles and signs which are not recorded in the Bible. The events that we do have recorded are enough so we can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” Have children locate the verse in the Bible. Read the verse aloud with children several times.

*Procedure:* Have the children stand in a circle. Give the beanbag to one child. Start the music. The first child passes the beanbag to the right and says the first word of the memory verse. The second child says the second word and passes the beanbag to the right, and so forth. Continue until all know the verse, and then stop the music. The child holding the beanbag is out and sits down. Continue playing until only one child is left. To end the activity, have all children say the verse together.
Group Learning Activity: Bible Study “We are Alive!” (Grades 2-5)

Purpose: To explore ways to know that we are alive physically and to consider how Jesus has made us spiritually alive through His death on the cross.

Preparation: You will need Bibles, cotton balls, timer, mirrors, thermometer, and stethoscope (if possible).

Say: “How can you tell if someone is dead or alive? (Encourage responses such as people jump when you touch them; they are breathing; they can move on their own; they can talk; etc.) When someone dies, they stop breathing. Who has held their breath before? Did you die? No. We are able to start breathing again. It is very important for us to breathe. Has anyone ever listened to their heart beat? Have you seen your breath on a mirror? We will do all of these things today to show that we are alive.”

Procedure: Lead children to do the following actions:

- Time children holding their breath for 10 seconds. Lead kids to blow air from their mouths and measure the distance where their hands can feel it. Invite kids to blow cotton balls across a marked area. Allow kids to blow their breath on a mirror. Lead children to take two deep breaths.
- Let kids listen to their own heart beats and to each other’s heart beats. (Just have students put their ear to each other’s chests if you do not have a stethoscope.) Another option is to have students roll up a sheet of paper and use it as listening tube for the heart rate. (See picture.)
- Feel the pulse at the wrist and neck. Try to count the number of beats in 10 seconds. Lead the children to run in place for 15 seconds and take their pulse again to see what changes occur.
- Take each other’s temperatures or let the teachers take the temperature for children.

Say: “We know that we are alive. We can know that Jesus is alive. Jesus died on the cross and is alive. Read Matthew 28:7 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

“Did you know that there is another kind of life that we can have? It is called “eternal life.” This means that we can live forever and ever with Jesus in heaven. Let’s locate and read some verses about that in the Bible.”

Read the following scriptures aloud and make the accompanying explanations to the students.

- John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” How do we get eternal life? Jesus tells us clearly here—by knowing God the Father himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. Eternal life requires us to enter into a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. When we admit our sin and turn away from it. Christ’s love lives in us by the Holy Spirit.
- Psalm 16:11 “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” This is an Old Testament prophecy about the resurrection of Jesus Christ that King David wrote hundreds of years before Jesus came to live on earth. Both Peter and Paul quote this psalm when speaking of Christ’s bodily resurrection. (Acts 2:25-28; 31; 13:35-37)
- John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This verse sums up the entire gospel message. God loved us so much that He paid dearly for our salvation. Jesus accepted our punishment for sin, and then offered us the new life that He had bought for us as a gift to those who will receive God’s love for them.
- John 5:24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” Eternal life is living forever with God. It begins when you accept Jesus Christ as Savior. You will face physical death but you will live forever in heaven with God.
- 1 John 5:11; 13 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. I write these things to you—believing in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” This verse gives us complete assurance that believing God’s Son is all we need to receive eternal life. You don’t need to work for it because it is already yours. You don’t need to worry about it because you have already been given eternal life by God Himself and it is guaranteed.
Group Learning Activity: “Egg Hunt” (Grades K-3)

Preparation: You will need a Bible, small candies, tape, yellow ball fringe, crinkle paper, metal door key, and plastic colored eggs. Before class you will put the following items inside the colorful plastic eggs. Inside one egg put some yellow balls of fringe. In another egg put a handful of crinkle paper. In the third egg put a metal house key. In the fourth egg put enough small candies such as jelly beans or M & M’s so that everyone in the class can have one. Tape the eggs shut and hide them around the room.

Say: “There are four eggs hidden in the room. See how many of them you can find. This will be a silent hunt. When you find the egg, don’t tell anyone and don’t touch the egg; just start looking for the next one. That way everyone will be able to find the eggs. Once you have found all four, come and sit with me in the circle of chairs.”

Procedure: Have the children hunt for the egg. When a child has found all four eggs, have him come sit with you in the circle of chairs. If after three or four minutes some children are still looking, call time, and have them join the group.

Say: “When are the eggs hidden? (Answers will vary.) Were they easy or hard to find? (Easy, hard) Choose volunteers to reveal their content to the rest of the class as you talk about each egg's contents. “Today you found eggs that were sometimes easy to find and sometimes hard to find. But each egg has a special treasure inside. Let’s see what these treasures mean.

1. Inside one egg are balls of fringe. Let’s pretend that each of the balls were people like you and me. Luke 19:10 says “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” What is another name Jesus calls himself in this verse? (Jesus is the Son of Man). Who did Jesus come to earth to find? (He came to find lost people who did not follow God.) In the same way that you looked until you found the eggs, Jesus looks for lost people and he’s glad when he finds them. Lost people are those who don’t know about God’s wonderful plan for people to believe in Jesus and live in heaven.”

2. One egg has a key inside it. What do we use keys for? (We use keys to unlock doors and to open things.) Jesus unlocks the door to heaven so we can go to heaven and live with him. How did Jesus unlock that door? Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again so we could go to heaven.

3. One of the eggs has brightly colored crinkle paper in it. Habakkuk 3:18 says “yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” The paper stands for joy. We are joyful—that means we are really, really happy—because Jesus rose from the dead so we can live with Him. Luke 24: 5b-6a “Then the men asked, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” He is not here; he has risen!” We can have a celebration because Jesus died for us and then rose again. (Give each student a little piece of the crinkle paper and then have the children toss it into the air to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

4. The last egg has candy in it. Listen to what the Bible says about heaven. Matthew 5:12a Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.” What does the Bible say about heaven? It says that it is a happy place to be and that we will get a reward there. (Give everyone a piece of candy.) “The candy represents happiness, in heaven, everything is good and sweet. God gives us good things too.

We’ve learned that Jesus came to find people who are lost and bring them back to God. We’ve also learned that Jesus lived a perfect life and died for our sins so we could go to heaven to live with God forever. Heaven is a wonderful place where everything is good. Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven!
Group Learning Activity: “Egg-cellent Sentence Starters” (Grades 2-5)
Preparation: Get five large sheets of colored poster board, markers, masking tape and pencils. From the large sheets of poster board cut out large egg shapes. Print the following sentence starters, one sentence on each sheet. "I can follow Jesus by"; "I’m glad Jesus is alive because"; "I want to praise God by"; "I thank God for His Son because"; "I will celebrated Jesus’ resurrection by." Attach poster board egg shapes to the wall with masking tape. Place markers near the posters.

Say: “In this lesson we learned that the resurrection of Jesus was very good news. Jesus told Mary Magdalene to tell the disciples about Him. Mary told the disciples that Jesus was alive! Jesus died on the cross but now Jesus was alive!” Matthew 28:7 Everyone who heard the news was greatly impacted by it. We are going to think about how we can respond to this good news.”

Procedure: Show students the Easter Egg Sentence starters. Read the sentences on each one. Students are to go to each of the large posters and finish the sentence with a few words. Students are to move around the room finishing all the sentence starters. When all students have finished, the teacher leads the group by reading all the endings to the sentences and discussing the ways we can praise God.

Group Learning Activity: “Pictionary or Charades Review Game” (Grades 2-5)
Purpose: To review the events during the Passion Week by playing Pictionary or charades.

Preparation: On index cards print the following topics for the charades or Pictionary game cards. Cut apart into separate game cards. If playing Pictionary you will need a white dry erase board or chart paper with markers so teams can draw pictures for the game cards.

Topics for Pictionary or charades cards are the following: Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday), Jesus Cleanses the Temple; Last Supper (bread & wine), Mary Anoints Jesus; Jesus Washes His Disciple’s Feet; Jesus’ Prays in Gethsemane; Crucifixion; Resurrection (empty tomb).

Procedure: Play Pictionary or Charades using lesson themes from the past few weeks. Divide the students into two teams. Select one person from each team to be the artist to draw the picture of the topic or the person acting out the charade. Players on the team will take turns acting out the artist or the person acting out the charade. Alternate between teams to choose the card and be the artist or actor. Place the stack of game cards in the center of the group. When the first player draws a card let both team’s artists or actors see the card. After the team’s artists or actors have looked at the topic for 5 seconds then they may begin drawing. Allow only one minute for drawing. Give one minute to guess the topic. If Team A guesses correctly they get 1,000 points. If Team A doesn’t guess it, but Team B does, then Team B gets 500 points.

Group Learning Activity: “Angel Tag” Game (Grades K-3)
Preparation: You will need chairs for the angels arranged in the center of the playing area.

Say: “In this lesson we learned that two angels appeared to the women who came to the tomb. The women were frightened when they heard the news that Jesus was alive. The women ran to the other disciples to tell them what they had seen. Today we are going to play a game where two angels are chasing the other players.”

Procedure: Have two children start as angels, sitting in chairs in the middle of the playing area. Sit the chairs a bit apart from each other. The “angels” must close their eyes until the leader says, “Jesus is alive!” Players will start at one end of the room and try to walk across the room to the opposite side. When the leader says, “Jesus is alive!” the angels can open their eyes, get up and chase the players until the leader says, “Stop!” The angels must return to their chairs. Those players who have been tagged must go sit on the sidelines. Everyone else keeps walking to the end of the room. The goal is to avoid being tagged until only two players are left and they will become the angels.
Craft Learning Activity: “Beaded Crosses” (Grades 2-5)

*Preparation:* You will need pony beads in various colors, plastic string, and glue dots.

Say: “In this lesson we learned how Jesus was resurrected from the grave. He came back to life after His death on the cross. We are going to make a cross (necklace, zipper pull, or key chain) to remind us of His victory over death for us. He paid the price for our sin so we could receive the gift of salvation.”

*Procedure:* Start by laying out 6 beads and deciding what colors you want to use, and cut yourself a piece of string. If you want to make a necklace, you’ll need a long string. If you just want to make a key chain or a zipper pull, you can use a much shorter piece of string. Before you start stringing, you’ll need to attach 3 beads together for the cross part. (Picture 1) This is where those glue dots come in handy! You can use regular glue to attach the beads, but I would suggest doing it ahead of time so it’s already dry before you begin. However, if you use glue dots, the kids can do this all by themselves, and the beads attach instantly! Here’s how the 3 beads need to be glued together: (Picture 2)

![Picture 1](image1.png)
![Picture 2](image2.png)
![Picture 3](image3.png)
![Picture 4](image4.png)
![Picture 5](image5.png)

Place one bead on each side of your middle bead and press firmly to attach it. No drying time needed. You can tear the strip of glue dots to give each child a piece with just 2 glue dots on it. This is easier for them to handle than the whole roll. Attach another bead to the other side. Now you’re ready to bead your cross! Start with the bottom bead and slide it to the middle of the string. (Picture 3) Take your second bead, and lace both sides of your string through it. (Picture 4)

Push your second bead all the way down to the first one you strung on. Now string on your three beads that are stuck together. (Picture 5) One side of the string goes through one bead, and the other side of your string through the other bead. Take your top bead and lace both ends of the string through it. There’s your cross! Tie a knot at the top of the beads to hold the cross in place. To tie the knot, wrap both sides of your string around your fingers and put both ends through. Pull tight. (Picture 6)

Craft Learning Activity: “Resurrection Megaphones” (Grades K-5)

*Preparation:* You will need poster board (1/2 sheet for each child), scissors, tape, paper, pencil, and markers. You can also use Bible stickers to decorate the megaphones.

Say: “Let’s locate Matthew 28:6 in our Bibles and read that verse aloud. “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” The real reason for celebrating Easter is Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus’ resurrection is really good news. In fact, it’s the best news ever! What if you had been there when Jesus rose from the dead? How would you have told the news to the people? What would you have said? Today we are going to make megaphones that we will use to proclaim that news.”

*Procedure:* Demonstrate for the children how to roll the poster board into megaphone shapes. Offer assistance to secure the paper in place and trim the ends. Encourage the children to decorate their megaphones. Have the children create and perform cheers proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ resurrection in their daily lives. Lead the children in prayer praising god for Jesus’ resurrection.
Craft Learning Activity: “Punch Cross Coaster” (Grades K-5)

**Preparation:** You will need metal lids from orange juice concentrate or canning jars (1 per child), hammers, large nails, pieces of wood, fine-point markers, craft foam or cork sheet, glue, scissors, and masking tape. Cut the craft foam or cork sheets to fit the backs of the lids.

**Say:** “In our lesson we learned that Jesus was resurrected from the grave after He died on the cross. His death on the cross was a payment for our sins. But now He is alive and in heaven preparing a place for us. (Read Matthew 28:6 and the memory verse John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”) How do the events in the story make you feel? Are you excited to know that God love you so much He allowed Jesus to die on the cross? We can know Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. His death and resurrection make our forgiveness of sin possible.” “Let’s make tin punch crosses to help us remember to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.”

**Procedure:** Give each child a jar lid and a fine-point marker. Say: “Use the marker to make dots in the shape of a cross on your lid.” Provide a cross shaped template for younger students to use as a guide for making the marks on their jar lids. Distribute the pieces of wood, nails, and hammers.

**Say:** “We need to be careful with hammering holes into the lids. Tape your lid to the wood board. Place a nail on top of one of the dots. Carefully hammer enough to make it go through the lid but not into the board. Remove the nail and continue until you punch holes in all of the dots.

Direct children to glue the craft foam or cork circles to the backs of their lids. Trim edges of foam or cork to make smooth edges. Assist as needed. Conclude the activity by praying with the group thanking God for his gift of salvation through His Son Jesus.

Craft Learning Activity: Empty Tomb Paper Plate (Grades K-3)

**Preparation:** You will need two 9 inch paper plates (2 per child), scissors, glue, brad fasteners, black or gray water color paint and brush, or brown wrapping paper, tan construction paper, a small hole punch, crayons, and markers. Punch 1 hole in the top of each plate for the brad to go through.

**Say:** “What is a tomb? It is a place to bury the dead. Today we will make pretend tombs that will reveal the special message that the angels told the women when they came to the tomb on Easter morning.”

**Procedure:** Distribute paper plates, construction paper, and glue. Make an empty tomb out of paper plates. Use two large paper plates as well as a small one. Cut off the bottom fourth of the large paper plates and decorate it as a rock with an opening. You can use gray markers or use gray water color paint and brush color on both plates. You can use gray construction paper for the stone if desired. Staple the two paper plates together to form the tomb. Using a brad or paper fastener, attach the small paper plate to the large plate as the rock to be rolled in front of the tomb. Allow students to retell the story using their paper plate tombs. In the opening print “He’s Alive!”

Craft Learning Activity: Tissue paper butterflies (Grades K-3)

**Preparation:** You will need yellow or black pipe cleaners, colored tissue paper, black marking pens, and round headed clothes pins (one per child).

**Procedure:** Cut 9-10” squares of colored tissue paper. Pinch together the colored tissue so it will it into a clothespin with a round head. Twist yellow or black pipe cleaner around the head of the clothespin to form antennae. Use marker to draw eyes on the head.

**Say:** “The butterfly begins as an ugly worm that goes into a cocoon and is then transformed into a beautiful creature. This is a picture of how we are dead in our sins like an ugly worm. Then we are transformed by the power of Christ's death on the cross into a beautiful new creature in Christ.” (Go through the ABC’s of becoming a Christian). A—Admit that you are a sinner and have sinned against God; B—Believe that Jesus is the Christ the
Son of God and died for your sins; C-Confess your sins to God and ask Him to be your Savior. Jesus will then give to you the gift of salvation and eternal life with Him forever.”

**Life Application Challenge:**

(1) Review the things that we need to believe about Jesus to be saved:
   a. I am a sinner. (Romans 3:23)
   b. Because God is holy (without sin) He hates my sin, but He loves me. (Romans 6:23)
   c. Jesus died for me. (John 3:)
   d. I may receive Jesus as my Savior. (John 1:12)

(2) Encourage children to think about asking Jesus to be their Savior. Tell them to talk to their parents or you if they have questions.
Resurrection of Jesus

John 20:31
But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
Two Marys went to Jesus’ tomb.

Trace their paths.
Can you imagine how Mary felt when she saw Jesus?

Use the code to find out what was said. Color the pictures.

- = A  - = R  - = E  - = I  - = H

M_ _ Y!  T_ _ C_ _ _ _ _ _!

S_ _ N_ _ T_ _ _  L_ _ D!
The angel spoke to the women. He knew they were looking for Jesus. He said these words to them:

"He is not here; He is risen!" (Matthew 28:6)

Write a word to fit each definition. Write the letters on the lines below.

1. What a caterpillar becomes

2. It rises in the morning

3. A puppy grows into one

4. Opposite of black

5. A grown-up boy

The women ran from the tomb to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them! He said ...

"He is not here; He is risen!" (Matthew 28:6)
Mary Magdalene told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”

Supply words to complete the story. Place them in the crossword.

On the first day of the (5-down), while it was still (16-across), Mary (6-across) to Jesus’ (8-down) and found the (3-down) had been removed from the (2-down). She ran to tell (13-down) and the (17-across) disciple, John. They (11-across) to the tomb and found strips of (10-across) and the burial (12-down) folded neatly. They had not understood from (7-across) how Jesus was to (9-down) from the (15-down). John went inside the tomb, (4-across) and (14-across). Mary stood outside the tomb and (1-across).

Number the words from 1 to 16 alphabetically, then place the LAST letter of each word in order in the blanks to find out what Mary saw when she looked into the tomb.

macaw  night  cargo  fling
heels  down  lemon  match
olive  about  growl  below
mini  Khaki  cobra  frame

In the boxes, write the word from the list that you think matches the meaning. Write the letters from column 1 and column 4 in order in the blanks to find what Mary told the disciples.

WORD LIST
employ
irronic
entree
sprout
halter
eludes
asthma
veneer

having an unexpected opposite result
a rope or strap for leading a horse
condition of wheezing and coughing
thin layer or covering
make use of; provide a job for
new growth or green shoot
main course of a meal
escapes notice

NT5.7 Resurrection of Jesus © Beverly Wilson 2018
JOY
Jesus is Alive!!

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:32
THE ROAD TO EASTER
WHAT HAPPENED DURING HOLY WEEK?

Starting with Palm Sunday, put the events in the order in which they happened.

START
PALM SUNDAY

Cutting clue: cut the whole row first, then cut apart the squares

Either cut out these squares and glue them on the road in the correct order in which they happened OR instead write the event in the correct square in the road BUT WRITE SMALL!

Jesus is put on the cross
Jesus Prays in Gethsemena
Jesus is wrapped in linen cloth
Jesus is questioned by Pilate
Jesus gets a crown of thorns
Judas kisses Jesus
Jesus cleans up the temple
There is darkness at noon
Peter denies knowing Jesus

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When Mary and Mary Magdalene went to Jesus’ tomb, an angel suddenly appeared before them! He told them not to be afraid and gave them a message for Jesus’ disciples.

Use the code to read the message from Matthew 28:7 (NIV).

```
K 1 G 3 W 6 N
S 2 P 0 H 3 M D F 6 O U R 4 Z A C 5 I Q E T
Y 6 L B
```

“G

1 3 9 3 6 1 6 4 6 6 4 1 2

6 6 6 6 9 4 9

2 6 4 6 6 5 2

3 6 2 4 2 6 1 3 4 2

5 6 2 4 2 6 4 9 4 2

4 1 3 1 0 1 0 4 3 6 4 3

4 1 5 3

0 6 4 6 6 6 6

9 9 6 4 6 6 6

6 6 9 6 6 6 9
```

NT5.7 Resurrection of Jesus

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Find the answer to the puzzle by comparing the individual stones with the wall of stones. When a match is found, transfer the letters to the large stones. Then write the letters on the lines provided.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at Jesus’ tomb. There was a violent earthquake. An angel came to the tomb, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The soldiers guarding the tomb fainted. The angel told the women not to be frightened because Jesus was alive! What were the women told to tell Jesus’ disciples? Solve the puzzle to find the answer.