**Leader Overview**

**Volume Overview**

**Who is Jesus?**

*In the classic book* Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis reasoned that those who refuse to believe Jesus’ claim to be God are left with the option of labeling Him as a lunatic or the devil. Jesus asked His closest followers who people thought He was (*[*Matthew 16:13*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt16.13)*). The disciples responded with far-ranging opinions. But then Jesus turned the question on them: “Who do you say I am?” Two thousand years later, there may not be a more important question for any of us to answer*.

**Session Overview**

**Jesus Is God**

*Jesus defeated death. He is alive and appeared to the disciples in several situations. Thomas was naturally skeptical because he hadn’t had an encounter with the risen Jesus. Jesus showed up and showed Thomas the scars on His hands and in His side. Jesus is alive. His resurrection proves that He is God and we can trust Him*.

**Bible Lesson**

Thomas and the Resurrected Jesus

[John 20:24–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn20.24-28)

**Faith Fact**

Jesus is alive.

**Faith Verse**

[John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn3.16) (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

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| ***You Will Need******Large Group*** *• Bible* *• Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Real Love” by Hillsong Young and Free; “This Is Amazing Grace” by Phil Wickham; “Good Father” by Chris Tomlin)* *• For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:* *• Projector or TV* *• Laptop* *•* ***Faith Fact Slide*** *•* ***Faith Verse Video*** *or* ***Slide*** *•* ***Bible Lesson Video*** *•* ***Teaching Point Slides 1–3*** *• Balls to juggle****Small Group*** *• Dirty pennies, one or more per kid* *• Cup* *• 1 teaspoon of salt* *• ¼ cup vinegar* *• Bibles for kids in your group to share* *• Small ball* *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* *• Markers or crayons**To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/Downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready******Large Group*** *• Download videos and slides if needed.* *• Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.* *• Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for teaching time.****Small Group*** *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.**First time leading* Learn *for Kids? Check out the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

I’m so glad you’re here! Today, we’ll learn something really amazing about Jesus. He lived a perfect life. Then, He was crucified unfairly as punishment for all sin. Because He is the Son of God, He was able to come back to life after He was crucified.

Today, we’ll learn about Jesus coming back to life. We’ll find out what that teaches us about who He is and how we can trust Him.

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact proclaims a very important message: **Jesus is alive.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

This Faith Fact shouldn’t be said sitting down. Stand up and shout it with me. **Jesus is alive.** Let’s shout it one more time. **Jesus is alive.** Great job! Go ahead and be seated.

**Game**

**Museum Guard**

Who has been to a museum before? *(Group response)* Museums can be very impressive. Many museums have exhibits with sculptures that look so much like real people that they almost look alive. Imagine that you were the security guard at a museum at night, and the exhibits started moving whenever you weren’t looking at them. That would be wild, wouldn’t it? *(Group response)* Have you seen a movie like that? *(Group response)*

Let’s play a game like that. I’ll choose one person to the be Guard. Everyone else will be statues in the museum. As a statue, you’ll stand perfectly still until the Guard isn’t looking. Then, it’s your chance to move. If the Guard catches you, then you’ll have to sit down until the next round. Let’s play. Everyone stand up and strike your best statue pose while I select the first museum Guard.

• *Optional: Have the kids stand around the edge of the room and put the Guard in the middle*.

• *The last one standing is the Guard for the next round*.

Thanks for playing that game. You did a good job coming to life, but it seemed hard to do that without the Guard catching you.

**Worship**

Speaking of coming to life, what’s our Faith Fact today? **Jesus is alive.** That’s a great reason to celebrate. Let’s worship together by singing.

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session*.

**Bible Lesson**

Let’s get ready to look at God’s Word. Get your Bible or pull it up on an app so we can read it together. In our story today, Jesus came back to life and then visited some of His friends. Imagine being one of Jesus’ friends. You’d watched Jesus die, and you knew He had been buried. Then, you hear that He’s alive. Would you believe that? *(Group response)* What do you think you would have done if you were one of Jesus’ followers? *(Allow responses.)*

I can’t even begin to imagine what it would have been like to be there. The disciples hoped that Jesus was the Savior of the world, but they must have felt very confused. How could He save the world when He had given up His life? We’re going to find out what happened when Jesus came to see His friends, but let’s pray first.

**Prayer**

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| Dear God, please help us learn from Your Word today. Help us to see the power of Jesus’ coming back to life and how that changes our life today. Amen. |

**Video Intro**

Before we look at the Bible story, let’s watch this video.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video***.

**Bible Story**

**Thomas and the Resurrected Jesus**

We said earlier that Jesus came back to life and visited His friends. Unfortunately, one of Jesus’ disciples, Thomas, wasn’t there when Jesus visited the other disciples. When Thomas’ friends told him that they had seen Jesus alive, he had a hard time believing them. Would you have believed Jesus was alive if you were Thomas? *(Group response)* Let’s read about it in the Bible. Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app up your device. Turn to [John 20:24–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn20.24-28).

• *Read the Bible story aloud to the group*.

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we don’t recommend having the kids read*.

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with their Bible Bookmark, so they can read it on their own at home*.

**Teaching Time**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Balls to juggle**No prep needed for this activity.* |

Wow, I can’t even begin to imagine what it would have been like to be Thomas in that situation. It would have been wild to be any of the disciples after Jesus rose from the dead. Imagine if you were there. First, you’re sad after seeing the Savior of the world have His life wrongly taken away. Then, you’re surprised and overjoyed by the fact that He came back to see you, alive and in person. Jesus knew exactly what He needed to show Thomas so he would believe.

Today, we’ll talk not only about Jesus coming back to life, but also why it is important for us to know more about who He is and how we can trust Him.

**1. Jesus is alive.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide***.

Has anyone here ever watched a movie or read a story about someone who died but then came back to life? How about a story where a character was thought to be dead but maybe never was? We see this a lot in superhero comics and video games. Can anyone share one of these that they know about? *(Allow responses.)*

That’s great! Of course, the stories we hear about things like that are mainly fiction. They’re make believe or made up. A few of them are true-life experiences from real people. Our story about Jesus and His resurrection is as real as it gets. Did you know that there is actually a lot of historical evidence that supports Jesus being raised from the dead? *(Group response)* It’s true!

The fact that Jesus is alive is a really big deal. It shows us that He won the battle over death just like the Bible said He would. When we follow Jesus, that means that we will be able to do what Jesus did—come back to life one day to spend forever with Him. This gives us an amazing hope to look forward to for all eternity.

**2. Jesus’ resurrection proves He is God.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide***.

If I told you that I could do a triple backflip and that I wanted you to tell all of your friends about it, would you? *(Group response)* How many of you would tell me to prove it first? *(Group response)*

If I told you I could juggle, what would you say? *(Group response)* How many of you would want to see it? *(Group response)*

• *If you* ***do*** *know how to juggle, this could be a great moment to show that talent. Then say:* See! I told you I could juggle. I don’t think some of you believed me.

• *If you* ***do not*** *know how to juggle, this could be a funny moment for the kids to watch you try. Then say:* You’re right! I can’t juggle. But it was fun trying.

I’m sure you would want me to show you that I could actually do what I was talking about before you went around telling people that I could do this amazing trick you hadn’t seen me do.

Jesus’ disciple Thomas said the same thing. Jesus’ resurrection was more than a trick. Jesus had claimed to be God, to have all of God’s authority and ability while He was on the earth. Many people told Him to prove it, and Jesus showed God’s power through miracles and wonders while teaching people about the Bible. What could prove that Jesus was God more than the ability to conquer death?

The only person who could have authority over life and death would be the Creator of life himself. Did you know that Jesus even told the disciples about His death and resurrection many times? *(Group response)* If Jesus never rose from the dead, then He was just a normal man. There would be no reason at all to follow Him or to share His good news. But He did come back from the dead, and that is one of the best reasons to follow Him. He is God. Thomas learned this, and He called Jesus his Lord and God.

**3. We must learn to trust Jesus.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide***.

I need one person to come join me.

• *You will demonstrate a trust fall, so pick a kid you know you have the strength to catch*.

*(To the volunteer)* You’re going to stand facing away from me. When I say, “Go,” you’ll fall backwards, and I’ll catch you. Do you trust me? *(Allow volunteer to respond honestly.)* Let’s try it.

• *For the first time, have the kid start near you so they’re only leaning backwards instead of falling*.

Now, that you saw that I’ll catch you, I want you to take a step forward. Then, we’ll do it again.

• *Make sure the volunteer is further away so they actually have to fall into your arms*.

*(To volunteer)* Because we did it the first time when you were only leaning, I proved to you that I would catch you. That showed you could trust me, right? *(Allow response.)*

Trust is very important. When people do things that show us they care about us, we can grow in how much we trust them. How many of you have a favorite toy, a game console, or even a phone? *(Group response)* Imagine that you’ve got something very valuable here with you and suddenly you have to leave for a while. Who would you want to guard your stuff and make sure it was safe? *(Allow responses.)*

I’m glad you believe you can trust them. Jesus showed the whole world how much He cares for us when He gave up His life to save us. When we realize exactly how amazing it was for Jesus to do that, we begin to understand that we really can trust Him.

What does trusting Jesus look like? *(Allow responses.)* It can look like a lot of things. Believing that God’s Word is true and trustworthy is just one example. The Bible tells us that Jesus is alive. Ultimately, the best thing we can do to honor Jesus is to believe that. Then, we can choose to follow Him and share His story with others so they can know Him, too.

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray*.

Say our Faith Fact with me. **Jesus is alive**. This single fact is one of the most important parts of our faith. Jesus’ resurrection not only helps us know He is God, but it also teaches us that we can trust Him. Let’s pray together and thank God for the fact that we can trust who He is and what He’s done for us.

After you thank God for what He’s done for you, ask Him to speak to you about one thing you can do to better trust Him in your everyday life. Everyone, bow your head, close your eyes, and let’s ask God to speak to us.

**Prayer**

• *Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you*.

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| Dear God, we open our heart and mind to You. We want to hear from You today. Show us how to trust You more. Amen. |

• *Allow some time to pass*.

I really hope that you heard something from God today. If you didn’t, don’t worry. God speaks to us in many ways and at different times. Hearing His voice is something we practice.

**Faith Verse**

Our Faith Verse reminds us that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to give us eternal life. We can gladly follow Jesus because we know that He is alive in heaven. God’s Word tells us so, and we can trust His Word. Let’s practice our Faith Verse now.

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video***.

[John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn3.16) (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

**Faith Fact**

The eternal life that God gives us comes because **Jesus is alive**. His life gives us life. Remember our Faith Fact for today. Let’s say it together. **Jesus is alive.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

It’s been great learning more about Jesus with you today. Now it’s time to go to our small groups.

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here*.

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**Pristine Pennies**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Dirty pennies, one or more per kid* *• Cup* *• 1 teaspoon of salt* *• ¼ cup vinegar**No prep needed for this activity.* |

What is your favorite thing that we’ve learned about Jesus? *(Allow responses.)* The best thing is that He chose to die for you and me. I’ve got an illustration to show you what Jesus dying on the cross does for us.

When Jesus was on the cross, the soldiers forced Him to drink vinegar. Let’s add some to this cup. Then, we’ll add a little salt.

• *Have the kids put the salt and vinegar in a cup and mix it up*.

We learned that Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means that we will be able to have life with God forever one day. Jesus’ death and resurrection clean away our sin and make us new in Him. It’s as if we had never sinned at all.

• *Have each kid drop a penny in the cup*.

• *Soak the penny for about five minutes*.

• *While waiting for the pennies to soak, move on to the next activity or ask these questions*.

What kinds of things “dirty up” our life that Jesus’ death paid for? *(Allow responses.)* What do you like or appreciate the most about being given a new chance and a fresh start through Jesus’ work on the cross? *(Allow responses.)*

• *When each penny is clean, take it out of the cup*.

What happened to the penny? *(Allow responses.)* Like this coin, Jesus cleans away the sin in our life and heart. We can be made new in Him. That’s what our Faith Verse promises.

[John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn3.16) (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

• *Optional: Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading if any of the kids would like to know more about salvation*.

**Learn about It**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Bibles for kids in your group to share**No prep needed for this activity.* |

**Scripture Search:** [**Matthew 1:18–23**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt1.18-23)**;** [**John 1:1–4**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn1.1-4)**,** [**14**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn1.14)**;** [**1 Peter 2:21–25**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe2.21-25)

Let’s dig deeper into God’s Word and see what else He has to say to us about Jesus. As we find and read each of these verses, let’s consider: What does this Scripture mean for our life today?

• *Give each kid a Bible and search for one or more of the Scriptures as a group together (as time allows). When everyone has found the Scripture, have one of the kids read it. Then, answer the questions about it*.

• *Pair kids who need additional help with older kids or start simple and look up the session’s Bible story Scripture:* [*John 20:24–28*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn20.24-28)*. Kids will get better finding Scriptures the more they practice*.

• *Optional: Make this a competition to see who can find the Scripture first*.

**Bible Reading Tip**

God’s Word is so good. The Bible tells us that Jesus was God’s Word in the flesh. That means when we spend time in the Bible, we get to know Jesus more and more. One way we can get the most out of God’s Word is by praying through it. As we read it and learn what it says, we should pray and talk to God about it. Let me show you what I mean.

An example of praying the Faith Verse would be the following: “God, thank You for loving the whole world so much that You gave Your Son for us. Thank You for making a way for us to be with You in heaven by believing in Him and the work He did for us. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.”

**Challenge**

We just prayed through at our Faith Verse, but I believe you could try this on your own and ask God to show you some amazing things. Here’s a challenge for you. Look up one of the verses from our Scripture Search that stuck out to you. Pray through that verse by focusing on what sticks out to you.

**Faith Fact**

All of our Bible reading is a reminder of our Faith Fact. Say it with me: **Jesus is alive.**

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones*.

**Questions**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before this discussion*.

Which disciple wasn’t there when Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was resurrected from the dead?

What did Thomas say needed to happen before he would believe Jesus was alive?

Would you have believed the other disciples if you were Thomas? Why or why not?

\* Why do you think Thomas had to see Jesus alive for himself?

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who believe without seeing.” What do you think this means?

\* How does Jesus being alive right now affect your life?

\* How does Jesus’ resurrection prove He is God?

\* What might have happened if Jesus didn’t live again after He died?

\* What’s something you can do to trust Jesus more in your life?

**Prayer Requests**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet*.

**Prayer**

*Have kids pray for each other’s prayer requests*.

**Faith Verse Review**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Small ball**No prep needed for this activity.* |

Our Faith Verse for today is [John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn3.16). It tells us that we know God loved us because He sent Jesus to give each of us eternal life. Anyone who believes in Jesus will be able to have it. Let’s watch the Faith Verse video and do the actions together.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video***.

[John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn3.16) (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Verse Pass**

This verse is one of the most important verses in the whole Bible, so let’s try to keep it in our head and in our heart with a game. Everyone will need to do their small part in saying the Faith Verse. As you receive the ball being passed, you will say the next word of the Faith Verse. If you don’t know the next word in the verse, the group can help you. Do you think we can work together as a group to say the Faith Verse? *(Group response)* Let’s see how it goes.

• *Have the group sit or stand in a circle with some distance between each kid*.

• *The person holding the ball will say the first word of the Faith Verse and pass the ball to the next kid in the group until the Faith Verse is completed*.

• *Play a few rounds encouraging the kids to try to get faster each time*.

• *Challenge option: Toss or roll the ball to any kid in the group to say the next word in the verse*.

• *Remember to help kids out if they don’t know the verse yet*.

**Activity Page**

**Jesus Is Alive!**

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| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* *• Markers or crayons****Getting Ready*** *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

**Jesus is alive.** He proved it to Thomas and His other disciples. That simple fact changes our world. Because of His life, we have the opportunity to live with Him forever in heaven.

• *Give each kid a* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *and markers or crayons*.

Because of Jesus, we get the chance to share the hope of eternal life with those around us. His disciples did that, and we can, too. We can grow in our trust of who God is and what He’s done for us because of His love.

**Dismissal**

Today’s Bible story was powerful. Jesus changed everything by being willing to die on the cross for us. Let’s thank Him as we close in prayer.

**Prayer**

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| Dear Jesus, thank You so much for Your resurrection. We know that You coming back to life proves that You’re perfect. Help us to follow You every day. Amen. |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

One important thing I want you to remember from today is our Faith Fact. Let’s say it together one more time. **Jesus is alive.** I’m so glad you came today. I can’t wait to see you next time.

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page***.

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid*.

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session*.