**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**

*In this* **Learn** *session, preschoolers will discover the amazing facts that Jesus is alive and He is God. You’ll also explain the five senses as you explore how Thomas learned to trust that Jesus is alive. Celebrating that Jesus is alive is fantastic because preschoolers love to celebrate*.

**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**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need******Preservice Activities*** *•* ***Preservice Activities Pages****, 1–5* *• Items that kids can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste* *• Foods that taste sweet (candy, maple syrup, honey), salty (chips, pretzels), sour (lemon, dill pickles), and bitter (radishes, citrus peel, unsweetened cocoa powder)* *• Individual boxes of raisins****Large Group*** *• Bible* *• Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Praise the Lord Every Day” by Yancy, “Hosanna” by Yancy, “Super Wonderful God” by Yancy)* *• For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:* *• Projector or TV* *• Laptop* *•* ***Faith Fact Sound video*** *(bell ringing)* *•* ***Faith Fact Slide*** *•* ***Faith Verse Slide*** *•* ***Bible Lesson Video A*** *•* ***Bible Lesson Video B*** *•* ***Preservice Activities Pages****, 1–5****Small Group*** *•* ***Preservice Activities Pages****, 1–5* *• Tape* *• Upbeat game music to play in background* *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* *• Red markers* *• Crayons* *• Ball to roll* *• Optional: Stopwatch* *• Worship music to play**To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/Downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready******Preservice Activities*** *• Set out toys and snacks.* *• Print the* ***Preservice Activities Pages****, 1–5.****Large Group*** *• Download videos and slides if needed.* *• Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.****Small Group*** *• Tape the* ***Preservice Activities Pages*** *to different spots on the walls around the room.* *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid**First time leading* Learn *for Preschool? Check out the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

**Preservice Activities**

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

**Bible Story Warm-Up**

Today, we’ll talk about our five senses. Can you show me five fingers? *(Group response)* Let’s count to five. *(Group response)* Good job!

• *Show the* ***Preservice Activities Pages*** *as you say the following for each sense picture. (These pages will be used again in Large Group time and in Small Group Circle 1.)*

Today, we’ll learn about the five senses. What is this a picture of? *(Allow responses.)* How does this part of the body help us? *(Allow responses.)*

• *Lay the pictures out where the kids can see them*.

Now let’s practice using our five senses.

• *One at a time, show the items you have for kids to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste*.

• *Ask the following questions so kids talk about the senses*.

Is this something you can see, smell, hear, touch, or taste?

What part of your body would help you do that?

Can you use any of the other senses, too?

Give your neighbor a high five. *(Group response)* Awesome job with the five senses. *(Hold up five fingers.)* In today’s story, a man used some of his senses to know Jesus was alive. Help me watch for them.

**Snack**

**Foods to Smell and Taste**

*As kids are eating the snack, share the following:*

One of our senses is taste. Which part of the body do we use to taste something? *(Group response)* Foods can have all kinds of tastes. God created our tongues to know when food tastes sweet, sour, salty, and even bitter.

What’s something you like to eat that tastes sweet? *(Allow responses.)* How about sour? *(Allow responses.)* Do like to eat any foods that are salty like potato chips? *(Allow responses.)* How about bitter? Have you tasted anything that was so bitter you couldn’t swallow it? *(Allow responses.)* Which of those tastes do you like the best? *(Allow responses.)*

**Free Play**

*Any extra time can be spent playing with toys*.

**Transition**

*A few minutes before service begins have kids make their way to the large group area and sit in their designated areas*.

**Large Group**

**25 Minutes**

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

**Introduction**

Welcome, everyone! I love how you’re sitting ready to learn from God’s Word, the Bible. The Bible tells us about Jesus. Today, we’ll learn that Jesus is God.

• *Hold up the* ***Preservice Activities Pages***.

Today, we’ll talk about our five senses. Do you remember our five senses? See, hear, smell, touch, taste. Let’s see which of these a man named Thomas used to know that Jesus is alive.

**Faith Fact**

That’s our Faith Fact for today. **Jesus is alive**.

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

Can you whisper it? **Jesus is alive.** Can you stand up and say it? **Jesus is alive.** Can you shout it? **Jesus is alive.** Let’s all clap for Jesus. **Jesus is alive**.

**Bible Time**

I’d like to find out more about our Bible story. How about you? *(Group response)* It’s time to visit Lizzy and see what she can tell us about Jesus today. Remember to watch for each of the senses that are used. Does the man in our Bible story see, hear, smell, touch, or taste to know that Jesus is alive?

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video A***.

Wow, friends! It was great to hear from Grandpa and Lizzy today. It’s great to know Jesus is alive.

• *Hold up the* ***Preservice Activities Pages***.

Remember our five senses? *(Group response)* What did Thomas use to know that Jesus is alive? *(Allow responses.)* Thomas used his eyes to see Jesus. Then, Jesus told Thomas to touch Him with his hands. That’s when Thomas knew for sure. Jesus wasn’t hurt on the Cross anymore. **Jesus is alive**.

**Worship**

We have a lot to thank Jesus for. Let’s praise Him for being hurt on the Cross for us. Let’s use some of our senses as we do that.

**Praise**

I praise You with my eyes. *(Touch eyes.)*

I praise You with my mouth. *(Touch mouth.)*

I praise You with my hands. *(Lift up hands.)*

I love You, Jesus!

**Sing**

How can we use our hands to worship as we sing? *(Group response)* Let’s sing and worship Jesus now.

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

**Prayer**

Now let’s bow our heads and pray.

|  |
| --- |
| Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We’re so glad that You are not on the Cross now. You are alive. We love You, Jesus. Amen. |

**Bible Time cont’d**

Let’s check back in with Lizzy and Grandpa.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video B***.

What an exciting reminder from Lizzy and Grandpa. Jesus really is alive. He is God. You used some of your senses when you practiced the Faith Verse, too. I could see that you were watching and listening to Lizzy. Then, you used your hands and did the actions with her. Great job, everyone!

**Response Time**

• *Play a worship song quietly*.

Let’s take time to use our senses to talk to Jesus.

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

|  |
| --- |
| (*Touch your ears*.) Dear Jesus, thank You that we can hear Your voice and know that You are God. (*Point to your eyes*.) Jesus, thank You that we can see Your creation and know that You are God. (*Touch your mouth*.) Jesus, thank You that we can praise You with our mouth. You are God. (*Touch your nose*.) Jesus, thank You that we can smell good things You created and know You are a good God who loves us. (*Hold out your hands*.) Jesus, we praise You because You are alive. Amen. |

**Faith Verse**

Let’s say our Faith Verse together one more time.

[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.”

**John** *(hands at waist, spread apart, palms up and out)*

**3:** *(hands together like a clap)*

**16** *(hands opened to “book”)*

**“For this is how God** *(two index fingers point up)*

**loved the world:** *(two hands covering heart)*

**He gave his one and only Son**, *(hold up one finger)*

**so that everyone who believes in him** *(palms up, move hands away from body and out)*

**will not perish** *(make fists, bend elbows, and cross arms as they go down and away from body)*

**but have eternal life.”** *(make L with index fingers and thumbs and move arms up sides of body)*

• *Show the* ***Faith Verse Slide***.

You’re so awesome! You’re doing such a good job with our Faith Verse.

**Closing**

Today has been a special day because we learned that Jesus is alive. Jesus is God. It’s been fun to see how people in the Bible used their senses to really know that Jesus is alive.

• *Play the* ***Faith Fact Sound*** *video (bell ringing)*.

That sound means it’s time to say our Faith Fact one more time together. Let’s shout it. **Jesus is alive**.

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

Now we’re going to put our hands up in the air to praise Jesus. *(Demonstrate the action.)* Say the Faith Fact as loud as we can. Ready? **Jesus is alive**.

**Dismissal to Small Groups**

Let’s go to our circles where we’ll spend time in our very special small groups.

• *Dismiss the kids by groups.*

|  |
| --- |
| ***Leader Tip:*** *This can be done by assigning color teams or by age groups. Note that some young preschoolers may not know their age. Using a colored sticker, jersey, or wristband will help separate the kids and help identify their small groups.* |

**Small Group**

**25 Minutes**

*See supplies and prep instructions at beginning of session or in each activity below.*

|  |
| --- |
| ***Leader Tip:*** *Small groups can alternate to each circle, or all groups can do each activity at the same time. If you choose to alternate, you will need at least one leader per circle.* |

**Circle 1**

**Group Connection**

**Senses Sprints**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Preservice Activities Pages****, 1–5* *• Tape* *• Upbeat game music to play in background****Getting Ready*** *• Tape the* ***Preservice Activities Pages*** *to different spots on the walls around the room.* |

Let’s play a game with our five senses. The pictures are in different places around the room. Let’s find them. Can you point to the eyes? Ears? Nose? Mouth? Hands? Good job! Let’s see how much you remember about your senses. I’m going to say something about one of them. When I say, “Go!” move to the part of the body you would use. Let’s try it.

• *After each phrase, affirm the kids who went to the correct sense picture*.

I taste sweet ice cream with this. Go!

Jesus told Thomas to touch Him with this. Go!

I can look at all the beautiful things God has made with this. Go!

I can smell flowers with this. Go!

I can hear about Jesus with this. Go!

I can shout that **Jesus is alive** with this. Go!

• *Add additional phrases if you have time or let the kids share some*.

• *During the activity, interrupt and practice the Faith Fact*: **Jesus is alive**.

• *Play* ***Faith Fact Sound*** *video. Review the Faith Fact even if you can’t play the sound*.

**Circle 2**

**Activity Page Time**

**Jesus is Alive!**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* *• Red markers* *• Crayons****Getting Ready*** *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

Today, we learned that **Jesus is alive**. Thomas wanted to see where Jesus had been hurt on the Cross. Jesus showed His hands to Thomas. Thomas learned that Jesus really is alive.

• *Hand out a* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *to each kid.*

First, let’s color the places on Jesus’ hands where He was hurt on the Cross with the red marker. Can you color those red? *(Pause while kids color the nail scars.)* Let’s color the rest of the picture of Jesus and His friends with some bright colors. This was a happy time for all of them because **Jesus is alive**.

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus again?

How would you feel if you saw Jesus like Thomas did?

**Circle 3**

**Feet-to-Floor Game Time**

**Rolling Stone Relay**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need*** *• Ball to roll* *• Optional: Stopwatch**No prep is needed for this activity.* |

On the third day after Jesus was hurt on the Cross, some of His friends went to His tomb. They were very surprised to see that the giant stone in front had been rolled away. Then, they learned that Jesus is alive. They ran back and told more of Jesus’ friends that He wasn’t there. They shared the news that **Jesus is alive**.

We’re going to play a game called Rolling Stone Relay. You’ll roll the ball all the way to the wall and back. When you return to the group, shout, “**Jesus is alive**.” Then, the next person will roll the ball. We’ll keep playing until everyone has had a chance to tell us **Jesus is alive**. Let’s play!

• *Optional: Divide kids into two teams to play or set a time as kids play and then play again to beat the time*.

• *Play until everyone has participated*.

When Jesus appeared to His friends, He told them to go and tell everyone that He is alive. That is the best news ever. He wants us to tell our family and friends, too. When you go home, tell everyone you know that **Jesus is alive**.

**Circle 4**

**Hands-On Learning**

**Praise Freeze!**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need*** *• Worship music to play**No prep needed for this activity.* |

Today, we are celebrating how much Jesus loves us. **Jesus is alive**. Let’s move around and praise Him. If you hear the music stop, then it’s time to freeze and shout the Faith Fact: **Jesus is alive**.

• *Play the music, stopping at intervals to say, “Freeze.”*

• *Keep playing until you run out of time*

**Dismissal**

• *Play* ***Faith Fact Sound*** *video (bell ringing).*

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.

Before we go, let’s say the Faith Fact together one last time. **Jesus is alive**. Great job! Remember to tell your family and friends that **Jesus is alive**. I had a great time learning more about Jesus with you. See you next time.

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *with each kid*.

• *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*.