

***“A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart,
and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.
What you say flows from what is in your heart.”
Luke 6:45***

PARENT DEVO

READ Matthew 28, Luke 24 & John 20. Describe what you think the women and disciples thought when they saw the empty tomb and then later when they saw Jesus face to face. Why is His resurrection the best news the world has ever heard?

DID YOU KNOW? The Jewish leaders would have easily stopped the disciples if they could have produced a body. Obviously, that wasn't possible, and the disciples changed from fearful cowards to courageous leaders willing to die for the Good News that they knew was true.

REFLECTION: In Revelation 21:3-7 we see the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to come back. Think about this: one day we will get to experience unimaginable joy like the disciples did when they saw Him alive again. Take time this week to rejoice in what the Good News of Jesus' resurrection means to you.

PRAY: Thank God for who He is, how He defeated death and the hope you now can have in Him. Ask Him to help you live your life in a way that reflects His goodness to the people you are around.

Finish Line:

The good news of our good God: Jesus is alive!

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

John 3:16, Romans 5:8

LESSON MATERIALS:

- Various objects around the house
- Blank piece of paper
- Markers or crayons
- Painters tape

How to use this lesson:

- Everything that is **bolded** is meant to be read out loud. The rest is either instructions, answers to questions or suggestions for supplies.
- The Finish Line is the key point for the lesson.
- Watermark Kids uses the New Living Translation (NLT) Bible. You can find this translation at www.biblegateway.com.

Activity 1

Can you tell me what today is? Easter! **Why do we celebrate Easter?** Jesus is ALIVE! **Our Finish Line today is: The good news of our good God: Jesus is alive!** Today, we're going to read the best news in the entire Bible. Before we do that, we're going to go on a scavenger hunt to find some things to help us understand the story. Have kids locate these objects (or similar objects) around the house but don't tell them what they mean yet. You'll go through them AFTER you've read the story. **Let's see if we can find:**

- **Rock** – the empty tomb
- **3 things** – three days Jesus was in the tomb
- **Spices** – what the women brought for Jesus' body
- **Something shiny** – the angel that shared the good news
- **White cloth** – all that was left in the tomb
- **Something new** – Jesus is alive and is going to make all things new
- **Shoes** – Mary running to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive

Great job! Before we watch the teaching video, what do you think these things have to do with Jesus being alive? Answers will vary. Have the kids guess what these objects have to do with the resurrection. **Let's read from our Bible and see if you can figure out what the objects represent.**

Storytime

Start by reading **Matthew 28:1-10** from your Bible. You can also choose to add **"God's Wonderful Surprise"** from the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones on pages 310-317. After you've read the story, talk through these questions.

- **What was different about the tomb when the women arrived?** The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. An angel was there.
- **What did the angel tell the women?** Don't be scared. Jesus is alive!
- **How did they respond to the good news that "Jesus is alive"?** They were excited! They ran home. Mary ran to tell the disciples.
- **How do you think the objects we found earlier tie in to our story today?** Go through the objects once again and identify what they represent in the story.

Activity 2

Jesus came down from heaven to earth lived a perfect life. That means He never sinned. Are any of us perfect? No way! We are all sinners and we deserve to die for our sins. But God LOVES you! How do we know? Well, let's think about our Easter story again. Even though Jesus was perfect, He was arrested and killed on the cross. Then, when it didn't seem like anything good could come out of this sad situation, God raised Jesus from the dead! JESUS IS ALIVE! His death paid the price for your sin and mine. When we admit that we are sinners, believe that Jesus died for us, and confess that He is Lord of our life, we are saved! We can have eternal life with God! That is great news! We are going to make crosses to help us remember that God loves us and that Jesus died for us to pay the price for our sins.

Give each kid a blank piece of paper. Take painters tape and make a cross in the middle of the paper. If you do not have painters tape, you can have the kids draw a cross with a white crayon. Divide the rest of the paper into 5 sections, one for each color below. Read each Scripture and allow the kids the opportunity to color a section around the cross in that color.

Around the cross, we are going to use different colors to remind us the truth about Gospel.

- **BLACK** – This represents our sin that separates us from God. Romans 3:23 says, *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”*
- **RED** – This represents Jesus’ blood that was shed when He died to pay the price for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”*
- **WHITE** – This represents forgiveness! When we ask God to forgive us of our sins He does! 1 John 1:9 says, *“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”*
- **GREEN** – This represents us being given new life and growing in our relationship with God. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, *“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become anew person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”*
- **YELLOW** – This represents heaven! Everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life with Him in heaven! John 3:16 says, *“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.”*

After they have finished coloring around the cross, remove the tape leaving a white cross in the middle. Use a marker or pen and write "Jesus is alive!" in the middle of the cross.

Let's pray and thank God for sending His Son and for the good news that Jesus is alive!

DEFINITION:

A heart (palms over heart) **that reflects** (point to palm then point away) **the excellent** (two thumbs up) **character of God** (point up).

MEMORY VERSE:

A good (thumbs up) **person produces good** (thumbs up) **things from the treasury of a good** (thumbs up) **heart, and an evil** (thumbs down) **person produces evil** (thumbs down) **things from the treasury of an evil** (thumbs down) **heart. What you say** (point to mouth) **flows from what is in your heart** (palms over heart).

Luke 6:45