

K-2 Large Group Mid-Week Lessons

**Year 2 – Quarter 3
Spring 2025**

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Lesson 1 – March 4, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus walks on water.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I trust in Jesus.

Supplies:

- Umbrella
- Super soakers
- Soccer ball
- Toy airplane
- Book or backpack
- First aid kit or crutches
- Pillow
- Whiteboard

Intro

Run on stage carrying an umbrella above your head, like you're caught in a rainstorm.

Hey guys! Have you ever been outside when a big thunderstorm started? *Allow students to briefly share.* It can get pretty noisy out there, can't it?! I know how to make it sound like a thunderstorm inside the building. Let's do it together! Follow my instructions carefully, and we'll have an indoor thunderstorm!

Working together, use sounds to make a thunderstorm (begin by rubbing hands together, then snapping, then clapping, then stomping feet and clapping together). When the "storm" is at its loudest, have a few leaders lightly mist the crowd using the super soakers. Then use the sounds in reverse to make the "storm" die down until the room is silent again.

Lesson

That was really cool, wasn't it? Real storms are sometimes scary though. Have you ever been scared during a storm?

On Sunday, we learned about when Jesus walked right on top of the water, in the middle of a storm! The disciples had to learn to trust Jesus, even during the storm. We can learn to trust Jesus, too, and to feel confident in Him.

Most of us probably don't spend our day in a boat, do we? We go to school, we play sports, we go to music practice or dance class, we hang out with our families, and we come to church! Do you know that we can trust Jesus in all of these places, too?

Using props, begin to talk through how we can trust Jesus in each place. If time, find a few youth leaders who can share specific experiences of how they trusted Jesus in one of these situations.

Hold out umbrella. Sometimes it storms here, right? Storms can make loud sounds, or even make the power go out in our homes! If there is a scary storm happening outside, what can we do to trust Jesus? *Encourage students to give specific actions.*

Pull out soccer ball. Do any of you play sports? Or maybe you dance? Or play an instrument? Sometimes, things don't go our way. We may lose a game, or we may hurt our ankle while dancing, or we might have a really hard time learning a new song on our instrument. When we're frustrated, we can still trust Jesus. What are some verses that can help you trust Jesus when you feel frustrated? *Write a list of verses on the whiteboard. (Some verses include: Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 17:7-8, Proverbs 16:3, 1 John 5:14, Matthew 6:26, Hebrews 13:6, Philippians 4:19, etc.)*

Pull out toy airplane. Have any of you ever flown in an airplane before? I'm sure many of you have been in a car before, right? We can practice trusting Jesus when we're traveling! We can use that time to think about Bible verses that we've memorized, and we can pray and thank Jesus for taking care of us every day.

Pull out book/backpack. What about at school? When might we need to trust Jesus at school? *Allow students to answer – when making friends, when studying, when taking tests, when nervous, etc.*

Pull out first aid kit/crutches. When you get hurt, can you still trust Jesus? Can you think of a Bible verse that might help you trust Jesus when you are hurt? *Add to list of verses on the whiteboard. (Use verses listed in soccer ball scenario or come up with a few verses in advance to help prompt students.)*

Pull out pillow. Sometimes it is hard to fall asleep at night, especially if I'm worried or afraid. When I am having a hard time falling asleep, I practice trusting Jesus by thinking of my favorite worship songs and singing them in my head! What is your favorite worship song? *Allow students to answer.*

Conclusion

Today we came up with some ways that we can practice trusting Jesus! When we trust Jesus, we can feel confident. Do you know why? Because Jesus is powerful and perfect – that makes Him trustworthy. He always keeps His promises.

Do you know John 14:2? *Give opportunity for a student to recite.* This is a super important promise that Jesus makes! He is preparing a place for us! *Present the Gospel using the Wordless Book, emphasizing the trustworthiness of Jesus in His promise of salvation. Then give an invitation for salvation.*

Close in prayer.

Lesson 2 – March 11, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about being humble, like children.
Think Right:	“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” 1 Peter 5:6
Do Right:	I will be humble when I follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel humble knowing that I am following Jesus.

Supplies:

- Invite another leader to be an actor for the week; they’ll be acting as your very arrogant friend.
 - Have them wear a big foam finger pointer that says “I’m #1” (or something similar).
 - Have them wear a t-shirt with “I’m the best” or similar phrase on it.
 - They should really play this role up.
- Bell (to use as your “pause button”)
- Large whiteboard and dry erase markers

Lesson

Jump right into the skit from the beginning; don’t talk directly to the students until you ring the “pause button” bell.

Hey, _____ (*insert friend’s name*)! How was your weekend? You had an important basketball game, right?

Friend: I sure did! And guess what? I totally carried my team. We won, but they couldn’t have won without me. I’m the star player. Without me, they’d lose almost every game. I guess you could say that I’m just...the best.

Hit the pause button. Woah! Did you hear _____ talking? It’s one thing to be really excited about your team and performance, but this seems like a bit much. _____ seems a little “full of himself/herself.” Have you heard that phrase before? It means _____ is being prideful.

We learned about pride and humility on Sunday. When we think of ourselves as better than other people or we think about ourselves instead of others, we are being prideful. When we see ourselves as God sees us AND when we think about others more than when we think about ourselves, we are being humble. Jesus is humble! And He’s the greatest person ever! When we follow and love Jesus, we get to choose to be humble like Him.

Let’s see if we can help _____ choose to be humble.

“Un-pause” the pause button. Wow, _____! Sounds like it was an incredible game. But I’m a little worried about you. You said that you’re “the best” on your team... and it’s really great that you played well, but that sounds pretty prideful to me.

Friend: What? What do you mean? What’s ‘prideful’ mean?

Hit the pause button. Would one of you (students) be able to help me explain to my friend what ‘prideful’ means? Allow a student to volunteer. Let’s do this together!

“Un-pause” the pause button. Work together with the student to explain pride and humility to your friend. Friend should be defensive at first, then come to understand and become repentant.

Friend: I guess you’re right. I was being very prideful, wasn’t I? I know that Jesus is humble, and I love Jesus. I want to be like Him, so that means I should be humble, too. How can I be humble?

That’s a great question! First, we need to see ourselves as God sees us. *Ask students.* Does anyone know some verses that help us see ourselves as God sees us? *Discuss together.* (John 3:16 – God loves us; Acts 16:31 – Jesus saves us; Ephesians 2:8-9 – we can’t earn salvation, it’s a gift; Romans 3:23 – we all sin; etc.).

Once we understand how God sees us, it’s time for the next step... we need to think about others more than ourselves. Does anyone know Mark 12:30-31? *Allow student to recite.* Mark 12:30-31 teaches us that we need to love God and others! It’s so important!

How can we think about (and love) others? *Make a list on your whiteboard as students share ideas.*

Friend: Thank you so much, guys! You are totally right. I want to be humble because I follow Jesus, and He is humble! I’m going to go thank my teammates for playing with me, and I’m going to tell them about all the awesome plays they made during our game.

Conclusion

Wasn’t that cool? _____ realized that he/she was being really prideful, but we were able to help him/her understand what it means to be humble!

Do you love and follow Jesus? *Use this time as an opportunity to present the Gospel using the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

If you love and follow Jesus, you get to choose to be humble every day! When we are humble, we are becoming more and more like Jesus. That is so exciting!

Let’s think together. What is one way you can be humble like Jesus this week? *Brainstorm together.* Those were great ideas! Next week, when you come back, I want to hear about when and where you chose to be humble!

Close in prayer.

Topical Lesson – March 18, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Jesus Understands Us

Know Right:	Jesus understands us.
Think Right:	“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.” Psalm 139:1-2
Do Right:	I will remember that Jesus understands my emotions and experiences.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved because Jesus understands me and helps me.

Supplies:

- A big bunch of colorful balloons; draw the following faces on a few of the balloons:
 - Hungry (licking lips)
 - Tired (yawning)
 - Sad (crying)
 - Joyful (smiling)

Intro

Walk on stage happily carrying a bunch of balloons. Oh, hello! Look at this colorful bunch of balloons I have! Did you notice that some of my balloons have faces on them? These are some friends I'd like you to meet tonight! Let's see if we can find all of the faces hidden in my big bunch of balloons.

Pull out one balloon at a time as you follow the lesson outline. Invite a student to the front to hold the balloon as you talk about that emotion.

Lesson

Hungry

Pull out the hungry balloon. Hmm, can anyone guess what this balloon is feeling? Let students try to guess. This balloon face looks hungry!! I call this balloon Hungry Hector. Let me tell you a bit about Hungry Hector.

Hungry Hector had a busy, busy day at school today, and the very last thing he did was play basketball during gym class. By the time he got home, he was soooooo hungry! But guess what?! His mom said he needed to wait even longer before he could eat because dinner wasn't ready yet! Those 15 minutes of waiting felt soooo long, but finally Hungry Hector got to eat dinner with his family!

Have you ever felt hungry? Rub your tummy if you've ever felt hungry. *Briefly allow students to respond.* If you were here on Sunday, we learned about someone else who also felt hungry...do you remember? Jesus felt hungry when He was in the desert! Jesus understands us and loves us, and He knows what it feels like to feel hungry.

Let's all say, "Jesus understands!", on the count of three: 1...2...3! Jesus understands!

Let's meet our next friend!

Tired

Pretend to stifle a big yawn as you pull out the tired balloon. This is Tired Tatiana! Tired Tatiana woke up way too early this morning, and now she's so tired that she can't stop yawning! She can't wait to crawl into her bed tonight and go to sleep!

Do you ever feel tired? Yawn really big if you've ever felt tired. *Briefly allow students to respond.* Guess what?! Jesus felt tired, too! Do you remember what we learned on Sunday? When Jesus walked on this earth, He traveled all over to teach and to do miracles. He taught large crowds, and He walked long distances. This made Him feel tired! The Bible even says that Jesus was able to sleep during a big storm! Jesus understands us and loves us, and He knows what it feels like to feel tired.

Let's all say, "Jesus understands!", on the count of three: 1...2...3! Jesus understands!

Let's meet our next friend!

Sad

Pull out the sad balloon. Aw, this friend looks sad. This is Sad Sarah. Sad Sarah has been having a tough day. Sarah's grandpa is really sick, which makes her feel sad and nervous, even a little afraid sometimes. And Sarah's friend wasn't at school today, so she felt all alone.

Do you ever feel sad or lonely? Make a sad face if you've ever felt sad. *Briefly allow students to respond.* Do you think Jesus ever felt sad or lonely? Yes, He did! Right before He died on the cross, Jesus went to a garden to pray. The Bible says that Jesus felt "sorrowful." That means He felt very, very sad. Even though this was all part of God's plan and Jesus was ready to obey God perfectly, He still felt very sad. And later, when it was time for Jesus to die on the cross, all of His friends ran away and abandoned Him. That is so sad! If you ever feel sad or lonely, you can remember that Jesus knows what that feels like. Jesus understands us and loves us, and He knows what it feels like to feel sad and lonely.

Let's all say, "Jesus understands!", on the count of three: 1...2...3! Jesus understands!

We have one more friend to meet...

Conclusion

Joyful

Pull out the joyful balloon. This is Joyful Josie! Josie knows that Jesus understands what she's feeling, all the time, and He loves her no matter what! That makes Josie feel joyful and loved. Sometimes, even with Jesus, Josie doesn't always feel happy... she sometimes feels hungry, tired, or sad. But she can always remember that Jesus loves her, and He understands what she's feeling, and this makes her joyful.

Do you love and follow Jesus? Is He your Savior? *Use this time as an opportunity to present the Gospel using the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

If you love and follow Jesus, you can be just like Josie. No matter what you are feeling, you can joyfully remember that Jesus loves you, and He understands you.

One more time, let's all say, "Jesus understands!", on the count of three: 1...2...3! Jesus understands!

Close in prayer.

Topical Lesson: March 25, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Jesus Is Our True Friend

Know Right:	Jesus is our true friend.
Think Right:	“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13
Do Right:	I can enjoy my friendship with Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful with Jesus as my true friend.

Supplies:

- Two chairs
- Two actors for opening skit (ideally middle or high school-aged leaders)
- Props for skit:
 - Chocolate donut
 - Big bottle of lemonade (or water dyed yellow)
 - Soccer ball
 - Bible
- Large poster with glittery/colorful letters that say “Jesus”
- Wordless Book-colored props for sharing the Gospel
- Friendship props (personalize as needed):
 - Carton of orange juice
 - Bottle of grape juice
 - Bible
 - Toy car

Intro

Both friends walk on stage and begin the skit right away.

Friend 1: Hey, _____! I'm so glad we could hang out! Thanks for stopping by!

Both friends should sit down in the chairs on stage.

Friend 2: Of course! I even brought your favorite treat, a chocolate donut!

Friend 1: How thoughtful of you! Thanks so much! Would you like half?

Friend 2: Yes, thanks!

Split donut in half and share as you continue to talk.

Friend 1: If only we had some lemonade to go with this donut. Do you remember that time we had a lemonade stand, but we forgot to add sugar to our lemonade?! It was just a bunch of lemon juice! *Pull out the big bottle of lemonade.*

Friend 2: Oh, yeah! It was soooo sour! We didn't sell ANY of it!

Friend 1: Yuck! I think that was the summer that your family had to move to a different town. That was so sad. I thought I'd never see you again!

Friend 2: I know... we couldn't go to the same school or play on the same soccer team anymore. That really was a bummer. *Pull out soccer ball.* We were really good teammates on the soccer team.

Friend 1: We really were. I was sad when you moved, and I really missed seeing you every day. But we still see each other every week at church!

Friend 2: I'm so happy that we get to go to church together!

Friend 1: What's your favorite thing to do at church?

Friend 2: I really like when we sing worship songs together.

Friend 1: I like that, too. *Pull out Bible.* I think my favorite thing is when we get to read the Bible together with our teacher and learn about who God is and the things He does.

Friend 2: Oh, I really like that part, too! Hey! Speaking of class... it looks like it's time for us to get over to our class! Let's go!

Friends run off stage.

Lesson

Large group leader comes on stage.

It's so fun to have a friend who knows your favorite things and likes to be with you, isn't it?! Well, guess what? There is someone who knows EVERYTHING about you and wants to be your friend. Any guesses who it is? *Invite students to call out their guesses.*

If you said, "Jesus!", you're right! *Place the "Jesus" poster on one chair, leaving the other chair empty.*

Before Jesus can be your friend, Jesus needs to be your Savior. Let's review how Jesus is our Savior. *Using Wordless Book props, review the Gospel. Wait to give an invitation for salvation – it will be part of the lesson's conclusion.*

If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior and the Leader of your life, that means you are ready to be friends with Jesus! Remember how the two friends at the beginning of our lesson knew lots of things about each other, and obviously really enjoyed being together? It's the same with Jesus, except He's perfect!!

Jesus has been my Savior for ___ years now, and I LOVE being friends with Jesus! Let me tell you all about what it's like to be friends with Jesus. *Sit down in the empty chair; feel free to adapt the following paragraphs to fit your personal relationship with Jesus.*

First, Jesus knows EVERYTHING about me! He knows what I do, what I say, and even what I think and feel! He knows my favorite things and my least favorite things. He even knows the little things about me that aren't super important... like He knows that I LOVE orange juice with my breakfast (*hold up carton of orange juice*) but that I don't really like grape juice (*hold up bottle of grape juice*). Jesus even knows the not-so-good things about me, like when I sin and make mistakes. But because Jesus has forgiven me and is my Savior, He is still my friend! It's pretty amazing to realize that Jesus knows EVERYTHING about me.

I'm learning more about Jesus, too! I can learn about Him when I read my Bible. *Hold up your Bible.* What kinds of things do you think we can learn about Jesus from the Bible? *Invite students to respond.* The Bible teaches me about who Jesus is (like John 14:6), what kinds of things He does (like John 14:2 and John 3:16), and the things He likes and dislikes (like Mark 12:30-31 and 2 Peter 3:18).

Second, Jesus LIKES to be with me! He wants me to think about Him and talk with Him, no matter where I am. What is it called when we talk to Jesus? (Prayer) Sometimes I like to pray while I'm on my way to work. *Hold up toy car.* I keep my eyes open, but I just talk with Jesus as I drive.

I love being friends with Jesus. There are SO many ways we can enjoy being friends with Jesus! I shared a few of the ways I enjoy being friends with Jesus, but there are many more! I'm learning new ways to be friends with Jesus every day.

Conclusion

Stand up from the chair, and motion to the empty chair.
So ... is Jesus your friend?

If you're not sure if Jesus has saved you, but you know you want Him to be your Savior and your friend, there are leaders who would love to talk with you about that tonight. Before we pray, I want all of the leaders to raise their hands. Everyone, look around – these leaders would love to talk to you about how Jesus can save you! If you want to talk about that, find a leader tonight, and they'll be ready.

If Jesus has saved you, then He is also your friend! I shared a few ways that I enjoy being friends with Jesus. This week, I challenge you to think about ways you can enjoy being friends with Jesus. Maybe you could try reading a verse in your Bible and then talk to Jesus about it through prayer. Or maybe you could go sit outside and enjoy His beautiful creation. Or maybe you could have fun and sing your favorite worship song. There are many, many ways we can enjoy being friends with Jesus!

Let's pray and thank Jesus for being our Savior and our friend.

Close in prayer.

Lesson 3 – April 1, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus enters Jerusalem.
Think Right:	“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker...” Psalm 95:6
Do Right:	I will worship Jesus as my King.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I worship Jesus as my King.

Supplies:

- Whiteboard or paper
- Thick, bold dry erase markers or markers
- An artist or a youth leader who likes to doodle

Lesson

Tonight, we sang (or prayed), didn't we? While we were doing those things, who were we thinking about? That's right! God! Actually, we were worshiping Him. That means that we were showing that He is the greatest and the most valuable.

What does 'valuable' mean? *Allow students to answer.* 'Valuable' means really important or worth a lot.

Let's think about what is valuable. How about a really huge diamond or ruby? That's valuable, right? How about our teachers? They are really valuable. What about our parents? They are really valuable, too! So, why don't we worship those people and those things?

Let's figure that out by thinking about who God is. Raise your hand if you know an attribute of God.

Have the artist go to the whiteboard/paper. As students give attributes of God, have the artist write that word on the board in big letters in a fun/interesting font.

As the following words come up, ask if they know a verse to go with it (if your church uses the Awana program, verses are taken from the Sparks books). If they are struggling to name attributes of God, give them the verse and ask for the attribute.

- **Father** – 1 John 4:14: “The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.”
- **Powerful** – Psalm 147:5: “Great is our Lord and mighty in power...”
- **Good** – Psalm 118:1: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good...”
- **Loving** – 1 John 4:19: “We love because He first loved us.” OR 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.”

- **Creator** – Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- **Holy** – Leviticus 19:2: “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”
- **Shepherd** – Psalm 23:1: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.”
- **Caring** – 1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”
- **Savior** – Luke 2:11: “Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”
- **Wonderful Counselor/Mighty God/Everlasting Father/Prince of Peace** – Isaiah 9:6: “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Conclusion

When finished, encourage students to look at the board and think about who God is. This is why we worship only Him. He is the greatest! There is no one like Him and nothing like Him.

Close with a worship song. Encourage students to just sit and sing (no hand motions), to look at the board or close their eyes, and to stay focused on God.

Close in prayer.

Lesson 4 – April 8, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus rises from the dead.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.
Feel Right:	I can feel thankful that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.

For this lesson, we will create a giant timeline made of students/leaders holding props that walk through the Bible from creation to the death and resurrection of Christ.

- *Tip 1: When choosing props, think big! The bigger and more eye-catching the prop, the more effective it will be in helping students remember what they’ve learned.*
- *Tip 2: You will have to move quickly through each point of the timeline. This is designed to create an overview and help students understand that the Gospel is connected to the whole of the Bible, not to explain each point in detail.*

Supplies:

- Easter basket
- Plastic Easter eggs
- Easter candy
- Globe
- Large sad face made out of paper
- Romans 3:23 written out in black on a whiteboard or poster board
- A large heart
- “1,000” written out OR 1,000 M&M’s or other small objects in a clear container
- “400” written out OR 400 M&M’s or other small objects in a clear container
- Bible
- Nativity scene
- Gauze/bandage/crutches
- Palm branches
- Cross
- A plate of fish (either real or a fake plastic fish)
- A large question mark

Intro

What important holiday is coming up? That's right, Easter! We are going to think about Easter a little bit early this year.

Now, I said it's an important holiday. But WHY is it so important? Is it because of the baskets? *Hold up the Easter basket.* Nope! *Throw the basket over your shoulder behind you.* Is it because of the plastic eggs? Nope! *Throw the eggs.* (Bonus tip: if you know someone who can juggle, have them walk in juggling the eggs and then drop them when you say, 'Nope!') Is it because of the candy? Nope! It's not the candy either. *Throw the candy behind you.*

In order to understand why Easter is so important, we need to look in God's Word, the Bible. We're going to start at the very beginning.

Lesson

Call up a student or leader to hold up each prop as you explain it. Continue to add to your "timeline" as you teach.

1. **Globe** – The Bible tells us that God created a perfect world – our world here on earth! And He made people – us – to live with Him, our Creator. Everything was right, and everything was good.
2. **Sad face** – But then the very first people, Adam and Eve, sinned. That means they chose their way instead of God's way. They made themselves more important than God, their Creator. And their relationship with God was broken.
3. **Romans 3:23** – And every single person who lived after them would sin, too. Abraham Lincoln, your grandma, me, and you. Our relationship with God would be broken, too. And there was no way for people to fix it.
4. **Heart** – But God loved people so much that He had a plan to save us! He was going to make a way for us to be right with God!
5. **1,000 years** – The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, tells us that for 1,000 years God's special people, the Israelites, tried to follow all of the rules that God set up for them. But they kept messing up. They would do things right for a while, and then they would sin. And then they would follow God, and then they would follow idols. Do you know who that sounds like? It sounds like me, you, and all of us. We sometimes do what's right, but then we all sin, just like the Israelites.
6. **400 years** – And then, for 400 years, God was silent. He didn't talk to the people. He didn't tell them any more about the plan. Let's see how it feels to wait. *Wait for about 10 seconds.* Didn't that feel like a long time? And that was only 10 seconds! God's people had to wait 400 years – that's 400 birthdays – for something to happen!
7. **Bible** – And then, at just the right time, God's plan was ready to be put into action! Woohoo! The New Testament tells us what happened.

8. **Nativity scene** – Jesus, God’s perfect Son, was born! When do we celebrate that? Christmas! God’s plan was to send Jesus to rescue us from our sin!
9. **Gauze/bandage (put on the arm or head of the student/leader that is helping) or give them the crutches** – When Jesus grew up and was a man, He did many miracles, like healing sick people, to show that He had power and authority. He was God!
10. **Palm branches** – For a while, Jesus was really cool and popular with many of the people. As He came into the city, they shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”
11. **Cross** – But then things changed. The people wanted Jesus to be killed. It kind of seems like God’s plan had failed, doesn’t it? The One who came to save the people...had died. But guess what? Jesus knew this would happen because even this was part of God’s plan. And because He loves us, Jesus let the people put Him on the cross.
12. **Student holding out arms with nothing in them to represent “empty”** – After He died, some of Jesus’ friends put His body in a tomb. That’s kind of like a cave. It had a huge heavy rock in front of it. When some women came to the tomb, guess what they found? It was empty! Jesus didn’t stay dead! He came back to life!

This is what we celebrate when we celebrate Easter!! Jesus coming back to life!

13. **Plate of fish** – Jesus appeared to over 500 people after He came back to life. He even ate with His friends! One of His own helpers, Thomas, wasn’t sure if it was really Jesus until he saw the nail marks in Jesus’ hands. Then he believed.
14. **Question mark** – Each of us has to decide if we believe that Jesus was God, that He died, and that He rose again to save us. We each have to ask Him to forgive our sins, and to be the leader of our life. Have you made that decision?

Conclusion

Give students an opportunity to accept Christ as their Savior.

Close in prayer.

Lesson 5 – April 15, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus returns to heaven.
Think Right:	“... I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.” John 11:25b
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel hopeful when I believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.

Supplies:

- Detective outfit (black coat, black hat, magnifying glass)
- Props hidden throughout the room:
 - A huge pair of glasses
 - Plastic fish or a real piece of fish on a plate
 - Fishing net

Review

The last few weeks we have been thinking about Easter. Let's take a few minutes to think about what we've learned, so we can be sure that everyone remembers. If what I say is true, I want you to pop up! If what I say isn't true, I want you to stay sitting. Ok...here we go! (*Note: keep this moving quickly so you do not lose their attention.*)

1. **True or False: When God created the world, it was perfect.** That's true! It was perfect, and He made people – us – to live with Him.
2. **True or False: The very first people, Adam and Eve, were perfect. They never, ever did anything wrong.** That is false. They sinned by disobeying God. They chose their way instead of God's way.
3. **True or False: Every single person who has ever lived has sinned.** That's sad, but it is true. That means that our wonderful relationship with God is broken, and there's no way for us to fix it and be right with God ourselves.
4. **True or False: The Israelites, God's special people, always did a really good job of following God and His ways.** That is false. They kept messing up. They would do things right for a while, but then they would sin. After a little time, they would follow God again, and then they would follow idols. Do you know who that sounds like? It sounds like me, you, and all of us. We sometimes do what's right, but then we all sin, just like the Israelites. You guys are doing a great job remembering what you've learned. Let's see if I can trick you with the next one.

5. **True or False: All along, God had a plan to save us—or rescue us—from our sins.** True! And at just the right time, God's plan was ready.
6. **True or False: God's plan to save us was to send Jesus, His perfect Son, to earth.** That's true! Jesus is God's plan to save us from our sin. He's the rescuer!
7. **True or False: When Jesus lived here on earth and walked around, like you and I do, nobody ever liked Him.** That is false. For a while, Jesus was really cool and popular.
8. **True or False: All of the people always loved Jesus.** False! The people got angry with Jesus. They wanted Him to be killed. But that was a part of the plan. Our sin deserves a punishment, and the punishment is that we have to be separated from God forever. But instead of us having that punishment, Jesus died on a cross. He took all of our sins, so that if we believe in Him, we can be right with God and live with Him forever.
9. **True or False: Jesus didn't stay dead. He came back to life!** You're right! That is true!

Lesson

But wait just a minute. Are we really saying that Jesus died, but He came back to life? That doesn't ever really happen, does it? When people die, they just stay dead, don't they? My grandma died, and she didn't come back and walk around and talk to people. Are we sure it's true that Jesus died and came back to life? How do we know that for a fact?

Pause a moment to turn and put on your detective gear.

Let's be detectives and find out! Look around carefully. Do you see any clues?

Note: Have students search (while sitting) for odd things in the room. As they find each prop, explain what it stands for.

Huge pair of glasses (*put on the glasses or call a student up and have them put them on*) – Our first clue is that many people saw Him alive after He had already died. In fact, over 500 people saw Him!

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8a. Wow! That's pretty good proof that Jesus really did come back to life!

Fish – When Jesus came back to life, He ate food! *Read Luke 24:36-42.* He ate some fish to show the disciples that it was really Him, and His body was no longer dead. He really was alive again!

Fishing net – This is another clue about fish! Jesus performed a fishing miracle, showing His disciples He was really alive, and it was really Him. *Read John 21:1-11.* Wow! That's amazing! And it showed the disciples that the one performing the miracle was really Jesus because they knew He had performed miracles like that before.

Our clues are telling us that it is true that Jesus really did die, and He came back to life. But does it even really matter if it's true? Jesus Himself said, in John 11:25, "... I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies."

Conclusion

Believing that Jesus died and came back to life is the only way that we can be saved from our sin. Like the verse says, if we believe in Jesus, someday when our bodies stop working and we die, we will get to live in heaven with Jesus.

Can anyone recite a verse that tells us that Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for us? (John 14:2: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.") *Share the Gospel using the Wordless Book and give students the opportunity to respond.*

Close in prayer.

Topical Lesson – April 22, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

He rocked, it rolled!

Know Right:	Jesus is alive!
Think Right:	“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Do Right:	I will celebrate and tell others Jesus is alive.
Feel Right:	I can be filled with joy knowing Jesus is alive.

Supplies:

- Birthday balloon or party hat
- Wedding flowers, wedding ring, or picture of a wedding
- Egg
- Gumballs
- Cross
- Pop Rocks (2 packets per student)

Intro

We just celebrated a very special holiday. What was it? Go ahead and shout it out! That’s right, it was Easter! We waited and waited, but we finally got to celebrate Easter! When we celebrate Easter, we are celebrating that Jesus is alive!!

I really loved celebrating Easter this year. *Share with students some of the things you did to celebrate Easter, such as eating a special meal, gathering with family, or attending a special church service.*

What are some of the things you did to celebrate Easter? *Allow a few students to share.*

Lesson

Usually we celebrate to remember something special or wonderful that happened. Let’s think about some other things we celebrate.

We celebrate birthdays. *Hold up a birthday balloon or party hat.* We celebrate the birthday of someone we love because we like to remember how special they are and to thank God that He made them.

Sometimes people celebrate their wedding anniversary. *Show wedding flowers, a wedding ring, or a wedding picture.* If you have a wedding anniversary, it means you’ve been married for another year.

Sometimes if you've been married for a long time—like 40 or 50 years—you have a big party. People celebrate on their anniversary because they like to remember their special wedding day, and they want to thank God for giving them their husband or wife.

Now, if you are celebrating someone's birthday, when the party is all done, do you just forget about them and forget that they were born? No, of course not!

How about a wedding anniversary? When the celebration is done, do the people just forget that they're married? No, of course not!

How about Easter? After we are all done celebrating Easter, do we forget about Jesus and what He did for us? Do we forget that He's alive and living in heaven? Hmm...you know what? I think that sometimes we do forget.

Let's think of some things that can help us remember why we celebrate Easter, and to always thank Jesus that He died and rose again to save us from our sin.

Hold up each item as you explain.

Egg: Do you ever bake or cook with your mom or dad? Have you ever seen them crack open an egg and empty it out? Anytime you crack an egg, or you see someone crack open an egg, remember that Jesus cracked open the tomb. The huge rock that was in front of Jesus' grave was super big and there were soldiers who were guarding the tomb. But Jesus is more powerful than any of those things. He cracked open the tomb, and it was empty!

Gumball: Have you ever put your money into a gumball machine, turned the handle, and a gumball came out? That's super fun, isn't it? When you bite into a gumball, what's inside? Nothing! That's right! It's empty. That's another way that we can remember that Jesus didn't stay dead. The tomb was empty!

Cross: We have crosses here at church. Sometimes we see them outside of church, too, like when someone is wearing a cross necklace. Let's take a look at the cross I have here. Wait...where is Jesus? Why isn't He here on my cross? Because He didn't stay dead! He came back to life! So, when we see an empty cross, let's remember why Jesus isn't on the cross. He's alive!

Pop Rocks: Have you ever tried Pop Rocks before? This candy always reminds me of a celebration... they're like little sugar fireworks in your mouth! They are so fun!

We're going to do a little celebration together with our Pop Rocks. Each of you are going to get a packet. On the count of three, we're going to all cheer "Jesus is alive!" and then we will all dump a little bit of the Pop Rocks onto our tongues. When we dump the Pop Rocks, we need to be really quiet. If we listen carefully, it will sound like fireworks for our celebration!

Count to three, cheer "Jesus is alive!", then dump and listen to the Pop Rocks.

Wow! That was so cool!

Guess what... I want you to do this again sometime this week. I'm going to send you home with more Pop Rocks for you to give to a friend. When you give these Pop Rocks to your friend, tell them about how you celebrated Easter and why you celebrated (because Jesus is alive!). Then they can listen to the celebration firework sounds that Pop Rocks make, too!

Conclusion

It's fun to celebrate that Jesus is alive!

Eggs, gumballs, crosses, and Pop Rocks. There are lots of things to help us remember that Jesus died, rose again, and is alive. If you've asked Jesus to take away your sin and be the leader of your life, every day your sins are forgiven and every day you are a child of God. That is worth celebrating and remembering every day.

Close in prayer.

Lesson 6 – April 29, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples.
Think Right:	“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .” Acts 1:8a
Do Right:	I will depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.
Feel Right:	I can feel powerful through the Holy Spirit.

Supplies:

- Table
- Can or glass of flat soda
- Bowl of macaroni and cheese made without cheese (just noodles and milk)
- Bowl of dry chocolate pudding mix (without milk)
- Two spoons
- Milk for the pudding
- Bible
- Props to review previous lessons

Intro

Up here on the table, I have three foods that most kids really like: soda, macaroni and cheese, and chocolate pudding. Mmm! That sounds good! I need three volunteers who really like these foods to be my taste testers.

Choose three volunteers; have them come up one at a time. Note: if asking for volunteers tends to cause chaos and take too much time, choose volunteers in advance.

Let’s have our first volunteer come up to test the soda. *Allow student to taste it.* Well, what do you think? You look like something is wrong. Is there something wrong with the soda? Is something missing? *Allow student to answer.* The bubbles? There are no bubbles in the soda? Oh wow. I’m so sorry. I guess I gave you flat soda. I don’t know about you guys, but I don’t like flat soda. Yuck.

Let’s have our second volunteer come up and taste the macaroni and cheese. *Allow student to taste it.* Well, what do you think? Uh oh! You look like something is wrong, too! *Allow student to answer/comment.* What? There’s no cheese in the macaroni and cheese? Oh, man. I messed this one up, too. I gave you boring noodles and milk! I am so sorry about that.

Well, there’s one item left. Maybe this one will go better. Let’s have our third volunteer come up and taste the pudding. *Allow student to taste it.* I can tell by your face that something is wrong again. *Allow student to answer/comment.* What? There’s no milk in the pudding? Oh, man. I gave you dry pudding? I’m so sorry!

Each of our three foods weren't quite right, were they? They were each missing something. The mac and cheese wasn't really mac and cheese without the cheese, the soda was flat without the bubbles/carbonation, and the pudding was nothing without the milk. The foods just weren't right, were they? If we're missing something – in our foods, or in our lives – we can tell that something isn't quite right, can't we? Something is incomplete.

Lesson

The truth is, we're all missing something inside if we don't have Jesus. There's a special gift that He gives us when we choose Him as our Lord and Savior.

You probably remember that God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin. After He died, He rose again and went to heaven. When He left, He didn't just leave us with nothing; He left us with *someone* special.

Let me read John 14:16-17, 26 and Acts 1:8. Listen carefully and see if you can figure out who He sent. *Read the verses from your Bible.*

Who did Jesus send to help us? Right! The Holy Spirit! Who is the Holy Spirit? He's God! Remember that God is three persons in One: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to come and live in us, so we can have the power to live for Him. The Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us and gives us the power to live for Jesus. That's really, really amazing, isn't it? The power to live for Jesus and to be more like Him comes from the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us, when we choose Jesus to be our Savior and Lord.

Show the dry pudding mix. Just like this pudding, without the Holy Spirit, we're missing something, something important! We can't live the life God wants us to live without the Holy Spirit.

But when we trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord (*add the milk to the pudding*), we aren't missing anything anymore.

Does anybody think they could come up and separate the pudding mix and the milk? Of course not! It would be impossible. Once you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you and the Holy Spirit are like this pudding and milk. Nothing can separate you!

Review

Let's do a quick review (*use props from previous weeks if you have them*):

1. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.
2. He was buried in a tomb.
3. He rose again, walked this earth; met with His disciples and many people saw Him.
4. Then He went to live in Heaven.
5. He left us the Holy Spirit to live within us. Without the Holy Spirit, we will never be complete.

Conclusion

Let's pray and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Close in prayer.*