

Jesus Lives Today

Spring • Lesson 4

Who?

Jesus, Jesus' friends, Peter, two angels

What?

Before He returned to heaven, Jesus visited with His friends and promised to always be with them (Matthew 28:16-20; John 21:1-14; Acts 1:3-11)

When & Where?

After Jesus rose from the dead, in Jerusalem

Why?

To help children develop trust in Jesus and in His promise to be with them



Teacher Challenge

Read Matthew 28:16-20;
John 21:1-14; Acts 1:3-11.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Before Jesus went to heaven, He assured His friends that He would not leave them alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to live in them. That is a special gift for those who believe. But even those who are not living for Him receive His benefits and blessings, for all things are created and sustained by Him. In fact, life is not possible without the presence of God.

Goals For each child

- 1** Tell that Jesus promised to always be with him or her
- 2** Name places Jesus is with him or her
- 3** Thank Jesus for His loving care

- How have you experienced God's presence with you in the past?
- What circumstances in your life today cause you to thank God For His loving presence?

Jesus promised that He would never leave you alone. He is always with you. You can move forward confidently through life, knowing that He cares for you in every situation. He is your guide as you lead young children and others to follow Him, too. Lean on Him—He created you and will sustain you.

Bible Verse

"Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'"

(See Matthew 28:20.)

1 Play to Learn

20 to 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

Snack Center

Make sandwich fish and talk about Jesus' promise to be with His friends
Materials: Bible, cheese slices, knife, paper plates, bread, lunch meat, olive slices

Blocks Center

Pretend to fish from a boat, and talk about a time Jesus visited His friends
Materials: Bible, blocks, fabric scraps

Game Center

Play a musical walking game and talk about places Jesus is with them
Materials: Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, discarded magazines, scissors, glue, paper plates

Art Center

Make sun catchers as reminders to thank Jesus for always loving them and being with them
Materials: Bible, tissue paper, clear Con-Tact paper, scissors, permanent marker, ruler, tape

2 Listen to Learn

10 to 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

Come Together

Materials: Discarded magazines, scissors

Bible Verse

Materials: Bible

Prayer

Materials: None

Song

Materials: *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Everyday Life Poster 1

Puppet Time

Materials: Buddy puppet, dog leash

Bible Story

Materials: Bible, Figures 20-23 from *Visual Resources*, photo of a place you have traveled to, flannel board

3 Talk to Learn

15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

TalkTime Activity Page

Materials: Bible, Lesson 4 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

Bible Story Game

Materials: Paper plate cut and stapled to form a fish, fish-shaped crackers



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time

Snack Center

Collect

Bible, cheese slices, knife, paper plates, bread, lunch meat, olive slices.

Prepare

Cut cheese slices into triangles.

Do

Children wash hands. Give each child a paper plate. Children make sandwich fish by arranging lunch meat and cheese slices on bread to make fish shapes. Children add olive slices to make eyes. Children eat their sandwich fish together.



Teaching Tip

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.

Talk About

- **Our Bible story today is about a time when Jesus' friends went fishing. Jesus came to see them. He helped them catch lots of fish. Jesus' friends were glad Jesus is alive! Later, they were also glad when Jesus promised to always be with them.**
- **Hold your open Bible. The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'" Jesus said these words right before He went to heaven. Even though we can't see Jesus, we know He is with us and loves us wherever we are.**
- **Sophia, where do you like to play? Jesus is with you when you play at your grandma's house.**

Kindergarten Challenge

Children cut cheese slices and lunch meat with plastic knives to make fish scales and design other fish shapes.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, blocks, fabric scraps.

Do

Children use blocks to outline boat shapes. Children sit in boat shapes and use fabric scraps like nets to pretend to catch fish.

Teaching Tip

As you talk about today's Bible story, say, **The stories in the Bible are true. Many stories we read in books are pretend, but the stories we read in the Bible really happened.**



Kindergarten Challenge

Demonstrate how to toss out a net to catch fish. If possible, show pictures of people fishing with nets. Children copy the actions as they fish.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, discarded magazines, scissors, glue, paper plates.

Prepare

Cut from magazines pictures of places children might go. Glue pictures to separate paper plates.



Do

Place paper plates facedown in a circle, using one paper plate for each child and adding blank paper plates if needed. As you play “Jesus Is Alive!” (track 8 on CD), children walk around the plates. After several moments, stop the music. Children stop and pick up the nearest paper plate.

Volunteers show and tell about place shown on their plate. **Jesus is with us wherever we go!** Repeat as time and interest allow.

Art Center

Collect

Bible, tissue paper, clear Con-Tact paper, scissors, ruler, permanent marker, tape.

Prepare

Tear tissue paper into small pieces. Cut Con-Tact paper into 9-inch (23-cm) squares, two for each child.

Do

Give each child a square of clear Con-Tact paper. Child arranges tissue paper pieces on sticky side of paper to make a colorful design. Help child cover design with another square of Con-Tact paper to make a sun



catcher. Use permanent marker to print the words of Matthew 28:20 over the design. Help children tape sun catchers to a window.

Talk About

• Open your Bible. **The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘I am with you always.’” This verse tells us that even though we can’t see Him, Jesus is always with us. Jesus is alive today!**

- **Nina, where do you go with your dad? Jesus is with you and loves you wherever you go.**
- **Dorian, where does your uncle Mark live? Jesus loves your uncle Mark and promises to be with him.**
- **Let’s tell Jesus that we’re glad He is alive and that He is always with us.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Teaching Tip

Bend back a corner of each Con-Tact paper square to make it easier for children to remove the paper backing.

Kindergarten Challenge

Take photographs of signs on businesses and public places in your community. Glue photographs to paper plates. Children identify the places by “reading” the signs.

Kindergarten Challenge

Children use tissue paper to make Bible story scenes on their sun catchers.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible, Everyday Life Poster 1 and Figures 20-23 from *Visual Resources*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Buddy puppet, discarded magazines, scissors, dog leash, photo of a place you've traveled to, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Prepare

From discarded magazines, cut several pictures of different places. Cut each picture into two pieces.

Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. **Let's find some pictures of places where Jesus is with us.** Distribute picture pieces in a mixed-up order to children. Volunteer places his or her piece on floor. Child with corresponding piece puts it on floor to complete the picture. Continue until all pictures are put together. **Jesus is with us and loves us wherever we are.**

Bible Verse

Open Bible to Matthew 28:20. **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'" Even though we can't see Him, Jesus is with us.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, each time substituting the names of one or more children in place of the word "you."



Kindergarten Challenge

Invite children to say the verse individually, substituting the names of at least three children in place of the word "you."

Prayer

Let's tell Jesus how glad we are that He is alive. Let's thank Him for always being with us and loving us. Pray briefly.

Song

Show Everyday Life Poster 1. **How are these children showing that they are glad? Volunteers respond. I'm glad that Jesus is alive and that He is always with us!** Play "Jesus Is Alive!" (track 8 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you and clap their hands each time they hear the word "happy."



Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet and dog leash to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Use photo of a place you've traveled to and Figures 20-23 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Introduction

Show and describe photo of a place you've traveled to. **Whenever I travel to a new place, I like to remember a promise Jesus made in our Bible story. Listen to find out what Jesus promised.** (Hold Bible open to Matthew 28 as you tell the story.)

Jesus Loves His Friends

Jesus had died, but now He was alive again! Many times, Jesus visited His friends. Jesus' friends were glad to see Jesus. He loved His friends. They were glad He loved them.

Jesus' Friends Go Fishing

Peter and some of Jesus' other friends had been fishermen before they met Jesus. One day Peter said, "I'm going fishing." Peter and his friends all went out in a boat. They fished all night long. They threw their nets out and pulled them in again. It was hard work! But they didn't catch a single fish!

As the new day began, the fishermen could see a man standing on the beach. Jesus' friends didn't know who it was. The man called to them, "Have you caught any fish?"



"No!" they called back.

The man on the beach said, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat. You'll find some fish."

They threw the net out on the right side. The net got SO full of fish, Jesus' friends could not even pull the net into the boat! When they saw all those fish,

As you tell the story, draw simple pictures to illustrate the story (happy face for Jesus' friends being glad He was alive again, fish for Peter and the others fishing, many fish for Jesus telling them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat, a mountain for where the ascension took place, a cloud for Jesus going up to heaven and wings to represent the angels).

they knew that the man on the beach was JESUS! Jesus' friends dragged the net full of fish to the shore. Jesus was there, cooking food over a fire. He ate with His friends and talked with them.

Jesus Gives a Promise

One day, it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. Jesus walked with His friends to the top of a mountain. "God is going to give you a wonderful gift," Jesus told His friends. "He will give His Holy Spirit to you. The Holy Spirit will give you the power to tell others everywhere about Me. And remember, I will be with you always." Jesus wanted His friends to know that even though they wouldn't see Him, Jesus would still be with them.

Then as Jesus' friends watched, Jesus went up and up and UP—until He was in the clouds. Then His friends couldn't see Him anymore. But they still stood there, looking up.

Angels Tell Good News

Suddenly, there were two angels standing beside them. The angels said, "Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has gone to heaven! He will come back again someday, just like He left." Jesus' friends were surprised and happy to hear this good news! And they were glad that Jesus was going to always be with them.

Conclusion

Jesus is always with us, too. We're glad to know this good news. The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'" Jesus is alive, and no matter where we go, Jesus is with us. He loves us and cares for us. (Optional: Review story by using pages 435-445 in *God's Story for Me Bible storybook*.)

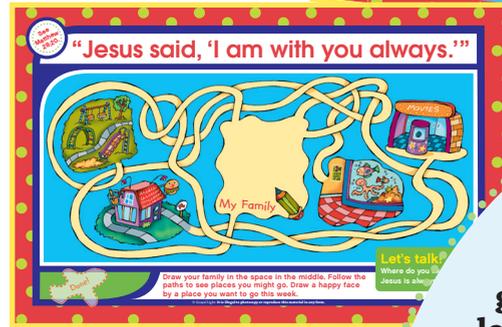
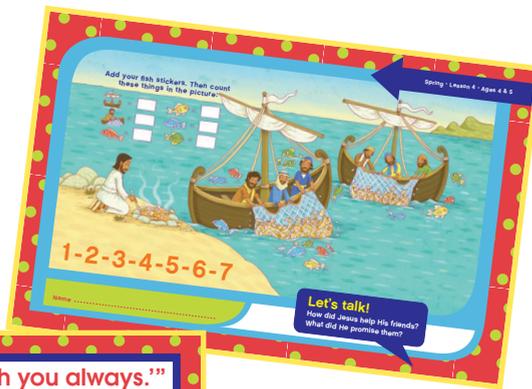
TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 4 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Bible Story Game

Collect

Paper plate cut and stapled to form a fish, fish-shaped crackers.

Do

Today in our Bible story, Jesus' friends went fishing. Jesus helped them catch a lot of fish. Jesus' friends were glad that Jesus is alive. Hold paper-plate fish in your hand. I'm going to pass the fish to someone who is wearing blue pants and a red shirt.



After children identify the child you have described, hand the fish to the child and give him or her several fish-shaped crackers to eat. (Optional: Child tells name or action of someone in today's Bible story.)

Continue activity until all children have been described and had a chance to pass the fish.

Talk About

- **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'" Jesus promises to always be with us. We're glad Jesus is alive and that He always loves us.**
- **Why were Jesus' friends glad to see Jesus? What did Jesus promise His friends?**
- **Who talked to Jesus' friends after Jesus went to heaven?**
- **Nat, where do you like to go? I'm glad you get to go camping. Jesus promises to be with you when you are camping. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we're glad You are alive. Thank You for being with and caring for Nat.**

Teaching Tip

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Jesus Is Alive!" (track 8), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1 CD*.

Puppet Script

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The Best Thing

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Buddy: *(Enters, carrying a leash in his mouth and then drops it on LEADER's lap.)* Hi, Teacher!

Leader: Hello, Buddy! What do you have there?

Buddy: *(Very excited.)* Don't you know? It's one of the best things in the world! It's better than tennis balls, dirty socks, garbage cans, or even bones! Just seeing it makes me want to spin around and how-ow-owl! *(Begins howling.)*

Leader: Oh, my! Well, I see that it is a dog leash. But why does seeing a dog leash make you want to spin around and how-ow-owl? *(Tries to howl.)*

Buddy: *(Giggles.)* You're funny! People don't howl. Dogs do!

Leader: That's true! But what is so exciting about your dog leash?

Buddy: Whenever I get to wear it, I know that I'm going somewhere. And I LOVE to go places!

Leader: Where do you love to go, Buddy?

Buddy: Oh, all kinds of places! I love to walk to the dog park or ride in the car to the beach or run next to my person's bike on the way to the ice cream shop. Going ANYWHERE is sooo much fun!

Leader: So do you have your dog leash out because you are going somewhere today?

Buddy: Yes! But I have to choose where to go. And I just can't decide.

Leader: Would you like the boys and girls to help you decide where to go?

Buddy: Oh, yes, please!

Leader: Okay. *(Speaks to children.)* Boys and girls, when Buddy names a place, you clap and cheer if you think he would have fun going to that place.

Buddy: Ooh! Fun. Okay, here we go—the dog park *(Pauses for children to respond.)*, Daffodil's pond *(Pauses for children to respond.)*, my uncle's farm *(Pauses for children to respond.)*, the beach *(Pauses for children to respond.)*, the ice cream shop *(Pauses for children to respond.)*.

Leader: Well, it sounds like the boys and girls think you would have fun going to *(Names place children cheered for most.)*.

Buddy: That sounds like fun! Will you help me put on my leash, so I'm all ready to go?

Leader: Sure! *(Helps BUDDY put on leash.)* You have a lot of fun places to go. Remember that no matter where we go, we can remember that Jesus is always with us.

