

24. Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!



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## 24

# Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close with a praise litany: Have the kids say the "Hallelujah, praise the Lord!" lines, practicing with them a few times before beginning the prayer. Encourage them to wave their hands above their heads and sway their*

*bodies as they praise God.*

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

Jesus is alive!

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

Easter is a time of joy!

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

Jesus lives for you and me!

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

*Then close in prayer; you can pray this prayer aloud or have your group repeat each line after you.*

**Dear Jesus, we love you.**

**We praise you.**

**We celebrate you.**

**You are our risen, living Lord! Amen.**

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #134\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Each child will need two copies of [this butterfly printable page](#). Kids will also need pipe cleaners/slips of paper for the antennae and string or ribbon to hang their butterfly. If you're leading this session virtually, you can either email the file to parents or mail each child the materials in advance.*

*Invite your group to make a large two-sided butterfly to hang up at home where the air in the room will cause it to flutter. Guide kids in doing the following:*

- Cut out two butterflies; use markers to color and other materials to decorate both.
- To the back side of one, tape two pipe cleaner "antennae" coming off the top of the head. Curl the antennae ends. (If you don't have pipe cleaners, use paper strips instead and wrap the ends around a pencil or run the edge of a scissors along them to curl the ends before you tape them on.)
- Glue the back sides of both butterflies together.
- Make a hole in the head, far enough down that it won't be pulled apart.
- Tie a ribbon through the hole.

**Story: Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!**

[Matthew 27:27-66; 28:1-10](#)

The night of Jesus' arrest was a sad night. Jesus heard the angry crowd. "Crucify him!" Crucify him!" they shouted. Pilate, the ruler, was puzzled. "What crime has Jesus done?" he asked the crowd. But the people just shouted louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

So Pilate's soldiers whipped Jesus and made fun of him. They put a crown of sharp thorns on Jesus' head and pretended to bow down to him. "Jesus, king of the Jews," they teased. They spit on him and hit him on the head again and again. But Jesus stood quietly, waiting and hurting.

Then the soldiers put a heavy cross on Jesus' back. When Jesus tried to walk, he stumbled and fell. Before they got very far, the soldiers found a strong man named Simon to carry the cross for Jesus.

**As you heard that part of the story, what did you wonder about?** *(Pause for responses.)*

At the top of the hill the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and pounded it into the ground. Everyone watched as the soldiers also nailed two robbers to crosses on each side of Jesus. People who passed by made fun of him. "If you are the Son of God, why don't you save yourself?" they shouted.

The nails hurt very much, and so did the teasing. But Jesus didn't come down from the cross. He stayed on the cross—for us.

About noon a very strange thing happened. The sun disappeared and the sky turned very dark, like night. "What's happening?" the people asked each other. It was frightening.

For Jesus it was frightening too. He cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forgotten me?" Then Jesus died.

**As you imagine what happened, what do you wonder about?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Later that afternoon, Jesus' friend came and took Jesus' body down from the cross. He carefully wrapped it in clean cloths and placed it in a tomb cut out of a big rock. Then he rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb and left the garden. All was quiet and sad. It was over. Jesus was dead.

But Jesus' enemies were worried. They thought that Jesus' friends might try to steal the body and tell people that Jesus was alive. So Pilate sent soldiers to guard Jesus' tomb. With guards watching day and night, Pilate was sure that it was over at last. Jesus was dead!

**What are you wondering about this story now?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Very early on Sunday morning, the ground began to rumble—it was another earthquake! Then a bright angel came down from heaven and rolled away that great big stone. The angel was as bright as lightning and its clothes were white as snow. The angel sat right on top of that giant stone.

Oh my! The soldiers at the tomb were terrified! The earthquake! The angel! The open tomb! What was happening? The soldiers fell down and didn't move!

**As you imagine what happened, what do you wonder about?** *(Pause for responses.)*

At that very moment, two of Jesus' friends were on their way to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. So many thoughts hurried through their minds: How can we possibly move that giant stone? What will we do if we can't move it?

Were they ever surprised! When they came to the tomb, the stone was already rolled away. The tomb was open. And sitting on the stone was a bright angel. It was a terrifying sight. The women were frightened.

“Don’t be afraid,” the angel said kindly. “I know that you’re looking for Jesus. But he’s not here. He’s risen! He’s alive! See for yourselves. Go tell his disciples too.”

The women looked at each other. How could that be? Was it true? The women were amazed! They hurried off to obey the angel and spread the news. “It’s wonderful!” said Mary. “Jesus is alive! Alive!”

**What do you think their faces looked like when the angels told them this news?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Suddenly—there was Jesus! Mary Magdalene and Mary ran to him and fell down at his feet. All they could think of was Jesus. It was true! Jesus was alive! Jesus was standing right in front of them. Talking to them. Alive.

“Now, my friends,” Jesus said, “Go and tell my disciples that I am alive.”

What an amazing thing! Jesus died, but Jesus now lives! For us! It’s true. All true!

Imagine how Jesus’ friends felt, hearing and seeing that Jesus was alive! **I wonder how you feel hearing that Jesus is alive again.** *(Pause for responses.)*

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Easter](#)
  - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Jesus Is Alive!](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: Easter: He Is Risen](#)
  - [4th-5th Grade: Easter: Mary's Story](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: The Empty Tomb](#)
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