



# WEEK 3

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



**CLUE**  
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

### **BIG IDEA**

Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

### **THE BIBLE**

**The Crucifixion and Resurrection:**  
John 18:28-20:18

### *THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE*

### **WELCOME TIME**

- **ACTIVITY** | Mystery Puzzle Scavenger Hunt
- **ACTIVITY** | Searching for Clues

### **TEACHING TIME**

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **BIBLE STORY** | John 18:37, 19:4,18,40-41, 20:11-18
- **ACTIVITY** | Resurrection Dance Party
- **PRAYER**

### **DISCUSSION TIME**

- **DISCUSSION** | Snack and Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | He's Alive Handprint Craft
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 1:9

### **PLAY TIME**

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | I Spy
- **ACTIVITY** | Empty Egg Hunt



# WEEK 3

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

**CLUE**  
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

### **BIG IDEA**

Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

### **THE BIBLE**

**The Crucifixion and Resurrection:**  
John 18:28-20:18

## **WELCOME TIME**

### **ACTIVITY | Mystery Puzzle Scavenger Hunt**

- Welcome to week three of our series called Clue! This month we're following a series of clues to solve the mystery of why we celebrate Easter.
- So far, our clues have told us that, **every Easter, we worship Jesus.** (Remember the story of the donkey and the people with palm branches?) **And every Easter, we remember Jesus' sacrifice.** (Remember the special meal Jesus shared with His disciples?)
- Today is a very special day, because we are celebrating the most important part of God's story! We're celebrating when Jesus died and rose from the grave!
- Let's see if we can find all the pieces to our puzzle to solve the mystery of the most important part of God's story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Mystery Scavenger Hunt Pieces from your Week 3 folder and cut them apart. Hide the pieces all around the room. Have the children find all the pieces and assist them in putting the puzzle together.*
- You did it! You solved the mystery! Today we're celebrating when Jesus died and rose from the grave!

### **ACTIVITY | Searching For Clues**

- Every great detective needs a trusty magnifying glass! You never know when you're going to need to look for some finger prints or small clues somewhere. Here's an unexpected way to make a magnifying glass!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice ahead of time: put a small object (such as a leaf or a flower) in the bottom of a clear plastic cup. Wrap the plastic wrap over the top of the cup tightly. Put a few drops of water on top of the plastic wrap, then look at the object through the water lens.*
- Look at your cool magnifying glasses! I think you guys are ready to dive into today's Bible story now! Let's go find some more clues!

## TEACHING TIME

### MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Jesus Is Alive" by Yancy and "It's a Happy Day" by Yancy.*

### BIBLE STORY | John 18:37, 19:4,18,40-41, 20:11-18

- Our Bible story today is awesome, but it does have some parts that are sad and sometimes hard to hear. I promise that the ending is the most important and best part of God's story! As we're listening to the story, think about the clues that help us figure out what Easter is about.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.*
- **Did Jesus ever do anything wrong?** No, Jesus never did anything wrong, He was without sin. But Jesus still died on the cross.
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?** He had to die so he could take away all our sins, and he did that because he loves us so much.
- After He died, Jesus' body was put inside a tomb. **Three days later, what did Mary find at the tomb?** An empty tomb! Jesus was alive! The news of Jesus being alive is great news for those who believe in Him! It means we can be forgiven of our sins and have a relationship with Jesus! I think that's reason to celebrate!
- Jesus is still alive today, and that's good news for us!
- When Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter Sunday, everyone celebrated. Thousands of years later, we still celebrate Easter because we want to continue celebrating that Jesus is alive!

### THE BIG IDEA | Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
  - *Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
  - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)*
  - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
  - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, read it out loud.*
- This week's Big Idea: **Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.**

### ACTIVITY | Resurrection Dance Party!

- We just heard the most amazing story and discovered some incredible clues to the mystery of Easter. This calls for a celebration!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out party supplies for the kids to choose from (party hats, blowers, noise makers, pom-pom shakers, streamers). Encourage the kids to choose some party items and dance to some music. You can play "He is Alive" by Saddleback Kids.
- **What do we have to be excited about and celebrate?** That's right, because Jesus is alive! Let's shout that together using a loud voice: "Jesus is alive!" Let's add some music to our party!
- **How do you think the disciples felt when they realized Jesus wasn't in the tomb, because He was alive?**

### PRAYER

- Let's spend time with God in prayer.
- Dear God, thank you that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that He rose from the dead. We are celebrating today that Jesus is alive! We love you, amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a snack (you could do Goldfish crackers and bread) to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!
- **Did Jesus ever sin?** (No, Jesus never sinned.)
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross for us?** (Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins so we can be forgiven and be best friends with God.)
- **What happened after Jesus died?** (They put His body in a tomb and rolled a heavy stone over the entrance.)
- **What did Mary find when she went to the tomb three days later?** (The tomb was empty and Jesus was not there.)
- **Is it great news that Jesus came back to life?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids join you in a circle on the floor. Prepare the plastic Easter eggs ahead of time: put a dried bean or a bead in every egg except one and set out enough eggs for every child in your class to have one. Put the bowl of Easter eggs in the middle of the circle. Tell all the kids to get an egg and shake it. The one who has the empty egg will shout, "The tomb is empty!" and the other kids will respond by shouting "Jesus is alive!" Have the kids put all their eggs back in the bowl and play multiple rounds.

### ACTIVITY | He's Alive Handprint Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the He's Alive printable (from your Week 3 folder) onto cardstock and cut out the tombs and stones (or let older kids cut out their own). Using yellow or orange washable paint or ink, place two of the child's handprints in the middle of a piece of a piece of white cardstock. Then tell the kids to glue the tomb on the page or help them poke some brass paper fasteners through the bottom of the stone, so it covers the tomb and can be rolled to the side so the tomb is empty.

- The stone rolled to the side in your picture is to remind you that Jesus didn't stay in the tomb! It was empty on the first Easter Sunday, because Jesus was alive! We can celebrate today because He is alive and He loves you!

**MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 1:9**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .

**BE STRONG** (flex one arm)  
**AND COURAGEOUS** (flex the other arm).  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID** (put arms in front of your face);  
**GOD WILL BE WITH YOU** (point up, and then put hands on hips)  
**WHEREVER YOU GO** (march in place).

## PLAY TIME

*While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them that we can celebrate because Jesus is alive!

**ACTIVITY | I Spy**

- We're going to practice some of our detective skills and play a game called I Spy.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose an object in the room that will be what you are spying. Then say, "I spy with my little eye something . . ." Start by saying the color of the object. The kids will look around the room and try to guess what object the teacher is trying to describe. If they don't get it by color, you can give them another word of description. Play multiple rounds. You can let the kids take turns being the "spy."

**ACTIVITY | Empty Egg Hunt**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids some empty plastic Easter Eggs to represent the empty tomb. Let them take turns hiding the eggs all over the room and finding them.

**Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.**