



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OVERVIEW

CLUE
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Ascends to Heaven: Acts 1:3-10
(Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 14:1-7)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **OBJECT LESSON** | Detective Notebooks
- **ACTIVITY** | Magic Laser Maze
- **ACTIVITY** | What's Missing?
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Balloon Rising
- **ACTIVITY** | Clue Cards
- **BIBLE STORY** | Acts 1:3-10
- **BIG IDEA** | Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news.
- **ACTIVITY** | Guess the Mystery Person
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Prints in Play-Doh
- **STORY** | Share when you first heard about Jesus.
- **VIDEO** | Kids on Mission
- **ACTIVITY** | Get Out of the Boat
- **SCRIPTURE** | Matthew 28:19-20
- **ACTIVITY** | Nations Beach Ball Toss
- **ACTIVITY** | Jesus Ascending Cup
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- **TALK** | Recap of the Month
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Joshua 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How long did Jesus walk on earth after He rose from the grave?
 - How many people He appear to?
 - What mission did Jesus give His followers?
 - What do you think it means to be His witness?
 - Where should we be witnesses for Jesus?
 - How can you share Jesus' good news this week?
- **SCRIPTURE** | **John 14:1-7**
 - Why do you think Jesus ascended to heaven, instead of staying here on earth?
 - Is Jesus going to stay in heaven forever?
- **ACTIVITY** | I Spy
- **MEMORY VERSES** | **Joshua 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:31**



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



CLUE
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Ascends to Heaven: Acts 1:3-10
(Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 14:1-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

OBJECT LESSON | Detective Notebooks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you'd like, give every kid a small notebook where they can write or draw the clues they collect.*

ACTIVITY | Laser Maze

- Welcome, detectives! We're on the last week of our series where we've been looking for clues to solve the mystery of Easter! **So far, we've learned about Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus sharing a special meal with the disciples, and the day Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead.** We have one more exciting part to this story.
- One thing detectives might have to do when they're on a case is sneak through a laser maze to try and get past security. We're close to cracking this mystery, but first, you have a mission: get the paper with an important message about Jesus to the other side of the room, without touching the laser beams!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, set up a laser maze by taping yarn or crepe paper streamers across the room (if you have a hallway area or a place where the walls are close together, this works well. You could also use chairs lined up or have students stand in two lines facing each other, holding the pieces). Arrange the pieces at different heights and angles, so it's hard (but not impossible) to get through. Write the words, "Jesus loves you" on two pieces of paper. Split the kids*

into two teams and tell them to race through the laser maze one at a time, while holding the paper, trying not to let their bodies or the paper touch any of the laser beams.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Create a simpler maze for them by using less crepe paper.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Use real lasers in your laser maze for preteens.
- **Was it hard to go through the maze without touching the laser beams?**
- **Was it harder because of having to carry your important message?**
- **What did the message say?**
- **What clues do you think this gives us about our Bible story today?**
- We're going to learn today about what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. Here's a hint: He's given us a really special mission.

ACTIVITY | What's Missing?

- The same message Jesus gives us, He first gave to His disciples. They were to be eyewitnesses and to give account for what happened on Easter.
- An eyewitness has to pay attention and remember what they saw. Let's see if you can do that in this game.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a variety of objects on a table (6-12 items) and cover them with a cloth. Remove the cloth and tell the kids to study the items for one minute and try to memorize what they see. Then put the cloth back and take away one item in secret. Take the cloth off and see if the kids can guess which item is missing.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Show them items on a screen and have them write down what they remember.
- Detectives rely a lot on the testimony of eyewitnesses. Eyewitnesses are the people who saw what happened and have to remember the details to solve the case. We are going to practice your eyewitness skills in this next game too.

OBJECT LESSON | Balloon Rising

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get two balloons that look alike. Fill one with helium and blow the other one up with regular air. Tie strings to the bottom of both and set a rock at the base of each balloon, so the kids can't tell which one has helium. As you teach, have two kids come to the front and each remove a stone to see which one will rise.
- **When we move the stone away, one of these balloons is going to rise, and one is going to stay put. Can you tell which one is going to rise?**
- It's probably hard to tell just by looking at it, because they look the same on the outside. It's what's on the inside that's going to make it rise.
- **How does this balloon remind you of what happened to Jesus at Easter?**
- When the stone was rolled away from the tomb, Jesus wasn't there, because He had risen. But there's another way this reminds us of Jesus. We're going to learn in our Bible story about another time Jesus rose!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

ACTIVITY | Clue Cards

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a manila envelope with a "Top Secret" sticker on it and an instruction sheet from your Week 4 folder. Each week, you'll give kids three clue cards to take home that will be pieces of a Clue game they can play with their families. Each week, tell them to put their cards in their envelope and save them. At the end of the month, they can use all the cards to play the game: *Clue: Solving the Mystery of Easter.*
- For Week 4, give them these three cards: *The People, The Hillside, and the Earth.* (NOTE: Ask if anyone missed a week so you can give them the cards they missed.)
- This is the last week of the series, so you will give them the Clue Card game instructions so they can play the game at home to help you discover clues about the meaning of Easter.
- You've gotten three cards each week: one person, one place, and one object. Today, you'll get the instructions for the game **Clue: The Mystery of Easter.** Make sure you have all your cards from the last few weeks!
- **What do you think today's clue cards have in common?**
- **What do you think they have to do with the story of Easter?**

BIBLE STORY | Acts 1:3-10

- Last week we learned that Jesus died on the cross then was put in a tomb. **But did He stay in the grave?** No! he rose back to life after three days!
- **But what happened after that?** Let's listen to this story to find out. Listen for clues to help us find out what happened next and what this has to do with Easter.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Let them play with a fidget toy during the Bible story to help them focus.
- **What an amazing story! Who did Jesus appear to after the resurrection?** He appeared to many people. He walked the earth for 40 days.
- **What do you think He did for those 40 days? Why do you think He stayed around?** We know a little bit about what He did, from the Bible. He taught and showed people that He was really alive. He appeared to more than 500 people at once!
- He also performed miracles, like the time when His disciples were fishing in their boat with empty fishing nets, and when Jesus told them to drop their nets, they caught so many fish that they couldn't even hold them all!
- Let's look back at the clues to figure out what happened next. Acts 1:8 tells us about a promise Jesus made.
- **What did He promise?** He said the Holy Spirit would come and give His people power.
- **What mission did He give them?** He told them that they will be eye witnesses around the world, so people will know the Good News of the Gospel.
- **Do you think He was only talking to the disciples?** He was talking to us too. Everyone who knows God can be a witness for Him.

- **Where did Jesus tell the disciples to go and tell about Him?** Jerusalem was the city they where they lived. Judea was the surrounding area, and Samaria was even farther away. He didn't stop there!
- **What was the last place He said to go?** He said they would go to the ends of the earth. That's a lot of places!
- **What happened after Jesus told them to tell the world about Him?** Jesus rose, or ascended, into heaven, where the Bible says He sits at the right hand of God the Father. What an amazing story! I think we've solved this mystery.
- After the very first Easter, Jesus gave His disciples a special assignment to share His good news with the world.
- Have you put the clues together yet? Do you know what this story tells about Easter and why it's so special? Here's the answer . . .

THE BIG IDEA | Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news.

- **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, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news**

ACTIVITY | Guess the Mystery Person

- Since we're all eyewitnesses for Jesus, we need to practice paying attention. In this game, we'll see how well you know your friends. They're going to hide and you have to figure out which one is the mystery person.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose three kids to come up front and choose one (in front of everyone) to be the mystery person. Hide them all behind a curtain, backstage, or under a blanket and have them say the Big Idea for the day, one at a time. But here's the trick: tell them to disguise their voices or use a voice changer toy. They will all say the phrase one time, then the rest of the kids will get one guess to try and guess which one is the mystery person you picked. Play multiple rounds if you have time. You could also play a round where you tell them a surprise once the three kids are already hidden, or where you tell them to stick a foot out from under the blanket and see if the kids can guess which one is the mystery person just by looking at the shoes.*
- **Was it hard to know who the mystery person was? How did you know it was him or her?**
- Just like our mystery person went undercover, we're going undercover for Jesus too. We might look like regular people, but really, we have the power of God inside of us, helping us share His story with others!
- Now let's all say the Big Idea together: **"Every Easter, we share Jesus' good news."**

OBJECT LESSON | Prints in Play-Doh

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into small groups and give the kids some Play-Doh or modeling clay. Give the groups a variety of items that will leave “prints” in the Play-Doh, such as LEGO Bricks, plastic spoons, small plastic toys, marbles, or a Play-Doh tool and Play-Doh stamper set. Let the kids take turns making prints in their dough and having the other kids guess what made the print.
- **Was it hard to guess what made the print in the dough?**
- When we made prints in the Play-Doh, you couldn’t see the item that was used to make the print, but you could see the print it left behind.
- In the same way, when the women came to find Jesus, they couldn’t see Jesus, but they saw the empty tomb He left behind.
- **What did the clue of the empty tomb tell the women about Jesus?** It told them He was alive!
- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He didn’t leave His people alone. **What did He say He was ascending?** He said the Holy Spirit would come. The Holy Spirit is God in Spirit form. The Holy Spirit gives us power, comfort, and strength.

STORY | Share about when you first heard about Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share about how and when you first heard about Jesus.
- **How do people find out about Jesus and His love for them?** Someone tells them. God’s plan for spreading His good news around the world is to use His people — that’s us! He wants us to share the Good news!
- **What is the good news of Jesus?**
 - That Jesus loves us.
 - He died on the cross to forgive our sins.
 - That Jesus rose again and we can have a relationship with Him.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

VIDEO | Kids on Mission

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) about God’s love for the world and kids’ roles in sharing the gospel.
- **What is the mission God has given us here on earth?**
- **How can all the people in the world learn about Jesus?**
- **How can you help share the Good News with others?**

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 28:19-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- This passage of Scripture is known as the Great Commission. Jesus said this after He rose from the dead and before He ascended.
- **Who do you think Jesus was talking to when He said this?** He was talking to the disciples, but this message was for everyone who follows Him — even us today.
- **What did Jesus tell us to do?** He told us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.
- **What did Jesus promise?** He promised to be with us always. We’re not on our own.

ACTIVITY | Nations Beachball Toss

- **If you could go anywhere in the world to tell people about Jesus, where would you go?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get some beachballs with the globe on them or write the names of countries all over a regular beachball. Let the kids pass or toss the beachball to each other. When you say, "Stop," the person holding a ball will freeze and read the country their thumb is touching.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Give them an opportunity to share about different countries their thumb is touching.
- All of these are countries are full of people who need to hear the good news of Jesus.
- **Does anyone know what a missionary is?** Missionaries are people who are on mission for Jesus. Some missionaries go to other countries, but we can all be missionaries here and now. All we need to do is be willing to share the good news of Jesus with others.

ACTIVITY | Jesus Ascending Cup

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Jesus Ascending printables from your Week 4 folder. Give all the kids a Jesus Ascending paper and crayons and tell them to color the Jesus and cut out Jesus and the cloud. Give all the kids a cup, cotton balls, glue, and string. Tell the kids to turn their cup upside down and glue cotton balls on the top to make clouds. Poke a small hole in the bottom of the cup and stick a piece of string through the hole. Tape or staple the Jesus onto the bottom of the string, and the paper cloud to the top of the string. Show the kids how to hold the cup and pull the string to make Jesus disappear up into the sky.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Give them a sample of the finished product and easy instructions.
- **How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus ascend into heaven?**
- **How would you have felt?**

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- **How many people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead?** According to this verse, He appeared to more than 500 people.
- **Why do you think He appeared before that many people?**

TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We had four weeks of looking for clues about the true meaning of Easter and trying to discover what really happened so many years ago. After looking at all the clues . . . we've finally solved the mystery! We know why we celebrate Easter! Let's recap to remember what we learned:
 - We learned that **every Easter, we worship Jesus**, just like the people did so many years ago when they shouted, "Hosanna!" and waved palm branches.
 - We learned that **every Easter, we remember Jesus' sacrifice** of giving His life for us, just like Jesus and His disciples remembered the sacrifice of the Passover lamb
 - We learned that **every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection**, just like His followers did when they discovered He had risen from the dead.
 - And today, we learned that **every Easter, we share Jesus' good news** that He's alive and we can know Him!
 - We learned so much this month! I hope you had fun looking at all these clues and discovering the true meaning of Easter and why we continue celebrating it today.

MEMORY VERSES | Joshua 1:9; 1 Corinthians 10:31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **How long did Jesus walk on earth after He rose from the grave?** (40 days.)
- **How many people He appear to?** (More than 500.)
- **What mission did Jesus give His followers?** (To be His witnesses in all the earth.)
- **What do you think it means to be His witness?**
- **Where should we be witnesses for Jesus?**
- **How can we share Jesus' good news this week?**

SCRIPTURE | John 14:1-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **Why do you think Jesus ascended to heaven, instead of staying here on earth?**
- **What do you think He is doing in heaven now?**
- **Is Jesus going to stay in heaven forever?**

ACTIVITY | I Spy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose one kid to be the witness and the other kids to be detectives. The witness will choose something in the room and the detectives will question the witness by asking "yes or no" questions about it to try and figure out what they chose. The detectives only get ten questions. After you play this game with them choosing things in the room, play another round and have the witness choose something from any of the Bible stories from this series.
- Even though we weren't there in person, we are all witnesses to tell others about what happened with Jesus.
- **Who can you tell about Jesus this week?**

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