**BODY OF PROOF**

**KIDS GROUP STUDY LEADER GUIDE**

**Grades 1-3**

This guide provides an outline for each session with the kids, including “Get Started” activities, the detailed “Bible Study” portion for the big group, and “Small Group” prayer and activities.

Be sure to look over each lesson’s activities in advance to make sure you’re prepared and have the necessary materials. Many activity sheets have been pre-created for you. You can find those files at in the zip folder these lessons came in.

**Week 1**

**Replacing My “If Onlys” with “If Jesus”**

Materials needed for today’s lesson:

* Foam football
* Blindfold
* Bibles
* Notecards
* Pens
* Mad Gab pages
* Desk bell
* “Assurance Wheels” Activity Pages
* Crayons
* Markers or colored pencils
* Scissors
* Brads

**GET STARTED (10 minutes)**

**Can You Catch It?**

**Tools:** foam football, blindfold

* Ask the kids, "Do you think you can say with absolute confidence that you can catch this football when I throw it?"
* Throw the football to the kids that say they feel confident of catching the ball.
* Bring up a volunteer who felt very confident that he/she could catch the ball.
* Blindfold that volunteer.
* Ask the volunteer, "What about now? Do you still feel confident you can catch the ball when I throw it?"
* Throw the ball to the blindfolded volunteer.
* Repeat with other willing volunteers.
* Say, "What changed between the first time I threw the ball and the times after that? Yes, you couldn't see it anymore. It's one thing to say with absolute confidence that we can do something when we know what is coming. But it's a whole other thing to say it when we can’t see what’s ahead. Today, we are going to see in God's Word that Jesus spoke with absolute confidence about His death and resurrection **before it happened.** Why do you think Jesus was able to speak so confidently about these events?
* Let this lead into the Scripture study for the week.

**BIBLE STUDY (35 minutes)**

**JUMPING IN:**

This month, leading up to celebrating Easter, we are going to be talking a lot about the resurrection of Jesus. Can anyone tell me what “resurrection” means? It means to rise back to life from the dead. This month, we are going to learn about a bunch of reasons that we can trust that Jesus' resurrection from the grave is true.

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY:**

**Tools:** Bibles

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised that He would send a Messiah to earth to save His people. A Messiah is a Savior, and the Israelites had to have hope that God would send this person to rescue them at the right time. Well, did you know that when Jesus came to earth, He repeatedly told His disciples exactly what was going to happen to Him?

Jesus’ disciples realized that He was the Messiah, the one who would save them from their sins. After they realized this, Jesus tried to warn them about what it would take for Jesus to be able to restore humanity’s relationship with God.

Pick a volunteer, and ask them to look up Mark 8:31 in their Bible and read aloud:

*“Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days.”*

Jesus told them that a lot of different, bad things were going to happen to Him. The religious leaders and other people in charge of the Israelites were going to reject Jesus as the Son of God, and they were going to kill Him. But Jesus said that after three days, He would rise from the dead and live again.

It doesn’t seem like the disciples really get the message Jesus was trying to tell them, because Jesus takes the time to predict His death to them a second time in the next chapter of Mark.

Pick a volunteer, and ask them to look up Mark 9:31-32 in their Bible and read aloud:

***“For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after he is killed, he will rise three days later.” But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.”***

This time, Jesus explained that He was going to be arrested and put to death, and again He says that He will rise again three days after he is killed. But the disciples didn’t understand what He was saying, and they were scared to look foolish and ask Jesus what He meant. It was also probably scary to them that the Messiah who they thought was here to rescue their people was saying He was going to be captured and killed. That plan did not make a lot of sense to them, but it was exactly what God needed to do to save all of us. Jesus didn’t come to save the Israelites from Rome in the way they expected—instead He came to save all people from our sins.

Jesus knew the disciples were confused, so in the next chapter of Mark, Jesus explained how He would die a third time.

Pick a volunteer, and ask them to look up Mark 10:33-34 in their Bible and read aloud:

***“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, and they will mock him, spit on him, floghim, and kill him, and he will rise after three days.”***

This time, Jesus was even more specific. Jesus explained that He was going to Jerusalem to be arrested and crucified. He said He would be turned over to Roman soldiers who would hurt Him and mock Him. However, Jesus continued to give His disciples the hope that He would rise again after three days.

And guess what? Every single bad thing Jesus predicted actually happened! Jesus was arrested, and the priests gave Him over to the Romans to be crucified. Jesus was spat on and beaten, and they even put a crown of thorns on His head. Jesus was nailed to a cross and died for the sins of the world.

But that is not the end of the story! Because even though all of the terrible things Jesus had foretold happened, His good predictions came true, too. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead, beating sin and death forever! After three days, some women went to Jesus’ tomb to see His body. But instead of Jesus, they found an angel. Let’s see what the angel said.

Pick a volunteer, and ask them to look up Matthew 28:5-7 and read aloud:

***“The angel told the women, ‘Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.” Listen, I have told you.’”***

**EXAMINE THE TEXT:**

Jesus was alive! The women went and told the disciples, and later, they also saw Jesus alive again with their own eyes! The women believed that Christ was risen again because of what they had seen and heard. And just like the women at the tomb and the disciples, we can fully believe in Jesus’s resurrection. Even though we may not have physically seen Jesus, we can see how He promised many times in Scripture that He would rise again after three days. This can help us to trust in Jesus’ resurrection so we can share the good news of Jesus with others.

Let’s break into small groups for an activity and pray together.

**SMALL GROUP (30 minutes)**

**ACTIVITY AND PRAYER**

Tools: notecards, pens

* Pass out a notecard and pen to each kid.
* Have each kid write a promise God has made in the Bible. These will be ways that God has been faithful to do what He said He would do. See examples below.
  + New Testament
    - God will always be with you. - Isaiah 41:10
    - God has a plan for your life. - Jeremiah 29:11
    - God is good. - Psalm 100:5
    - God offers us the gift of Salvation through Jesus. - 1 John 1:9/Romans 10:9-10
    - God will provide. - Proverbs 3:5-6
  + Old Testament
    - God blessed Abraham with many descendants.
    - God promised to never flood the earth again.
    - God promised to free the Israelites from Egypt.
    - God promised to lead the Israelites to the promised land.
    - God promised to send us a Savior.
* On the other side of the notecard, have the kids draw what they think the resurrection scene looked like.
  + How big was the stone?
  + What did the sky look like?
  + What did the grave look like?
* Spend time in prayer with your group, thanking God for being a promise-keeper. Encourage the kids to remember God’s promises and know that He will always be with them wherever they go and through whatever happens.

**MOVE**

Tools: Mad Gab pages (print in advance), desk bell

* Split your group into two teams.
* Have one kid come up from each team.
* Place the mad gab page in between the kids.
* Have them figure out what the correct phrase is.
* When they have a guess, the child rings the desk bell.
* The first team to get it right earns a point!
* Call up two more volunteers and repeat until you run out of mad gabs.

**Mad Gab pages:**

* Heze na tear (He is not here)
* Rice egg aim (Rise again)
* Riz urrac shawn (Resurrection)
* Jesus eezal eyeve (Jesus is alive!)
* Thrid aiz (Three days)
* Dunah tab iah fray dah (Do not be afraid)
* Orre stud (Arrested)
* Hi eez ree zen (He is risen)
* Diss apples (Disciples)
* Fraw ma theeg ray vi (from the grave)
* Explain that just like it took them time to figure out each mad gab, the disciples did not understand what Jesus was trying to tell them at first. Even though they did not understand, Jesus wanted His disciples to trust Him and the plan He had not only for them but for the whole world. And God wants us to trust in Him and His resurrection, too!

**MAKE: Assurance Wheels**

**Tools:** “Assurance Wheels” Activity Pages (copy each page onto cardstock, make 1 set per child), crayons, markers, or colored pencils, scissors, brads

* Give each child one set of “Assurance Wheels” (a top and bottom piece) and a pair of scissors.
* Set out the markers, colored pencils, or crayons.
* Encourage the kids to color the top page of the wheel.
* Show the kids how to cut out the circles (top and bottom) and to cut one quarter of the top page (along the dotted lines).
* Help the kids place the top wheel with the cut-out on the bottom wheel (with the verses) and use a brad through the center of both wheels to secure them together.
* Show the kids how they can turn the wheel to reveal the four different verses on the bottom wheel.

**What You Say:** “Today, we learned about three different times that Jesus said He would die and rise again. He did exactly what He said He would. Let’s turn our wheel to show the last verse, Matthew 28:5-7. *(Encourage the kids to read this verse out loud with you.)* Jesus rose again, just like He said He would. We can trust that Jesus rose again because He said He would.”

Pray to close your time together.

**Week 2**

**Jesus Rebuilds and Restores the Wrecks of My Life**

Materials needed for today’s lesson:

* Charade cards
* Bibles
* Review questions
* Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
* Marker for whiteboard or large sheet of paper
* Magnets
* Items that may or may not be magnetic (thumb tack, paper clip, eraser, pencil, dice, metal spoon, rock, etc.)

**GET STARTED (10 minutes)**

**Charades**

**Tools:** Charade clues (listed below, prepare in advance)

* Split the group into two teams.
* Bring one person up from the first team and have them draw a charade card.
* Once they have their charade card, give them a time limit to act out the charade for their team to guess.
* Go back and forth between teams until all the charade cards have been read.
* Explain that Jesus has resurrection power and He is worthy of all our praise.
* Say: “The superheroes you acted out are really cool, and they have some cool powers, BUT we know that the power of Jesus is greater than any superhero’s power. Let’s check out what He did during His time on earth.”

**Charade clues:**

* Superman
* Hawkeye
* Batman
* Thor
* Spiderman
* Iron Man
* Black Panther
* Hulk
* Captain America

**BIBLE STUDY (35 minutes)**

**JUMPING IN:**

Hey, hey! Good morning, everyone! I am so excited that you are here! Today is a great day to have fun, spend time with friends, and most importantly learn about our Savior, Jesus!

Before we get to that, does anyone here have a favorite superhero? I am a huge fan of Captain America. He’s super strong and can throw his shield anywhere it needs to go! On the count of 3 I want everyone to say their favorite superhero…1…2…3! Check out this clip!

<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxrdOQjhJYVPxbei8O5uqaTIF_lKGc0LJP?si=ekgbCrEgHTtaALgl>

Those are some superheroes who have some really crazy powers. But there’s one power that no one else has except God Himself, and that’s the power of the resurrection.

Jesus shows us that not only can He defeat death Himself and become alive again, but He can heal others and give them life again, too.

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY:**

**Tools:** Bibles

Today is a busy day because we are going to be in three books of the Bible! We’ll look at the Scriptures in Luke, Mark, and John. Are these books in the Old or New Testament? (pause for response) Yes! The New Testament!

We will see three different times when Jesus shows He has resurrection power. A power that’s greater than any superhero.

Let’s start with Luke chapter 7. Jesus was walking with His disciples to a town called Nain. Let’s read verse 12. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“Just as he neared the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the town was also with her.”***

Jesus walked up to a funeral procession; this is when people would follow a body out to be buried after they had said their final goodbyes. The mother had just lost her only son and was alone, but Jesus showed her compassion. Let’s read verses 14 and 15. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“Then he came up and touched the open coffin, and the pallbearers stopped. And he said, ‘Young man, I tell you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.”***

The person who just had a whole funeral and was about to be buried came back to LIFE! Only Jesus can do that! This is example 1, hold up the number 1 for me. Great! Okay to remember this first story, let’s march in place for 5 steps and then do a big jump while we say, “I can trust the resurrection because Jesus has resurrection power!” Ready? Let’s try it.

(march 5 steps in place and jump)

Great job!

Now, let’s head to the book of Mark! Everyone say Mark, 1…2…3! Awesome! We’ll be in Mark chapter 5.

There was a ruler of the synagogue whose name was Jairus, and he had a very, very sick daughter. He was desperate for her to be healed so he went to find Jesus, the healer! Word had spread around about what Jesus was doing by healing the sick and feeding the hungry, so Jairus had faith that Jesus would be able to save his daughter! Let’s read verses 35 and 36. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader’s house and said, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?’ When Jesus overheardwhat was said, he told the synagogue leader, ‘Don’t be afraid. Only believe.’”***

Wow, that’s some pretty devastating news for the dad to hear—but Jesus remained confident. He had no one follow Him except the parents of the girl and three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John.

I love this next part of the Scriptures because Jesus met the little girl where she is. She was about 12 years old at the time, and listen to what Jesus did in verse 41. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum” (which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, get up”).***

I bet you can guess what happened next—she got up! The next thing she did was walk around, and she was given something to eat! AMAZING! This is the second time Jesus shows us He has the resurrection power. Hold up the number 2 with your hands. Great!

Now, let’s make sure we remember this second story! Let’s march in place 5 times and then jump while we say, “I can trust the resurrection because Jesus has resurrection power!”

All together, 1…2…3! Great job!

Finally, let’s look at the book of John chapter 11. A few of you might know this story and the people in it. It’s the death of a man named Lazarus whose family was loved by Jesus. Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were upset that their brother died and that Jesus waited so long to come to see him!

Lazarus was already buried in a cave when Jesus arrived. Let’s read verse 39. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.”***

4 WHOLE DAYS! You would think there’s no way Lazarus could be helped, right? He was gone. BUT JESUS! Check out verses 41-44. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”***

Lazarus was alive!

Okay, everyone stand up and hold up the number 3! March in place 5 times and then jump while we say, “I can trust the resurrection because Jesus has resurrection power!” Let’s do it together, 1…2…3!

INCREDIBLE!

The story of the resurrection of Jesus is powerful and honestly hard to imagine sometimes, but God knew this. He knew it would be hard for us to grasp and be excited about or even understand, so He let us have stories in the Bible that give us a chance to see Jesus raise others back to life! He wanted us to be confident that our Savior is powerful and that He has power over everything, even death.

Our bottom line for the week is: “I can trust the resurrection because Jesus has resurrection power.” And I hope each of you can see that’s true from the stories we just read together.

You can trust the resurrection. Jesus is your Savior, He chose you, and He loves you because you are His child!

Let’s break into small groups to pray and do an activity together.

**SMALL GROUP (30 minutes)**

**PRAYER TIME: Power Prayer**

* Gather your group of kids on the floor and form a circle.
* Discuss with the group what today’s bottom line is: “I can trust the resurrection because Jesus has resurrection power.” If time allows, ask the kids what they think that means and discuss.
* Tell them that you are all going to go around in a circle and share one thing that they know they don’t have power over.
  + Everyone will say the phrase “I don’t have power over \_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus does.”
  + This can be things such as a bully at school, winning a basketball game, a grandparent getting sick, etc.)
  + Begin by sharing first (share something personal in your life, but keep the example age-appropriate).
* Once everyone has gone, thank everyone for sharing. Remind them that we all have things in our lives that we do not have power or control over. However, we have hope when we put our trust in Jesus, because Jesus has so much power—even power over death!
* Pray over the group, thanking Jesus for His resurrection power.

**MOVE**

Tic-Tac-Toe Review

Tools: Review questions (below), whiteboard or paper, writing utensil for board/paper

* Split your group into two teams.
* Assign each team X’s or O’s.
* Explain that one person at a time comes up from each team to answer a review question, and the first person to answer correctly gets to place an X or O on the tic-tac-toe board.
* The first team to win tic-tac-toe wins that round!
* Continue until all review questions have been read.

Review questions:

**Luke 7:**

1. Where was Jesus when He found the dead man in Luke 7?
   1. Walking toward the gate of a town called Nain.
2. Who did Jesus talk to first in Luke 7?
   1. The mother of the man who had died.
3. What happened to the man in Luke 7?
   1. He came back to life!
4. What happened after the people heard Jesus had made a dead man alive again?
   1. The news of what He had done spread throughout Judea and the surrounding areas.

**Mark 5:**

1. Who went with Jesus to the house of the ruler of the synagogue?
   1. Peter, James, and John
2. What was wrong at the Ruler's house?
   1. The daughter of the Ruler was dead.
3. What did Jesus say the daughter was actually doing?
   1. Jesus said she was only sleeping.
4. What words did Jesus say to the girl?
   1. “Talitha koum” or “Little girl, I say to you, get up.”
5. How old was the girl in Mark 5?
   1. She was 12 years old.
6. True or False: Jesus wanted them to tell everyone they knew about what had just happened.
   1. False; Jesus told them that no one should know about this.

**John 11:**

1. How long was Lazarus dead before Jesus went to his tomb?
   1. 4 days
2. What did Jesus do when he arrived that the tomb of Lazarus?
   1. He prayed to God.
3. How did Lazarus look when he emerged from the tomb?
   1. His hands and feet were bound with linen strips, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.
4. Who are the sisters of Lazarus?
   1. Mary and Martha
5. What did Jesus say before Lazarus came out of the tomb?
   1. “Lazarus, come out.”

**MAKE**

**Tools:** Magnets and different items that may or may not be magnetic (i.e. thumb tack, paper clip, eraser, pencil, dice, metal spoon, rock, etc.)

* Lay out the magnet and different items (thumb tack, paper clip, eraser, pencil, dice, metal spoon, rock)
* Tell the kids that you will hold the magnet above each item, and they will guess if it will be magnetic.
* Go through the items one at a time, testing each item.
* Ask the kids what kind of power magnets have: limited or unlimited?
* Tell the kids magnets only have power over metal, but Jesus has power over everything, even power over death!

Pray to close your time together.

**Week 3**

**The Greatest Comeback of All Time**

Materials needed for today’s lesson:

* Memory verse phrase cards
* Hopscotch grid
* Painter’s tape
* Canvases
* Painter’s tape
* Finger paint
* Easter eggs
* Strips of paper with verses for Easter eggs
* Playdoh
* Wiki sticks
* Dessert paper plates

**GET STARTED (10 minutes)**

**Memory Verse Hopscotch**

**Tools:** memory verse phrase cards, hopscotch grid, painter’s tape

* Lay out the “Memory Verse Phrase” cards according to the “Hopscotch Grid” Activity Page.
* Make sure each kid has a Bible.
* Together, look up 1 Peter 1:3.
* Read the verse together a few times.
* Divide your room into two teams.
* Direct each team to line up in front of one of the hopscotch grids.
* Instruct the kids to take turns hopscotching down the grid.
* As they hop onto a sheet, direct them to recite the phrase.
* Give the teams a few minutes to become proficient with the verse.
* Explain that the two teams will race against each other to see who can finish first.
* Encourage the kids to memorize this verse as they go throughout their week.

**BIBLE STUDY (35 minutes)**

**JUMPING IN:**

Good morning, friends!

As you know, we’re talking about how we can know that Jesus rose from the dead! There are lots of ways to know God is real and this is how we can know that He is real, and we can trust God.

Today, we are going to be in the book of 1 Corinthians. Now, is 1 Corinthians in the Old or New Testament? (*New Testament*) Good job! And do you know who wrote 1 Corinthians? (Paul) That’s right!

If you have a Bible, go ahead and flip to 1 Corinthians chapter 15, starting in verse 3. If you don’t have a Bible, that’s okay, we’ll have the verses up on the screen for you to see! (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures…”***

Paul is sharing the gospel with the people of Corinth for the very first time! Christ died for our sins, and it says so in Scripture.

Jesus died a death that He did not deserve—but that each and every one of *us* deserves because of our sin. He is perfect and holy, and we are not.

Let’s read what Paul goes on to say in verses 4 and 5. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“…that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.”***

Here Paul is telling the people of Corinth about how Christ died and that He was buried—but He did not stay dead!

Look at how Paul points out again in verse 4 that all of this happened “according to the Scriptures.” That means God knew in advance that this was going to happen! None of it surprised Him. While it’s awful to even imagine all the pain and suffering Jesus went through for us, it did not come as a shock to Him. He knew that He would lay down His life for us; His death and resurrection were prophesied in the Bible long before Jesus was born.

If we turn the book of John chapter 14, there is a verse that goes along well with what we’re talking about today. Let’s take a look at verse 6. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”***

We see here that Jesus is THE way to the Father.

Could anyone have died on the Cross for our sins? (*No!)*

Can anyone be as powerful as God? (*No!)*

Is there any way that we can get to God other than through Jesus? (*No!)*

Because we know God’s character and that He is true to His Word, we can know that Jesus was the only one who could have paid that debt for us.

Now, does our story end here? Does Jesus die on the cross and rise from the dead three days later and that’s the end? (*No!)*

No! We know that Jesus is going to come back again one day!

This was always a part of God’s plan. Even though we can’t see what His plan is every step of the way, we know that we can trust in God.

Keep listening, friends.

Throughout the Bible, we see that there are many people who don’t like Jesus and don’t believe that He is who He says He is. Jesus went through some really hard times in His time here on earth, right up to the moment He was killed, but that did not stop Him from dying on the cross for our sins and rising again!

In our lives, we are going to face hard times too. We may not fit in with the ‘popular crowd’ or be liked by everyone, maybe we won’t get on the sports team that we tried out for. Even though we face hard times in our lives, we can stay encouraged because we know that Jesus is coming back. We can have hope in Him instead of counting on unpredictable earthly things.

Here’s what we need to remember today:

***[Bottom Line]* I can trust the resurrection, and I know that one day, Jesus is coming again.**

We need to remember to take the time to thank God for all that He has done and all that He keeps doing for us. When life gets hard or we go through some difficult things, we can have faith in Him and know that this won’t last forever because He is coming again! We can know this because the Bible shows us that Jesus keeps His promises. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He said He would come back again, and He will.

Let’s break into small groups for an activity and pray together.

**SMALL GROUP (30 minutes)**

**ACTIVITY AND PRAYER**

**Tools:** canvases, painter’s tape, finger paint

* Give each kid a canvas that has three equal-sized pieces of painter’s tape on it.
* Put finger paint on the tables.
* Instruct the kids to color their canvases however they want while keeping the painter’s tape on.
* Once they are finished painting their canvases, wait a few minutes for the paint to dry, then have them carefully remove the painter’s tape.
* Pass around a Sharpie or marker to each kid.
* Have them write the following words on each blank space:
  + The way
  + The truth
  + The life
* Explain to the class how we can know that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We can trust and know what the Bible says, and that Jesus is the only way to the Father, He is always sharing the truth with us, and He is the ultimate life-giver!

**MOVE**

**Tools:** Easter eggs, Strips of paper with verses for Easter eggs (prepare eggs in advance)

* Place Easter eggs around the room.
* Split the class into teams of three or four.
* Explain that one person from each team will go in search of one Easter egg and bring it back to their group.
* Once the Easter egg is brought back, another kid from each team will read the strip of paper inside the egg out loud.
* Ask the class what all of these verses have in common. (Jesus is saying He will return!)
* If time allows, place all of the Easter eggs around the room again and repeat the activity, giving everyone a chance to grab an egg and read a verse.

**MAKE**

Tools: Playdoh, wiki sticks, dessert paper plates

* Pass out a paper plate and jar of Playdoh to each kid.
* Have them use the Playdoh to create something they really want for their future.
  + Dog
  + House
  + Giant swing set
  + Trampoline
  + Money
  + Car
* Once they have created one item, ask the kids if what they created will last forever and ever or if they are absolutely positive they will get it/it will happen.
* Once they decide the answer is “no” have them squish their creation and start again
* Have the kids do this 3 different times
* The things that we desire on this earth are not promised, and they aren’t forever.
* Have them put the playdoh back in the container
* Pass out wiki sticks to each kid (7)
* Have the kids create the letters “JESUS” or the person of Jesus out of their sticks.
* Explain that while we don’t know what our future holds or looks like, we know Jesus, and He does know our future. Jesus promises us that His plans are good and better than anything we could think of for ourselves, so we can trust Him.
* Have the kids take home the JESUS they created with the wiki sticks to remember that He holds their future.

Pray to close your time together.

**Week 4**

**We’re All Traveling the Road to Emmaus**

Materials needed for today’s lesson:

* List of telephone phrases
* Digital images where your eyes play tricks on you
* Outline of cross printed on white cardstock paper (one per student)
* Glue sticks
* Lots of small, colorful tissue paper squares
* Signs that say, “Old Testament,” “Before the Cross,” and “After the Cross”

**GET STARTED (10 minutes)**

**“Can You Hear Me?”**

**Tools:** List of telephone phrases (below)

* Split your group into two teams.
* Have them line up shoulder-to-shoulder with the first team on one side of the room and the second team on the other side.
* Explain that you will whisper phrases to the first person in each line and they must whisper it down their team’s line.
* Once both teams have passed the phrase completely down the line, the last person will say aloud what they think they heard.
* Have that person move to the other end of the line, and repeat until all phrases have been read.

**Telephone Phrases:**

* I can trust the resurrection.
* Jesus said He would die and rise again.
* I can trust the resurrection.
* Jesus has resurrection power.
* I can trust the resurrection.
* Other people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead.
* I can trust the resurrection.
* I know that one day, Jesus is coming again.

**BIBLE STUDY (35 minutes)**

**Tools:** Digital images where your eyes play tricks on you

**JUMPING IN:**

Good morning!

This month, as most of you know, we are talking about the resurrection. Jesus’s resurrection. Last week, we read in our Bibles that Jesus actually rose from the dead! Today, we are going to be looking at what happened after that. Because you know Jesus’s followers had to figure out what to do with this information, right?!

But first, let me ask: Have you ever looked at something and at first your eyes were playing tricks on you and you thought was something else? I have a few examples for us to look at on the screen.

*Show images on screen:*

*Ex: A log on a lake looks like a sea monster*

*Ex: A piece of toast looks like Jesus*

*Ex: Cheeto looks like a seahorse*

*Ex: Two deer look like a two-headed deer*

Those are some crazy pictures! So, sometimes, our eyes play tricks on us, right? We’ll come back to this idea in our story today!

Let’s all open our Bibles up to Luke 24. Like I said, this is right after Jesus had risen from the grave. Jesus’s body was gone! It wasn’t where they had buried Him, and the massive stone in front of His tomb was too big to be moved by any one person! What happened?!

Here in Luke 24, we see that a couple of guys were discussing this crazy event on a road that led to the town called Emmaus. These two guys were a man named Cleopas and his friend (the Bible doesn’t tell us his name). They were talking about Jesus’s body being gone and trying to figure out what could have happened to it. And then, a man started walking with them and joined in the conversation.

This is where it gets interesting. This man that came up to them was Jesus! But Jesus was disguising himself so that they didn’t know it was Him. God kept the men from being able to recognize Him.

Cleopas and his friend were eager to learn what was going on, and after a few minutes, Jesus took some time to explain everything to them.

Everything that had happened to Jesus had already been promised in Scripture back in the Old Testament. Jesus went through it all, step by step, and explained God’s plan! He told the men how prophets had predicted that the Messiah would come to save God’s people—and that He would have to die and then come back to life again.

Let’s look at what Jesus said in Luke 24, verses 25-27. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“He said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Wasn’t it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.”***

When they reached the town of Emmaus, the two men invited Jesus to stay with them. He agreed, and Jesus joined them at the table for a meal.

As the two men and Jesus sat down to dinner, Jesus took the bread and gave thanks.

Look at what happened in verse 31 when Jesus broke the bread. (Pick a volunteer and have them read aloud.)

***“Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.”***

Cleopas and his friend were completely amazed!

Jesus—who was dead—walked with these two men. He explained how everything in Scripture pointed to Him being the Savior. He helped them understand. He was alive!

Cleopas and his friend were so excited! They hurried all the way back to Jerusalem to tell Jesus’s disciples what had happened. They wanted all of Jesus’s friends to understand what they knew to be true—that Jesus really was alive!

Now, why is this story so important? Why did it matter that Cleopas and his friend saw Jesus? Why did Jesus choose to talk with them? These are all great questions.

Talk to the friends around you for a couple of minutes about what you think might be the answers to these questions.

*Pause for discussion.*

Alright, great job discussing, you guys! Now, let’s talk about it. Why did it matter that Cleopas and his friend saw Jesus? Because it was *proof* that Jesus rose from the grave and He was no longer dead! They were so confused and wondering where Jesus's body was. Even though the Old Testament had all the answers, they couldn’t connect the dots until they actually saw Jesus alive in front of them.

Now, why did Jesus choose to talk with them? Jesus didn’t have to stick around after He rose from the grave. His work on the cross was done. He could go back up to heaven any time He wanted. So, why did he stay to talk with Cleopas and His friend? First, because He loved them and wanted to be with them. Second, because He wanted to help them understand that He was alive and really was the true Messiah. Third, He wanted to them to be witnesses to the truth.

Do you guys know what witnesses are? Imagine being at the store with your parents, maybe buying things for school or a birthday present for your friend. And all of the sudden, you see someone grab a jacket and run out of the store without paying. You saw this person steal from the store. That makes you a witness, and you now have a responsibility to tell someone what happened.

Seeing something with your own eyes makes you a witness to an event. That’s what Cleopas and his friend were—except they witnessed the greatest reality of all time! They saw Jesus alive, risen from the dead, talking with them and sharing a meal with them. So, they became witnesses and they were able to tell others that they saw Jesus.

Because they shared their story with others, and so many other witnesses did, we have even more confidence that we can trust that Jesus really rose from the dead. This isn’t the only reason we should believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but it is part of the big picture.

Imagine if a kangaroo came into this room right now. Just hopped in the door. When your parents came to pick you up, you would definitely tell them about it, right? Now, do you think it would be easy for your parents to believe you if it was just you who said you saw the kangaroo? No! They would think you were joking. But what if everyone in this room told your parents that they saw a kangaroo? Then it would be a lot easier for them to believe it!

That’s kind of like the witnesses who saw Jesus. A lot of people saw Him after He came back to life, and their stories help us build our faith. So that’s our bottom line for today.

**Bottom Line: I can trust the resurrection, because other people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead.**

As we leave here today, let’s all remember that we can trust God not only because of our own faith, but because of the faith of the witnesses who were with Jesus when He walked on the earth. And remember that you can share your testimony and your faith story with others, just like the witnesses did. If you share your faith and the story of how God has changed your life, then it could help others come to know and believe in Jesus, too.

Let’s break into small groups for an activity and pray together.

**SMALL GROUP (30 minutes)**

**ACTIVITY AND PRAYER**

**Tools:** Crosses printed on white cardstock paper, glue sticks, lots of small, colorful tissue paper squares

* Pass out the cardstock with crosses printed on them, glue sticks, and small tissue paper squares.
* Instruct the kids to glue the tissue paper squares inside the outline of the cross.
* Around the cross, have the kids write or draw examples of how they know Jesus is alive.
  + These examples can be how they know Jesus rose from the dead in the Bible or how they know Jesus is alive because of how He is present in their own lives.
    - “I know Jesus is alive because He comforts me when I’m sad.”
    - “I know Jesus is alive because He hears and answers my prayers.”
    - “I know Jesus is alive because the disciples saw Him after He rose from the grave.”
    - “I know Jesus is alive because the angel told Mary that He had risen from the grave.”
* Once the kids have finished their craft, pray over the group, thanking God for giving us so many reasons why we can trust and believe that Jesus really did live, die for us, rise from the dead, so that we can be forgiven of our sins.

**MOVE**

* Have the kids stand up and begin walking in place.
* Summarize the story of the Road to Emmaus while the class walks.
* You can even choose some volunteers to act out the story of Jesus and the two men.

**“When Did Jesus” Game**

**Tools:** Signs that say, “Old Testament,” “Before the Cross,” and “After the Cross”

* Tape up “Old Testament,” “Before the Cross,” and “After the Cross” signs around the room.
* Explain that you’re going to read questions about the prophecies and life of Jesus, and they will try to figure out when things happened in the Bible—in the Old Testament, before the cross, or after the cross. Instruct the children to walk to under the sign they think has the correct answer for each question.
* “When was Jesus” Questions
  + When did Jesus show His disciples the nail marks in His hands and feet? (After the cross)
  + When did prophets tell the Israelites Jesus was coming? (Old Testament)
  + When did Jesus feed the 5 thousand? (Before the cross)
  + When did God create the earth? (Old Testament)
  + When did Jesus talk with disciples on the road to Emmaus? (After the cross)
  + When did Jesus heal a blind man? (Before the cross)
  + When did Jesus appear to 500 people? (After the cross)
  + When did Jesus walk on water? (Before the cross)
  + When did an angel tell the women at the tomb that Jesus was risen? (After the cross)
  + When did Jesus tell His disciples what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem? (Before the cross)
  + When did the Israelites first hear about a Messiah? (Old Testament)
  + When did Jesus calm the storm? (Before the cross)
  + When did the angel say Jesus had risen from the grave? (After the cross)
  + When was Jesus born? (Before the cross)

Explain that just like Jesus told the two men on the road to Emmaus, the entire Bible is a story about Jesus. Jesus is present throughout the Bible, and He was at work in the Old Testament, on earth before His death, and after His resurrection. Because Jesus did things and appeared to many people after He rose again, we can trust in Jesus’s resurrection.

**MAKE**

**Tools:** Memory Verse activity sheets

* Begin by reviewing the Memory Verse from Week 1 with the entire class.
  + ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” - 1 Peter 1:3***
* All the words on the pages are scrambled and have a line on top of the scrambled word.
* Have kids work together to try to figure out what the scrambled words are and have them write it on the line above.
* Explain that just like you couldn’t see the words clearly, the disciples couldn’t clearly see who Jesus was. Since we have the Bible and we know that Jesus is true to His word, we know that Jesus rose from the dead to give us life and hope forever! Even though we may not be able to see Jesus in front of us, we are able to have faith and trust in Him.

Pray to close your time together.