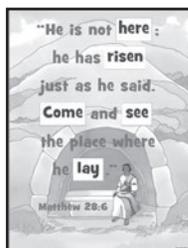


# Special Unit Jesus Lives!

## Bible Memory

Matthew 28:6

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."



## Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help kids learn how to use their Bibles so they are immersed in God's Word. See the introductory pages of this teacher guide for details.

## Optional Bible Skill Builders and Key Bible Verses

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your session.

Print the Key Bible Verses from the *Resources* CD. Finding and reading the verses will help kids remember each week's Bible lesson. Be sure to send a copy of these verses home, along with the unit family letter.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at [www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com).



Lesson	Scripture	Focus
<b>Special Unit</b> The Last Week	Luke 19:28-48; 21:37, 38; 22:7-54; Matthew 21:1-11; 27:27-60	♥ We should remember what Jesus did.
<b>Special Unit</b> Jesus Is Alive	Matthew 26:36-50, 57, 59-66; 27:32-38, 45-65; 28:1-10	♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

## Immerse Materials for the Special Unit

### Early Elementary Activities

The Last Week and Jesus Is Alive lessons

### Early Elementary Teaching Pictures

The Last Week and Jesus Is Alive lessons

### Early Elementary Resources

#### Visuals

Sheet 1 The Last Week Bible Story Visual LWa-LWg, Special Unit Bible Memory Poster; sheet 2 Bible Story Figures JAa-JAg, Celebrations Photo Cards (Jesus Is Alive lesson)

#### CD

Printable Files

Classroom Tools (attendance chart, bookmarks, name tags, Old and New Testament posters)

Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

Special Unit Bible Memory Poster, Bulletin Board Patterns, Family Letter, Key Bible Verses, Review Questions (also provided by lesson), Worship Time Ideas

Buzzy Bee Letters, The Last Week and Jesus Is Alive lessons

Additional files: Bible Story Quote Strips (Jesus Is Alive lesson)

### Weekly Bible Reader student magazine

The Last Week, Jesus Is Alive, and Special Issue

### Faith & Family online resource

A devotional guide for parents and kids. Go to [www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com).

**This unit is designed for flexible use. You may teach it whenever you feel it is most appropriate this quarter.**

# Additional Activities for Special Unit

Use these activities for early arrivers, for children who finish activities quickly, and when you are waiting for parents to arrive.

## Jesus Is Alive Bulletin Board

Cover the top section of the bulletin board with blue paper and the bottom section with green paper. Title the board "Jesus Is Alive!" Use the bulletin board patterns provided in the special unit folder on the *Resources* CD. Enlarge the patterns as desired. Let children use gray or brown crayons to color the tomb and stone. Provide copies of the flowers to color. Cut out all the figures and attach them to the bulletin board.

To create a 3-D effect, accordion-fold several narrow strips of card stock and attach one end of each strip to the back of the figure of Jesus. Attach the other end of the strips to the board so that the figure of Jesus stands out from the board. Children may want to add card stock springs to some of the flowers too.

## Seasonal Snack Ideas

**Bread Shapes**—Give each child a slice of bread on a paper plate, along with a plastic knife. Ask the children to think of shapes they could cut out of the bread that would remind them of Jesus. Provide cross- and heart-shaped cookie cutters if possible. Let children cut shapes with a knife or the cookie cutters. Ask children to show the shapes they have made and tell how those shapes remind them of Jesus. Then let kids spread the bread with soft margarine and sprinkle with a cinnamon-sugar mixture.

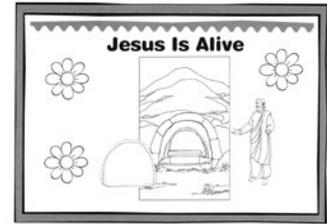
**Empty Tomb Biscuits**—Let kids mix together some cinnamon and sugar. For each child place two biscuits (from a can) on a paper plate lined with wax paper. Show kids how to put a large marshmallow between the two biscuits. They should seal the edges together and roll the biscuits in the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray and let each child put a biscuit on the sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. The marshmallows will melt and leave a hole in the center of the biscuits. The biscuits will look like Jesus' empty tomb!

## Sweet Message

Let kids make these sweet messages to give to friends and family members. Write or type the following and copy onto colorful paper: "Jesus loves you 'Bear-y' much!" Provide candy or snack crackers in the shape of a bear. Let kids put the candy in resealable bags and then attach the papers to the bags. You could also have the kids make extra bags and let them give those to any guests you have in your class.

## Buzzy Bee Letters

Buzzy Bee letters, included on the *Resources* CD, provide a fun way for kids to review the weekly Bible story and focus. Print and distribute copies, or print one copy and post it in a special place where kids can read it. The letters can also be mailed or e-mailed to kids during the week.



Be sure to read the article, "Resurrection Sunday for Children with Special Needs." The article (included with the Special Needs Helps on the *Resources* CD) will give you ideas for helping *all* families celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together.

## Teaching Tip

The Special Issue of *Weekly Bible Reader* shows step-by-step instructions for this fun activity. Make sure children have copies of this family resource to take home.

## Added Fun!

For more seasonal craft ideas, go to [www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com) and check out Holiday & Seasonal Helps under Downloads/Connect<sup>2</sup>/Spring Quarter Heartshaper Connect<sup>2</sup> Feature.



# The Last Week

**Special Unit:**  
see table of contents



**Scripture:** Luke 19:28-48; 21:37, 38; 22:7-54;  
Matthew 21:1-11; 27:27-60

**Bible Memory:** Matthew 28:6

**Focus:** ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

## Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

We like to celebrate with family and friends and then remember those special events. The week before Jesus' death began with people celebrating Jesus. But later that week, Jesus asked His disciples to do something unusual. He wanted them to remember an unpleasant event—His death. The next time you eat the Lord's Supper, remember what Jesus has done. Remember His sacrifice, His pain. It was for you!

## Triumphal Entry Lesson at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore events they remember</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Celebrations</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Smell and Remember</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p><b>Immerse Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 Celebrations Photo Cards</li> </ul> <p>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster</p>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• items with distinctive smells (see activity), small containers with lids, tray</li> <li>• Bible, reusable adhesive</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help children <i>name key events from the week before Jesus' death</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Luke 19, 21, 22; Matthew 21, 27</p> <p> <b>Bible Review Activity</b></p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Matthew 28:6</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 The Last Week Bible Story Visual LWa–LWg, <i>Teaching Picture</i> The Last Week</li> <li>• <i>Activities</i> pp. 3 and 4 and sticker, <i>Resources</i> CD The Last Week lesson Review Questions printable file</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive, bread, glass of grape juice</li> <li>• colored pencils, scissors</li> <li>• Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help children <i>understand why they should remember what Jesus did</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Special and Important!</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Thankful for a Sad Thing</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<p>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue LW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles</li> <li>• bowl, measuring spoons, unsweetened baking cocoa, soft margarine, sugar, plastic spoons</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help children <i>make a plan to remember Jesus</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Remembering Jesus</p> <p> <b>Option</b> I Will Remember Jesus</p> <p><b>Saying Good-bye</b></p>	<p>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue LW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bread, glass of grape juice</li> <li>• gift bag, items that represent ways to remember Jesus (see activity)</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore events they remember**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

### Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

### Quick Step Celebrations

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Photos can help us remember people we've met, places we've gone, and events we have celebrated.** Show one of the photo cards.

ASK: **What event does this picture help you remember?** Let children take turns sharing personal experiences. Ask the same question as you show the other cards.

**What other things help you remember special events?** (awards received, special songs, associated smells, cards or letters kept)

SAY: **The week before Jesus' death, many events happened that His followers remembered. Let's learn about those events. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

### Option Smell and Remember

Have children gather at a table. SAY: **Sometimes smells remind us of places we've gone or things we have done. Let's see what some smells remind you of.** Show the tray of closed containers. Open the containers one at a time and offer children the opportunity to smell what is inside.

ASK: **Does this smell remind you of something you have done with a friend or a family member? What did you do?**

**What other smells remind you of a place you have gone or something you have done?** (Possible answers: cookies baking, smells at a zoo or farm, modeling dough)

SAY: **The week before Jesus' death, many events happened that His followers remembered. Let's learn about those events. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

### Bible Memory Matthew 28:6

Read Matthew 28:6. SAY: **The angel reminded the women that Jesus had said He would die and then rise again. He had done what He said. His body was no longer in the tomb. He had risen!**

Display the Bible Memory poster. Read the words while pointing to them. Pause when you come to an empty space, and ask who knows what word is missing. When a child says the right word, let him attach it to the poster with reusable adhesive. SAY: **Jesus' coming back to life makes Him very special! ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

## Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

### Materials

*Resources* sheet 2  
Celebrations Photo Cards 

### Added Fun!

Form small groups of children. Give each group one of the photo cards. Ask the groups to think of events the photos help them remember. After a few minutes, let each group share one memory of a favorite event.

### Materials

items with distinctive smells (orange slices, popped popcorn, coffee crystals, vanilla flavoring, cinnamon sticks, etc.), small containers with lids, tray 

### Before Class

Place each sensory item in an individual container and cover it with a lid. Place all the containers on a tray.

### Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit  
Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive 

### Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

## Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

# Explore His Word (20 minutes)

**2** Use all of these activities to help children **name key events from the week before Jesus' death.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where He had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 12:1). On Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecies of Zechariah 9:9. According to the law, the lambs and kids chosen for the Passover Feast were to be visible several days before the feast. Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, spent Monday and Tuesday publicly teaching at the temple.

On Thursday, Jesus and His disciples observed the Passover meal. The Passover meal was established to celebrate what God *had* done, but at this meal the disciples learned that they would now be celebrating what God *would do*. Instead of annually sacrificing a lamb's blood for protection, they would now be saved by the blood of Jesus.

Pilate rightfully pronounced Jesus as a man not guilty of the charges against Him (Luke 23:4, 14, 22). Jesus' life was not taken; it was given as the perfect sacrifice needed to save all who obediently accept Him.

### Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD Special Unit Worship Time Ideas printable file for suggestions.

### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 1 The Last Week Bible Story Visual LWa-LWg, reusable adhesive, unleavened bread, glass of grape juice, *Teaching Picture* The Last Week



### Teaching Tips

When teaching about the Lord's Supper, you may want to use or show children the kind of bread and juice cup(s) used by your congregation.

Save the bread and juice to use during Live It Out.

## Bible Exploration Luke 19, 21, 22; Matthew 21, 27

**SAY: Today's Bible story comes from the books of Luke and Matthew.**

Write "Luke 19:28" on the board. Help the children turn to Luke 19:28 in their Bibles. Ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

**SAY: The story takes place during the last week before Jesus died. Let's name the days of the week and use some pictures that will help us remember what happened that week.** Attach LWa to the board and read the words: "We remember Jesus."

Write "Sunday" on the board. Ask a volunteer to read the word. **SAY: Jesus had spent three years teaching the people. He had healed people and raised people from the dead. When Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem on a Sunday, the people thought Jesus had come to be their king. They laid their coats on the road and waved palm branches. They said, "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"** Have children pretend to wave branches and repeat the phrases. Add LWb above figure LWa.

Write "Monday" and "Tuesday" on the board. Read the words. **During the day on Monday and Tuesday, Jesus spent time at the temple. Many people came to the temple early in the morning to hear Jesus teach. He taught them about the kingdom of God.** Attach LWc to the left of LWa.

Write "Wednesday" and "Thursday" on the board. **We're not sure what Jesus did on Wednesday. But on Thursday, Jesus wanted to eat the Passover meal with His followers. This meal reminded God's people of the time when God had freed His people from Egypt, where they had been slaves.**

**Jesus and His 12 disciples were sitting at a table during the meal.** Show the teaching picture. **Jesus said, "I really wanted to share this meal with you before I die." Jesus knew He would not be living on earth much**

**longer. Jesus took some bread.** Hold up the piece of bread. **He thanked God, broke off some of the bread, and gave it to His disciples.** “I’m giving my life for you,” Jesus said. **“Eat this bread. When you do this, remember me.”**

**Next Jesus picked up a cup of juice.** Hold up the glass of juice. **Jesus thanked God and said, “All of you drink some of this. I’m giving my blood for you. When you do this, remember me.”** Jesus knew His disciples would remember Him when they ate the bread and drank the juice. Attach LWd to the right of LWa.

**After the meal, Jesus and His disciples went to a place called the Mount of Olives.** Attach LWe below LWa. **Jesus prayed and asked for help to do God’s will. Jesus’ disciples fell asleep. Suddenly they woke up. They heard voices and footsteps. Guards and soldiers came and arrested Jesus.**

Write “Friday” on the board. Attach LWf below LWe. **On Friday, Jesus was put on trial. Some soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. They used a branch of thorns to form a crown and pushed it onto Jesus’ head. They laughed at Jesus. At the end of the trial, Jesus was hung on a cross to die. The soldiers made fun of Jesus on the cross too. They had a contest to see who would get His robe.**

**After Jesus died, His body was taken down and placed in a tomb.** Point to the cross you have formed with the pictures. **That Friday was a sad day, but the Bible teaches that this was all part of God’s plan to save people from their sins.** With the heart removed, place frame LWg over LWa.

## Bible Review Activity

ASK: **What do you remember most about Jesus’ last week before He died?** Let children share their thoughts.

Distribute the activity pages, sticker, and supplies. Show the children how to cut out and fold the cross. Have the children find partners and use their crosses to retell what happened during the week before Jesus died. Use the *Resources* CD review questions to ask questions about the story.

SAY: **Jesus loved us enough to die for us. ♥ We should always remember what Jesus did.**

## Bible Memory Matthew 28:6

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

Before class, separate the word cards from the Bible Memory poster. Attach the poster to a wall or bulletin board. SAY: **Our Bible Memory will help us remember something important about Jesus.** Help the children find Matthew 28:6 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Point to the words on the poster as you read them. Pause at the blank spaces and ask what words should go in the spaces. Attach the words and read the verse together. SAY: **Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He rose from the dead. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

### Materials

*Activities* pp. 3 and 4 and sticker, colored pencils (or markers), scissors, *Resources* CD Last Week lesson Review Questions printable file



### Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



### Optional Bible Skill Builder

Display the books of the Old Testament and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask whether the story of Jesus’ last week before His death is in the Old or New Testament. (New Testament) Ask volunteers to point to Luke and Matthew on the New Testament poster.



## Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help children **understand why they should remember what Jesus did.**

### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles



### Materials

bowl, measuring spoons, unsweetened baking cocoa, soft margarine, sugar, plastic spoons



When offering an activity that involves food, be cautious about food allergies or sensitivities. Offer an alternative when possible.

### Materials

*Weekly Bible Reader*  
issue LW



## Quick Step Special and Important!

ASK: **What makes something *special*?** (It's different, unique, means something to us.)

**What makes something *important*?** (It's central; we can't do without it.)

SAY: **We've learned about some special events that happened in the last week before Jesus died on the cross. But how important were those events? Let's read another Bible verse that will help us answer this question.** Write "John 3:16" on the board. Have the children work as partners or in small groups to find and read the verse in their Bibles.

ASK: **Why did God send His Son into the world?** (God loved the world.)  
**Who is God's only Son?** (Jesus)

**What does God promise will happen when we obediently believe in Jesus?** (We will live with Him forever.)

SAY: **Jesus' death on the cross was not only special; it was also important! ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

## Option Thankful for a Sad Thing

Before class, put soft margarine and unsweetened cocoa in a bowl and stir them together. Use as little as one tablespoon of each, or double or triple the amounts for a more visible demonstration.

Ask children to raise their hands if they like chocolate. Choose one or more volunteers to come up for a taste of the chocolate you have prepared. Give each volunteer a small amount on a plastic spoon. Make sure they all taste at the same time. Watch their faces. SAY: **You probably expected this to be sweet, but it wasn't. Let's try again.** Stir in 1 teaspoon sugar for each tablespoon of margarine and cocoa. Let volunteers taste again.

SAY: **Chocolate is good stuff, but it has some ingredients that aren't very pleasant on their own. This is a good reminder that good things can come from things that seem not so good. Jesus' dying on a cross was certainly not a good thing. But the Bible tells us that because Jesus gave His life for us, our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with God. ♥ We should remember and be thankful for what Jesus did.**

## Option Story from *Weekly Bible Reader*

Read the rebus story "Don't Forget!" Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word. Talk about why Michael wanted to make sure that he and Austin wouldn't forget each other. Then discuss why it is important to remember Jesus. Be sure the children understand that Jesus loves us. He died so our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with God. SAY: **♥ We should always remember what Jesus did.**

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **make a plan to remember Jesus**.

## Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

### Quick Step Remembering Jesus

Show the bread and glass of juice. SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should remember what Jesus did. Jesus gave His followers one way to remember Him. When the Lord's Supper, or Communion, is served in our worship service, it is a good time to remember Jesus.**

ASK: **What can you do or think about when the bread and juice are served?** (Thank God for Jesus. Think about the special things Jesus did for people. Read a Bible verse about Jesus.)

**What are other ways you can remember Jesus this week?** Make sure each child has the opportunity to share a way to remember Jesus.

SAY: **Let's remember Jesus now as we pray together.** Ask the children to say the prayer after you. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Jesus.** Pause. **I will remember what Jesus has done for me.** Pause. **Help me to remember Jesus this week.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Option I Will Remember Jesus



SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should remember what Jesus did. Now it's time for each of you to choose a way you will remember Jesus this week.** Ask the children to sit in a circle. Give the prepared bag to a child and ask him to pull one object from the bag. Ask how that object could be used to remember Jesus. Continue until all the objects have been shown.

Lay the items at various places around the room. Tell the children they should move to the item that represents a way they want to remember Jesus this week. Let the children know it's OK for more than one person to choose the same way to remember Jesus. Close with a time of prayer. Ask for volunteers to pray. Encourage them to ask for God's help in remembering Jesus.

### Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

### Materials

bread and glass of grape juice used for Bible Exploration time



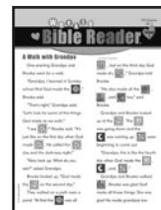
### Materials

gift bag, items that represent ways to remember Jesus



### Before Class

Place in a bag several items that represent ways to remember Jesus. Possible items: Bible or Bible storybook (read about Jesus), small cross, picture of someone praying, drawing paper and marker (draw a picture of Jesus), CD player or small hymn book (sing a song about Jesus).



### Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com).



# Jesus Is Alive

## Special Unit see table of contents



**Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-50, 57, 59-66; 27:32-38, 45-65; 28:1-10

**Bible Memory:** Matthew 28:6

**Focus:** ♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

When all seemed lost and Jesus' followers were totally discouraged, Jesus surprised them by showing His great power in one ultimate feat. When you are discouraged and all seems lost, remember and trust in Jesus' resurrection power. Jesus may work through a friend, a family member, or even a stranger. He may work in ways you never thought possible. Don't be surprised. Jesus has power—even over death!

## Jesus' Resurrection Lesson at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore times they celebrate</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Celebration Snapshots</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Let's Celebrate!</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p><b>Immerse Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources CD sheet 2 Celebrations Photo Cards</li> </ul> <p>• Resources sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster</p>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (optional: digital camera)</li> <li>• party horn</li> <li>• Bible, reusable adhesive</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help children <i>tell how Jesus showed His power over death</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Matthew 26–28</p> <p> <b>Bible Review Activity</b></p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Matthew 28:6</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources sheet 2 Bible Story Figures JAA–JAG, Resources CD Bible Story Quote Strips printable file, Teaching Picture Jesus Is Alive</li> <li>• Resources sheet 2 Bible Story Figures JAA–JAG</li> <li>• Resources sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles</li> <li>• gift bag</li> <li>• Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, gift bag, reusable adhesive</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help children <i>understand why it is important that Jesus came back to life</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Jesus Keeps His Promises</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Power to Set Free</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<p>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue JA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• party horn</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help children <i>praise Jesus for His power over death</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Praise Jesus!</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Praise Jesus Cards</p> <p><b>Saying Good-bye</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities pp. 5 and 6 and stickers</li> <li>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue JA and special issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inflated balloon</li> <li>• scissors, unsharpened pencils, chenille wires, tape, resealable plastic bags</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore times they celebrate**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

### Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

### Quick Step Celebration Snapshots

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Today is an exciting day. It's a day to celebrate. Let's act out some reasons to celebrate.** Have the children work with partners or in small groups. If you have children with special needs, prepare the groups ahead of time so that children with special needs will be included appropriately. Give each group one of the photo cards. Let each group take a turn acting out the event pictured on its card. See whether the other children can guess what event is taking place.

ASK: **What's your favorite reason to celebrate?  
Who do you like to celebrate special events with?**

SAY: **Today we're going to learn that ♥ only Jesus has power over death. Then we'll celebrate and praise Jesus.**

### Option Let's Celebrate!

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Let's do some celebrating! I'll name a reason to celebrate. When I blow my party horn, show how you would celebrate the occasion. When I blow the party horn again, stop celebrating. Then I'll name another reason, and we'll celebrate some more.** Name a reason to celebrate. Give the signal and let kids show how they would celebrate. Continue with as many situations as you have time for.

ASK: **Why do we celebrate special occasions or events?  
What was the greatest party you've ever been to?**

SAY: **Today we're going to learn that ♥ only Jesus has power over death. Then we'll celebrate and praise Jesus.**

### Bible Memory Matthew 28:6

SAY: **Our Bible Memory tells something very special about Jesus. Listen for what's so special about Jesus.** Read Matthew 28:6.

ASK: **What's so special about Jesus?** (He rose from the dead.)

Display the Bible Memory poster. Ask the kids to join you in reading the verse. Pause when you come to an empty space, and ask who knows what word is missing. Attach the missing word. Lead the children in saying the verse three times, a little louder each time. SAY: **We're going to learn that ♥ only Jesus has power over death. That's a reason to celebrate!**

## Focus

♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

### Materials

*Resources* CD sheet 2  
Celebrations Photo Cards  
(optional: digital camera)



### Added Fun!

Parents love to see pictures of their children having fun. Take pictures as groups are acting out their situations. Print and display the pictures in your classroom.

### Materials

party horn (or whistle)



### Reasons to Celebrate

You won your big soccer game.  
Today is your birthday.  
You got a B on the math test.  
You were brave enough to give a report in front of the class.

### Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit  
Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive



### Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

## Focus

♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

# Explore His Word (20 minutes)

**2** Use all of these activities to help children **tell how Jesus showed His power over death.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

In the very act of crucifixion, Jesus was subjected to the most degrading form of punishment known to man. The Romans would not even allow Roman citizens to be crucified; they reserved crucifixion for slaves and foreigners or criminals.

Joseph of Arimathea was obviously a man of wealth since he had his own burial vault in a garden. He also had the courage to ask for the body of Jesus. Jesus was buried shortly before sunset on Friday afternoon, lay in the grave through Saturday, and came forth from the grave before sunrise on Sunday morning. The order of events on this memorable day is probably as follows: an earthquake, followed by the descent of the angel, the rolling away of the stone and opening of the tomb, and the resurrection.

For the proof of Christ's resurrection, we have the testimony of the angel, the women, and Jesus himself. Five appearances of Jesus are recorded in the four Gospels as occurring during the day of resurrection. Five more appearances occurred during the 40 days that Jesus remained on earth—more than enough proof to show that Jesus really had risen from the dead.

### Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD Special Unit Worship Time Ideas printable file for suggestions.

### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 2 Bible Story Figures JAa-JAg, *Resources* CD Bible Story Quote Strips printable file, scissors *Teaching Picture* Jesus Is Alive (optional: empty paper tubes and tape; or self-adhesive magnetic strip, whiteboard, dry-erase marker)



### Before Class

Print and cut apart the Bible Story Quote Strips.

Decide how you want to display story figures. You might want to stand the figures by attaching empty paper tubes to the backs of figures.

## Bible Exploration Matthew 26–28

**SAY: Today's Bible story comes from the book of Matthew.** Write "Matthew 27:31" on the board. Help the children use the table of contents in their Bibles to find and turn to the book of Matthew. Help them find Matthew 27:31, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

**During the Bible story, we will hear some important things that were said as the various events took place. We'll repeat the phrases together. Listen for how Jesus showed His power over death.** Show the story figures as instructed in the story. Choose volunteers to hold up the Bible Story Quote Strips at appropriate times.

**As we learned last week, some people did not like what Jesus taught. They put Jesus on a cross to die. Sometimes bad people were put to death on crosses. But we know that Jesus wasn't bad. He was God's Son and never did anything wrong. Jesus could have saved himself from these bad people, but it was God's plan that Jesus would die.**

**When Jesus died on a Friday afternoon, it became dark outside. A huge, heavy curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom, all by itself. There was an earthquake.** Show JAc. **The soldiers guarding Jesus felt the earthquake and saw what was happening. They said, "He was the Son of God!"** Have a volunteer hold up quote strip 1. Repeat the words together.

**After Jesus died, a man named Joseph asked for Jesus' body. This Joseph was not Jesus' father, but he was a follower of Jesus. He wrapped Jesus' body in cloth. Then Joseph put Jesus' body in a tomb.** Show JAa. **A very large stone was rolled in front of the tomb.** Put JAb over the opening of the tomb. **Guards were posted by the tomb.** Move guards JAc in front of the tomb.

**Early Sunday morning, God sent another earthquake. An angel of the Lord went to the tomb. The angel rolled the stone away from the tomb and sat on the big stone.** Move JAb; place JAf on stone. **The soldiers were so afraid, they shook with fear.** Move JAc away from tomb entrance.

Display JAd and JAe. **As the sun was coming up that morning, some women went to the tomb where Jesus' body had been buried. The women were afraid when they saw an angel at the tomb.** Display the *Teaching Picture*. **But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead.'"** Ask a volunteer to hold up quote strip 2. Repeat the words together.

**The women ran from the tomb. They were still afraid, but they were also happy. They wanted to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Then Jesus met them.** Display JAf. **The women fell down and worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Go tell my friends that they will see me soon."** Show quote strip 3. Repeat the words. **Jesus had died, but was alive again. Jesus has power over death because Jesus is God's Son.**

## Bible Review Activity

ASK: **What did the Roman guards say about Jesus?** ("He was the Son of God.")

**What did the angel tell the women?** ("He has risen from the dead.")

**What did Jesus say to the women?** ("Go tell my friends that they will see me soon.")

Place the story figures in the gift bag. Ask kids to sit in a circle. SAY: **This gift bag reminds me that we have something great to celebrate—Jesus' coming back to life! Pass the bag until I say, "Only Jesus has the power." Whoever is holding the bag can reach in, pull out a story figure, and tell us what it has to do with the Bible story.** Play the game. Place story figures back in the bag as needed so that all the children have an opportunity to select and tell about a figure. SAY: **It's great to know that Jesus is God's Son. ♥ Only Jesus has power over death!**

## Bible Memory Matthew 28:6

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Write "Matthew 28:6" on the board. Ask the children to tell you what the different parts of the reference mean: Matthew (book of the Bible), number 28 (chapter), number 6 (verse). Help kids find Matthew 28:6 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

Remove the word cards from the Bible Memory poster and place them in the gift bag. Ask volunteers to draw word cards from the bag and place them in the correct spaces on the Bible Memory poster. Repeat the verse together. SAY: **Matthew 28:6 is a great verse to memorize so that we can tell others why we are celebrating today. We know ♥ only Jesus has power over death.**

### Before Class. continued

Another option is to draw a simple outdoor scene on a whiteboard. Add a piece of self-adhesive magnetic strip to the back of each figure and place the figures on the board as you tell the story.

### Materials

gift bag, *Resources* sheet 2 figures JAa–JAf (optional: *Resources* CD Jesus Is Alive lesson Review Questions printable file)



### Teaching Tip

Use the *Resources* CD review questions for more questions to help children review the story.

### Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster, gift bag, reusable adhesive



### Optional Bible Skill Builder

Display the books of the Old Testament and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask children if the story of Jesus' coming back to life is found in the Old or New Testament. (New Testament) Ask a volunteer to point to the book of Matthew on the New Testament poster. Then say together the names of all the books of the New Testament.



## Focus

♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help children **understand why it is important that Jesus came back to life.**

### Materials

Bible



Children with developmental disabilities often struggle with managing their emotions. You may want to suggest hypothetical situations, rather than ask the children to name disappointing broken promises from their pasts.

### Promises of Jesus

Matthew 6:25, 33 (give what we need)

Matthew 11:28 (give rest)

Matthew 28:20 (be with us)

John 3:16 (give eternal life)

### Materials

party horn (or whistle)



### Added Fun!

For a tabletop version of freeze tag, have kids each extend an arm and place one hand on the table. The person designated as “It” will try to tap other players’ hands before they are pulled back. A hand that is tapped must remain on the table until “unfrozen” by another player.

### Materials

Weekly Bible Reader  
issue JA



## Quick Step Jesus Keeps His Promises

Read the Bible Memory verse, Matthew 28:6. SAY: **The angel told the women that Jesus had come back to life “just as he said.”**

ASK: **Have you ever had someone promise you that something good would happen, but then it didn’t? How did you feel?** Let children share a few situations.

SAY: **Matthew 16:21 says that Jesus told His disciples He would die. Jesus also said He would come back to life.** Read Matthew 16:21. ♥ **Only Jesus has power over death. If Jesus could keep a promise *that* big, He can (and will) keep any promise.**

ASK: **What are some other promises Jesus made to us?** Help children as needed to name promises of Jesus.

**How does it make you feel to know Jesus will keep all His promises to you?**

## Option Power to Set Free

Move to an open area and let kids play a quick game of freeze tag. Designate one person to be “It.” That person will try to tap the other players. Anyone who is tapped must freeze in position until a free player taps them. Tell the kids that whenever you blow the party horn, everyone is unfrozen and you will name another person to be It. Play as time allows. Then have the children sit in a circle.

ASK: **Why was it important to have someone who could help you if you were tagged?** (If no one helped, the person had to remain frozen and couldn’t keep playing.)

SAY: **Just as in our game, the world needed someone who had power to free others, someone with more power than Satan and death. ♥ Only God’s Son, Jesus has power over death. And only Jesus could give us eternal life. We can celebrate and praise because Jesus is alive today! We can be free!**

## Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

SAY: **We know that ♥ only Jesus has power over death. Let’s think about a time when knowing about Jesus’ power can help others and us.** Read the rebus story “The Letter.” Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word.

Ask: **How did knowing about Jesus’ power over death help Hannah? How did Hannah try to help Ashley?**

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **praise Jesus for His power over death.**

## Focus

♥ Only Jesus has power over death.

### Quick Step Praise Jesus!

SAY: **We began our class time today thinking about reasons to celebrate. ♥ Only Jesus has power over death. That's the best reason to celebrate. Let's celebrate and praise Jesus now.** Lead the children in singing a praise song to Jesus. Sing these words to the tune of "God Is So Good": I praise You, Jesus. / I praise You, Jesus. / I praise You, Jesus. / I praise You.

Show the balloon. SAY: **Let's tell Jesus how much we want to celebrate His power. We'll pass a balloon around the circle. When it comes to you, you can say, "Dear Jesus, I praise You for Your power over death." Then if you want to, you can add another prayer. When you are finished, pass the balloon to the next person.** When everyone has prayed, end the prayer time. Have the kids stand in a circle and gently tap the balloon into the air. Each time someone taps the balloon, call out a praise to Jesus.

### Option Praise Jesus Cards



Before class, make samples of different ways children can use the Praise Jesus Cards. Options: (1) Pencil toppers. Tightly wrap a chenille wire around a pencil. Tape or glue a praise card to the free end of the wire at the top of the pencil. Repeat with other cards. (2) Name cards. Write names of family members on the outside of cards. Take the cards home and use them to show where individuals should sit at a meal. (3) Mini greeting cards. Write inside each card a message that tells about Jesus.

SAY: ♥ **Only Jesus has power over death. Let's make some special cards that we can use today to praise Jesus.** Distribute the activity pages and stickers. Set out the other supplies and show the samples made before class. Let the children choose whether to make pencil toppers, name cards, or mini greeting cards. Assist as needed in making the crafts. Provide resealable bags for taking the crafts home. SAY: **There are lots of ways to praise Jesus. We can pray and thank Him. We can praise Jesus by singing songs about His power. We can make something that shows how much we love Jesus.**

ASK: **What is your favorite way to praise Jesus?  
How will you use what you have made today to praise Jesus?**

Ask for a volunteer who will pray at the end of the class time. Encourage the person to praise Jesus for His power over death.

### Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

### Materials

inflated balloon



### Materials

Activities pp. 5, 6 and stickers, scissors, unsharpened pencils (4 per child), chenille wires, tape (or glue sticks), resealable plastic bags



### Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* and the special issue to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com).

