

He Is Risen

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Easter

Scripture: Luke 24:1-6

Memory Verse: He is not here; he has risen! - Luke 24:6

The Children's Sermon

The fact is Easter is not about candy. It's not about colored eggs or bunny rabbits. It's not even about new clothes, although the Bible tells us that the angels who appeared to Mary and the others were wearing "bright shining clothes." These things have become part of our celebration of Easter, and there is nothing wrong with them being a part of our celebration as long as we know what Easter is really all about. Can someone tell me what Easter is all about? That's right. Easter is really about Jesus, and the wonderful good news that He is alive!

When Mary and her friends finally realized that Jesus was alive, do you know what they did? They hurried and told their other friends! And that's what I would like for you to do too. As soon as you get back home from church today, with every chance you get, I would like for you to start telling people you see these 3 simple words, "Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!"

Dear Lord, today we celebrate the empty grave. We thank You that Jesus is not in the grave. He is risen and alive, and because of that, we can have new life in Him. Amen.

Now, let's dive a little deeper into our Easter Sunday Sermon. You see, Easter is a very special day. It's the day we remember something incredible that Jesus did for all of us. After Jesus died, He didn't stay in the tomb. God made Him alive again! This is what we call resurrection. It means coming back to life. And because Jesus is alive, we can be close to God.

Imagine if you had a superhero friend who could defeat anything, even death. That's who Jesus is! He showed us that love is stronger than anything, even stronger than death itself. This is the heart of our Easter Sunday Sermon - that love wins!

Easter is also a time of new beginnings. Just like spring brings new flowers and new life, Easter gives us a chance to start fresh. It's a reminder that no matter what mistakes we've made, we can always begin again. Jesus's resurrection is a promise that we are loved and forgiven.

During Easter, we also learn about hope. Hope is believing that good things can happen, even when things seem really tough. Jesus coming back to life is the biggest hope of all. It tells us that with God, anything is possible. Even when things seem really sad or hard, Easter reminds us to keep hoping and trusting in God.

Now, let's talk about how we can share this amazing news, just like Mary and her friends did. You don't have to be a grown-up to tell others that "Jesus is alive!" You can share this good news with your friends, your family, and even people you meet. You can tell them by using words, but you can also show them by being kind, helping others, and being a good friend. That's how you live out the Easter Sunday Sermon every day.

And remember, Easter is not just one day. The joy and hope of Easter are with us all the time. Every time you see a beautiful flower, remember the new life Jesus gives us. Every time you feel the warm sun, remember Jesus's love warming our hearts. Easter is all around us, reminding us of Jesus's love and the amazing things He did for us.

Let's pray together one more time. Dear God, thank You for Jesus and the love You showed us through Him. Help us to remember the true meaning of Easter and to share the good news that Jesus is alive with everyone we meet. Help us to live with hope, love, and joy in our hearts every day. Amen.

So, kids, as we finish our Easter Sunday Sermon, let's remember to celebrate Jesus, not just today, but every day. Let's spread the good news, "Jesus is alive!" and let's live out that message with hope and love in everything we do. Happy Easter, everyone!

Bible Memory Verse

He is not here; he has risen! - Luke 24:6

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large oval shapes, these will be your 'stones'.

-Write 'He is not here; he has risen! - Luke 24:6' on a separate piece of paper for each child to use as a reference.

Do This:

1. Give each child a large oval 'stone' and the memory verse reference. Ask them to decorate their stone with markers, crayons, and stickers to make it colorful and unique.
2. Once they have decorated their stones, help them write the memory verse 'He is not here; he has risen! - Luke 24:6' on their stone. Younger children may need help writing.
3. Discuss the meaning of the verse and how the stone represents the stone that was rolled away from Jesus' tomb. Conclude by having each child share their stone and say the memory verse out loud.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large cardboard box
- Stone-like grey paper or paint
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Small, battery-operated LED lights
- Angel and Jesus cutouts (can be printed from online or handmade)
- Spice-scented potpourri or fabric sachets

Get Ready:

1. Paint or cover the cardboard box with stone-like grey paper to resemble the tomb. Cut a side open to create a door.
2. Place the LED lights inside the box to mimic the light inside the tomb.

3. Prepare the angel and Jesus cutouts, making sure they can stand upright with a small base or tape.
4. Hide the angel and Jesus cutouts. Place the spice-scented potpourri or sachets inside the box to represent the spices brought by the women.

Do this:

1. Start with the tomb (the box) closed. Gather the children and tell them the story from Luke 24:1-6, emphasizing how the women found the tomb open and Jesus was not there.
2. Invite the children to come up one by one and roll away the stone (open the box) to discover the inside. Let them find the potpourri or sachets, explaining these represent the spices the women brought.
3. After everyone has had a turn, reveal the angel and Jesus cutouts. Place the angel inside the tomb with the lights to represent the angel's message, "He is not here; he has risen!" Place Jesus outside the tomb as a symbol of His resurrection.
4. Conclude by discussing the meaning of Easter and the joy of Jesus' resurrection, encouraging the children to share what they've learned.

Snack Activity: Empty Tomb Rolls

You'll Need:

- 1 can of crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar
- A baking sheet
- A pastry brush

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to the temperature listed on the crescent roll dough package. Usually, it's around 375°F (190°C). Spread out the crescent roll dough on a clean surface and separate the triangles.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the marshmallow represents Jesus, pure and sinless (white). The crescent roll represents the tomb.
2. Dip a marshmallow in melted butter, then roll it in cinnamon sugar. This represents the oils and spices used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. Place the marshmallow in the center of a dough triangle, and carefully fold the dough around the marshmallow, sealing the edges tightly. This is like the tomb being sealed.
3. Place the sealed dough 'tombs' on a baking sheet and bake according to the crescent roll package instructions, until golden brown. While baking, explain that the women found the tomb empty on the third day, just like the inside of these rolls will be empty when we open them, because Jesus has risen. Let the rolls cool slightly before opening to discover the 'empty tomb'.

Game Activity: Easter Stone Roll

You'll Need:

- Chalk
- A small stone for each child
- A large open space (like a parking lot or playground)

Get Ready: Draw a large circle on the ground with chalk, then draw several smaller circles inside it to create a 'path' leading to the center. Number the circles from the outside in, starting with 1 up to the final circle in the center, which represents the tomb.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the stone being rolled away from the tomb is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter. Read Luke 24:1-6 to them, focusing on the part where the women find the tomb open and Jesus is not there because He has risen.
2. Each child takes a turn rolling their stone from the outer circle towards the center, trying to get their stone to stop in the center 'tomb' circle. Before they roll, have them say, 'He is not here; He has risen!'
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how the empty tomb symbolizes our joy and hope in Jesus' resurrection. Celebrate with Easter songs or a simple prayer of thanks.

Craft Activity: Easter Morning Roll-Away Stone

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard box or a paper cup
- A large stone that can cover the opening of the box or cup
- Paints and brushes
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into shapes of people, angels, and other Easter symbols like crosses or flowers.

Do this:

1. Paint the cardboard box or paper cup to look like a tomb. Let it dry.

2. While waiting for the paint to dry, decorate your construction paper cutouts with markers or more paint to represent the women, angels, and other symbols of Easter.
3. After the tomb has dried, place the stone in front of the opening. Discuss how the women found the tomb with the stone rolled away and Jesus was not there, just like in Luke 24:1-6. Use your paper figures to act out the story. Finally, roll away the stone to reveal an empty tomb, celebrating that Jesus has risen!

Prayer Activity: Easter Garden Prayers

You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Soil
- Seeds (flowers or herbs)
- Small stones or pebbles
- Easter-themed stickers or markers

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table. Make sure each child has enough space to work on their Easter garden.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Luke 24:1-6 together, focusing on the joy and surprise of the empty tomb. Explain that just as Jesus rose from the dead, our seeds will grow into beautiful plants.
2. Have each child fill their pot with soil. Let them plant their seeds by making small holes in the soil with their fingers, dropping in the seeds, and covering them lightly with soil.
3. Next, let the children decorate their pots with the stones, pebbles, and Easter-themed stickers or markers. While they work, encourage them to think of

things they are thankful for or prayers they want to offer this Easter. They can say these prayers silently or share with the group.

4. Finish by placing all the pots in a sunny spot. Remind the children to water their Easter garden and watch it grow, remembering the new life Jesus gives us.