

# JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 6:9

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus is alive.

## The Bible Story

Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

People make wrong choices, but God had a very good plan. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Not everyone loved Jesus, though. Some people wanted to hurt Him. Jesus went to a garden with His friends to pray. Jesus was very sad. He prayed to His Father, “I will do Your plan.” Then men came to take Jesus to jail. All of Jesus’ friends ran away. The leaders of the people said things about Jesus that were not true, and they punished Jesus by putting Him on a cross. Jesus died, but three days later, God made Jesus alive again like God had said He would. Jesus showed His friends that He is alive, and Jesus is still alive today.

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- \* Jesus always obeyed God.
- \* Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again.
- \* God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

## Babies Activities



### LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Matthew 26 or John 18. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY:** Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE!** [*Pray for the babies.*]



### SING A SONG

Sing the chorus of “Oh, How I Love Jesus”:

“Oh, how I love Jesus! [*Repeat three times.*]

Because He \*first loved me!”

\*Substitute *died for me* and *rose again* in the subsequent rounds.

**SAY:** God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus always obeyed God, but Jesus died on the cross. God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE** today!



### COVER AND UNCOVER A PERSON FIGURE

Invite babies to sit or lay on their tummies. Provide a baby-friendly Bible times figure, or print and cut out a picture of Jesus. Cover the figure with a blanket and invite babies to uncover it.

**SAY:** Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### LOOK AT FLOWERS

Post an allergy alert. Before class, press flowers in clear CD cases. Seal the edges of each CD case with colorful duct tape. Invite babies to handle and look at the flowers.

**SAY:** Jesus went to a garden to pray. Jesus was sad, but Jesus always obeyed God. Jesus died on the cross, but **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

## Toddler Activities



### CIRCLE TIME (5 MINUTES)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to John 18. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the Main Point and Gospel Gems. Pray.



### MAKE CROSS ART

Cut clear contact plastic into a cross shape for each toddler and tape it to the table. Provide colorful tissue paper, foam shapes, and other items for toddlers to stick to the cross. Glue the cross to construction paper and write the Main Point on each child's art.

**SAY:** God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### LOOK IN THE TOMB

Drape a blanket over three sides of a table. Fold a white cloth and place it inside. Invite toddlers to look in the "tomb" as you briefly tell the Bible story.

**SAY:** People put Jesus in a tomb because Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE** today!



### MATCH EASTER CARDS

Before class, gather three pairs of matching simple Easter greeting cards (no fantasy themes). Cut apart the cards so only the pictures remain. Place the cards faceup in a grid for toddlers to match.

**SAY:** At Easter, we celebrate that Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE** today!



### LISTEN TO HEARTBEATS

Provide a stethoscope for toddlers to listen to their heartbeats. Sanitize between each use. You may also show a toddler how to feel her own heartbeat or listen to heartbeats via an electronic device.

**SAY:** A good, strong heartbeat lets us know someone is alive. Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

## Bonus Teaching Hour

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#### TRANSITION ACTIVITY: GARDEN ART

Provide paper, flower-shaped stamps or cookie cutters, and washable ink in a variety of colors. Invite toddlers to stamp their paper to make a garden scene. Keep wipes handy for cleanup.

**SAY:** Jesus went to a garden to pray. Jesus always obeyed God. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



#### RUN A RACE

If weather permits, take toddlers outside to a place where they can run without obstacles. Stand a few feet from a fence or wall and invite toddlers to race to it. If you must “race” inside, clear the floor of obstacles and invite toddlers to bunny hop to you.

**SAY:** People who are alive may walk, run, jump, and skip! Jesus died on the cross, but God made Jesus alive again. **JESUS IS ALIVE** today!



#### GO ON A NATURE WALK

Post an allergy alert. Wrap colorful duct tape sticky side out around each child’s wrist with enough room for toddlers to pull it on and off. Take a nature walk, allowing toddlers to stick flowers, grass, and leaves to their bracelet. Talk about how these items are living.

**SAY:** Jesus always obeyed God, but Jesus died on the cross to rescue us. God made Jesus alive again, and **JESUS IS ALIVE** today!

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Main Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.