



THE BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT

JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

EASTER

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 28:1-8 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Tell the Good News!

FOCUS VERSE

“Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.” Mark 16:15 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Plastic Eggs | Charade Cards | Timer (Optional) | Scissors | Blank Report Cards
| Jesus Report Cards | Envelopes | Pencils | Construction Paper | Tape | Crayons | Stickers
(Optional) |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- If you could visit any animal in the world, which one would it be? Why?
- What is your favorite thing to do with your family?



TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS FROM THE MOMENT THE CHILDREN WALK INTO THE ROOM.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

1 Chronicles 16:23 says, “Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.” Remind your students that as we worship, we are proclaiming how grateful we are that God sent His Son to die for us. Proclaim His salvation as you sing!

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, we are so thankful for Your Son, Jesus! We celebrate You and thank You for loving us unconditionally. Help us fall more in love with You today! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Use the weekly puzzle pieces to review.

BACKGROUND: Say, “This month we’re learning about some pretty important announcements! In fact, we’re going to talk about the BIGGEST announcement today. Remember: An announcement is an important message one person shares with others. It’s often a message shared with lots of people!”

- Ask, “Can someone tell me about a time when you’ve heard an announcement?”

“Last week, we talked about Holy Week—the week leading up to Jesus’ death. We heard some wonderful and horrible things about this week. But today, we get a chance to celebrate the biggest announcement God ever made! Let’s put up this week’s puzzle piece!”

TRANSITION: Say, “Before I tell you what that announcement is, we need to get ready for our story by playing a game!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Plastic Eggs (15 per class) | Charade Cards | Scissors | Timer (Optional) |

Say, “Who likes the game Charades?! Great! Charades is all about figuring out what one silent person is acting out. Then we get to LOUDLY **announce** what we think they are trying to tell us.”

GAME GOAL: The class will work together to guess what each person is acting out.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Fill each egg with one Charade card.
- Invite the children, one at a time, to open an egg and act out the action phrases on the charade card.
- The class will try to guess and **announce** what charade phrase the person is acting out.
- Once guessed correctly, choose another “actor” and repeat the steps from above.

MODIFICATION: It may be helpful to use a timer and give each “actor” a time limit. We recommend no more than 2 minutes per card.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great! You all are awesome at making announcements! It looks like you’re ready to hear the biggest announcement. Let’s read to see what happens!”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we will learn about the BEST announcement in the history of announcements! Last week, we ended Holy Week in a very sad way. Jesus died on the cross, and His body was placed in a tomb. This week’s story takes place three days later! Let’s read Matthew 28:1-8 (ICB).”



MANY CHILDREN DON’T KNOW HOW TO FIND A PASSAGE IN THE BIBLE. TEACH THEM HOW TO FIND THE TABLE OF CONTENTS, THE BOOK, THE CHAPTER NUMBER, AND THE VERSE NUMBER.

At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.² At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. ³ He was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The soldiers guarding the tomb were very frightened of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.⁵ The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. ⁶ But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. ⁷ And go quickly and tell his followers. Say to them: ‘Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there...’” ⁸ The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus’ followers what had happened.

Say, “This is a story for celebration! Can someone tell me why this story has the BIGGEST announcement ever? Yes! This is the biggest announcement because it tells us that Jesus is alive! The angel said, ‘He has risen from death.’ What great news!”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s talk about what Jesus’ death and resurrection (coming back to life) does for those who believe in Jesus.”

DISCUSS – 15 MINUTES

Discuss the events from above: Say, “Now that we’ve talked about the main events from Holy Week, let’s see what we’ve learned.



TODAY’S DISCUSSION IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM OUR NORMAL PATTERN. THE ACTIVITY WE ARE SUBSTITUTING IS CALLED THE “GOD REPORT CARD.” THIS ACTIVITY IS BASED ON A DEMONSTRATION FROM JACK KLUMPENHOWER’S BOOK, *SHOW THEM JESUS*.

MATERIALS: | Blank Report Cards (1 per child) | Jesus Report Card (1 per child) | Envelopes (1 per child, +1 for Jesus) | Pencils with Erasers (1 per child) |

Say, “Let’s see if we can better understand this amazing gift Jesus has given us with His resurrection.” (Do not reveal “God’s Solution”—the Jesus Report Card—with the kids until step 5.)

1. Pass out the Blank Report Cards and pencils to each child. Have each child write his or her name on their card. Read aloud the “subjects” and have the kids fill in the grades they think they’ve earned for each category.
2. Next, have volunteers share the grades they gave themselves. Then, explain that God’s holiness demands perfection from us. Anything less is a failure (Isaiah 64:6). Have everyone erase their grades and change all of them to F’s.

3. Give each child an envelope and have them put their bad report card into their envelope and write their name on the front. *Do not seal the envelopes.*
4. Say, "This is a BIG problem!" Ask, "What would happen if you took this report card home with all F's?"
5. Let the kids offer possible solutions on how to fix this problem.
 - a. Example Answers: 1) *Erasing Grades*: Erasing the grades doesn't fix the problem; it only gives you a blank report card. 2) *Changing the Grades*: Grades are earned, so we cannot just change our grades to A's without the A's coming from somewhere. 3) *Working Harder*: It doesn't matter how hard we work to get better grades. Anything less than perfection is failing.
 - b. Say, "**No solution is as good as God's solution.**"
6. Reveal God's solution by giving each child a Jesus Report Card. Explain that Jesus earned the A+'s we can't because He is perfect. He is the only person who could ever live a perfect life and never do anything wrong.
7. Now have the kids swap their report cards with Jesus' report card. Each child will place their bad report card into the Jesus envelope and put a Jesus report card in the envelope with their name on it.
8. Talk about what the swap means for both Jesus and each of us. Ask, "What did Jesus do for you?" and "Do you think this is a fair trade?"
9. Emphasize that we didn't just take Jesus' report card and have great grades. He also takes ours. The perfect Jesus took all of our shame and all of our sin.
10. Conclude with explaining that we are FREELY forgiven and receive righteousness from God. We don't earn forgiveness.
11. Let the children keep their envelope with the Jesus Report Card in it.

Content adapted from "Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids" by Jack Klumpenhower (p. 40).

TRANSITION: Say, "Do you understand that Jesus had to be punished so we can be accepted by God and become His children? When God looks at His people, He doesn't see our sin. Instead, He sees perfection because Jesus took the punishment we were supposed to take. Now, we get to **tell the good news** of what Jesus has done for us!"

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Construction Paper (Any Color—1 per person) | Tape | Crayons | Stickers (Optional) |

Say, "Now, we are going to make megaphones to **tell the Good News** that Jesus has risen! It's the biggest announcement we could ever share!"

- Give each child one piece of construction paper.
- Instruct them to write their initials somewhere on their paper, and then starting from the corner, have the children roll their paper into a cone shape.
- Tape the megaphone together and write "Jesus is Risen" on the side.
- Children can walk around using their megaphone to announce the good news that Jesus has risen from the grave.

RELAY GAME: If there is extra time remaining, play the following game:

- Collect all the megaphones.
- Divide your group into lines of at least five children each.
- Place one megaphone per team across the room, but directly in front of each line of children.
- Then, hand the first person in each line a megaphone. Explain that when you say “Go!” the first child will speak into the megaphone announcing these exact words: “Good news, good news, Jesus has risen!”
- Then, they will run to their second megaphone (across the room), trade it with the one they have, and take it back to their next teammate who will repeat the process.
- The fastest team to finish wins!

CHALLENGE: During the relay, you can have the students hop, skip, walk on all fours, etc. to their second megaphone.

TRANSITION: Say, “Awesome job, everyone! Let’s be people who **tell the Good News!**”

MEMORIZE – 5 MINUTES

Say, “Our verse this month is about announcing Jesus! We get to **tell others the good news** – the BIGGEST news! JESUS IS RISEN!”



OCCASIONALLY COMMUNICATE WHY WE MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE. SAY, “ONE REASON WE MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD IS SO WE CAN BE REMINDED OF HOW MUCH HE LOVES US AND TAKES CARE OF US WHEN HARD THINGS HAPPEN.”

“**Go everywhere** (point forward) **in the world** (make the shape of the earth with your arms). **Tell the Good News** (put your hands around your mouth) **to everyone** (open your arms wide).” **Mark 16:15 (ICB)**

CHALLENGE: : If you’re looking for a new way to memorize the verse, use it as an answer in a Hangman game. Put in the common words like “in,” “the,” and “to,” and then leave the rest of it blank to have the kids guess letters until they solve the puzzle.

REFLECT – 5 MINUTES

Say, “Jesus has risen, and now we can **tell the good news!** Jesus paid the highest price—with His life—so we can be saved! We don’t earn forgiveness, and we don’t earn the love of God. We get it all for free! Praise Jesus!”

SAMPLE PRAYER: “*Jesus, we are so thankful You died and rose from the dead! You are so loving to rescue us and save us! Touch our hearts to help us understand Your great love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*”

RELEASE –

If there is extra time before parents arrive, you can create additional Charades cards and replay the ENGAGE activity. You could also extend the Hangman suggestion mentioned in MEMORIZE by incorporating words and themes from the lesson.

Charade Cards



Brushing your Teeth	Blowing Out Candles	Dancing
Taking a Shower	Reading a Book	Eating an Ice Cream Cone
Swimming Underwater	Running a Race	Building a Sandcastle
Opening a Present	Cooking	Sweeping the Floor
Playing Soccer	Climbing a Mountain	Rowing a Boat



REPORT CARD

Name: _____

Godly Subjects	Grade Earned
OBEYING YOUR PARENTS	
GENEROSITY	
KINDNESS	
TELLING THE TRUTH	
PUTTING YOURSELF LAST	

REPORT CARD

Name: _____

Godly Subjects	Grade Earned
OBEYING YOUR PARENTS	
GENEROSITY	
KINDNESS	
TELLING THE TRUTH	
PUTTING YOURSELF LAST	

REPORT CARD

Name: **JESUS** _____

Godly Subjects	Grade Earned
OBEYING YOUR PARENTS	A+
GENEROSITY	A+
KINDNESS	A+
TELLING THE TRUTH	A+
PUTTING YOURSELF LAST	A+

REPORT CARD

Name: **JESUS** _____

Godly Subjects	Grade Earned
OBEYING YOUR PARENTS	A+
GENEROSITY	A+
KINDNESS	A+
TELLING THE TRUTH	A+
PUTTING YOURSELF LAST	A+

