



THE BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT

JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

MARY AT THE TOMB

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:15-18 (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 | “At the Tomb” Film Strip | Pencil | Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What are your favorite pizza toppings?
- Do you have a secret talent? What is it?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Worship is more than singing. Everything a believer does should be for God’s glory and is thus worship. Before you sing today, share a bit about what it means to worship God all the time, every day, with our lives. Incorporate a personal story about a way you worship God in your daily life, and then join together and sing.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer.



PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND INVITE YOUR STUDENTS TO PRAY SILENTLY ON THEIR OWN. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR KIDS FIND A QUIET SPOT IN THE ROOM TO BE WITH GOD, EVEN IF IT’S JUST FOR 30 SECONDS. THEN HAVE EVERYONE RETURN FOR CORPORATE PRAYER.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, thank You for sending your Son, Jesus, to show us how to live! We are excited that You let us learn about how good You are from the Bible. Help us know who You really are! In Your great name, Amen.”

REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

Use the weekly puzzle pieces to review what we've learned.

BACKGROUND: Say, "Does anyone remember what we are learning about this month? Yes! The BIGGEST announcement—Jesus is risen! Can someone remind us what an announcement is? An announcement is an important message one person shares with others. It's often a message shared with lots of people. Two weeks ago, we talked about Holy Week and Jesus' death. Last week, we celebrated Easter and heard that Jesus had risen from the dead! What a great announcement! Today, we get to hear more good news. Who wants to put the puzzle piece on the wall?"

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's play a game to get our ears ready to hear this week's big announcement!"

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

Say, "In our story today, Jesus makes an announcement to Mary... but He comes to her 'undercover.' Let's see what today's activity has to do with our story."

GAME GOAL: The "examiner" will listen closely to determine the who the "secret agent" is based on the testimonies of the witnesses. (Explain that a testimony is a statement someone makes, usually in court.)

HOW TO PLAY:

Imaginary scenario: "Last night, we found evidence that someone in this room is not who they say they are. They are undercover! Let's try to find out who it is."

- Have all the children sit in a circle.
- Assign someone to be the "examiner" and instruct him or her to step outside the room and close the door.
- Once the "examiner" leaves, quietly choose someone to be the "secret agent" (Don't tell the "examiner" who it is).
- The rest of the children are neighborhood "witnesses" who will give their testimony regarding where they were last night (this can be a made up place).
- Explain that you will go around the circle, and one-by-one, the witnesses (including the "secret agent") will give a testimony to the "examiner" of where they were last night. Give the children a moment to decide on a testimony.
 - Example Testimonies: I was walking my dog; I was at home watching TV; I was with my family at a restaurant; I was at school; I was playing basketball with friends, etc.
- Instruct the "secret agent" that he or she will need to be ready to secretly change one detail about their testimony when asked a second time. Example: First time= "I was playing *baseball* with my friends." Second time= "I was playing *basketball* with my friends."
- Call the "examiner" back in and tell him or her to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Go around the circle and have each child give their testimony.
- Once everyone has stated their testimony, go around the circle AGAIN and have the "witnesses" repeat the **SAME** testimony.
- The "secret agent" will give a slightly **DIFFERENT** testimony than the first time around.
- Once everyone has given their testimony twice, the "examiner" must guess who the "secret agent" is and announce it to the class.

- Repeat as time allows.

MODIFICATION: If you think your students are going to have a hard time remembering their original testimonies, encourage all the children to write down exactly what they are going to say on paper so they don't forget.

TRANSITION: Say, "Wow! Those testimonies were great! You had to listen closely to determine who the 'secret agent' was, didn't you? Now we are ready to read our story. Let's do it!"

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we will hear an awesome story about a time when Jesus was unrecognizable, even to one of His closest followers! This event happened right after Easter. Jesus' tomb was empty, but there was a problem. The angel told the women at the tomb that Jesus had risen, but no one had seen Jesus... Until now! Let's read John 20:15-18 (ICB) to hear some good news."

15 Jesus asked her (Mary)... "Whom are you looking for?" Mary thought he was the gardener. So she said to him, "Did you take him (Jesus) away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, "Rabboni." (This means Teacher.) 17 Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me. I have not yet gone up to the Father (ascended). But go to my brothers and tell them this: 'I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, "I saw the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

Say, "What good news! Jesus made the BIGGEST announcement to Mary. Did you know that Mary was one of the first people on earth to see Jesus appear after He had risen from the dead? That's pretty amazing!"

- Ask, "How do you think you would've responded/felt if Jesus had appeared to you first?"

"Mary was a witness to the fact that Jesus was alive, and she **told the Good News** to Jesus' disciples."

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's talk more about this story!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Some interesting things happened in our story. Let's talk about them!"

1. Who did Mary think Jesus was?

Response: Mary thought Jesus was a gardener.

2. Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first?

Response: We don't know for sure. Some people think she was crying and so she couldn't see clearly. Others believe Jesus didn't want Mary to know who He was at first, and so He hid His identity until He was ready for her to recognize Him.

3. What did Jesus say to Mary that enabled her to recognize Him?

Response: He called her by her name, and she immediately knew that it was Jesus.

4. What announcement did Jesus want Mary to proclaim to His disciples?

Response: 'I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.' Jesus wanted Mary to tell them He was going to be with God, His Father, in heaven.

5. Jesus said, "Don't hold me" to Mary. Why do you think Mary held onto Jesus?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. Do you think it would be hard to believe Jesus was alive if you hadn't seen Him?

Response: Answers will vary.

7. What do we learn about God in this story?

Response: God is personal, God reveals Himself to us, God is powerful, God sees you and knows you by name, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job, everyone! Mary **told the good news**, and we can do that too!"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | "At the Tomb" Film Strip | Pencil | Crayons |

Say, "Now, we're going to create a film strip of the events from the story about Mary at Jesus' tomb. It's going to look just like scenes from a movie. I think it will help us remember the story."

- Review the events of the story using each film box: 1. Jesus meets Mary at the tomb. 2. Jesus reveals who He is to Mary. 3. Mary worships Jesus. 4. Mary announces the Good News to Jesus' followers.
- Children will draw and color in each movie scene according to the timeline of events.

TRANSITION: Say, "I love your comic strips. What a great reminder of how Mary **proclaimed the good news** after she saw Jesus alive! Let's practice this month's memory verse together."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our verse is about how we can share Jesus' biggest announcement with others by **telling the good news!**"



SOMETIMES KIDS DISENGAGE AT THIS POINT BECAUSE THEY DON'T THINK SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION MATTERS. SHOW THE CHILDREN THAT THIS TIME MATTERS TO YOU, BY JOINING IN AS THEY PRACTICE LEARNING THE VERSE.

"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: Ask each child to share what they think this verse means. Some questions you can ask are:

1. What do you think God means when He says to "go everywhere"?
2. What is the "Good News" God wants us to tell?

3. Does Jesus really mean we have to share the Good News with “everyone”?

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “We can **tell the good news** that Jesus is alive! One way we know Jesus’ story is true, is because of the testimony of witnesses who were there. For example, Mary saw Jesus with her own eyes. We will find out later that she wasn’t the only one Jesus appeared to after He had risen. Now, who will pray for us as we finish up our time together?”

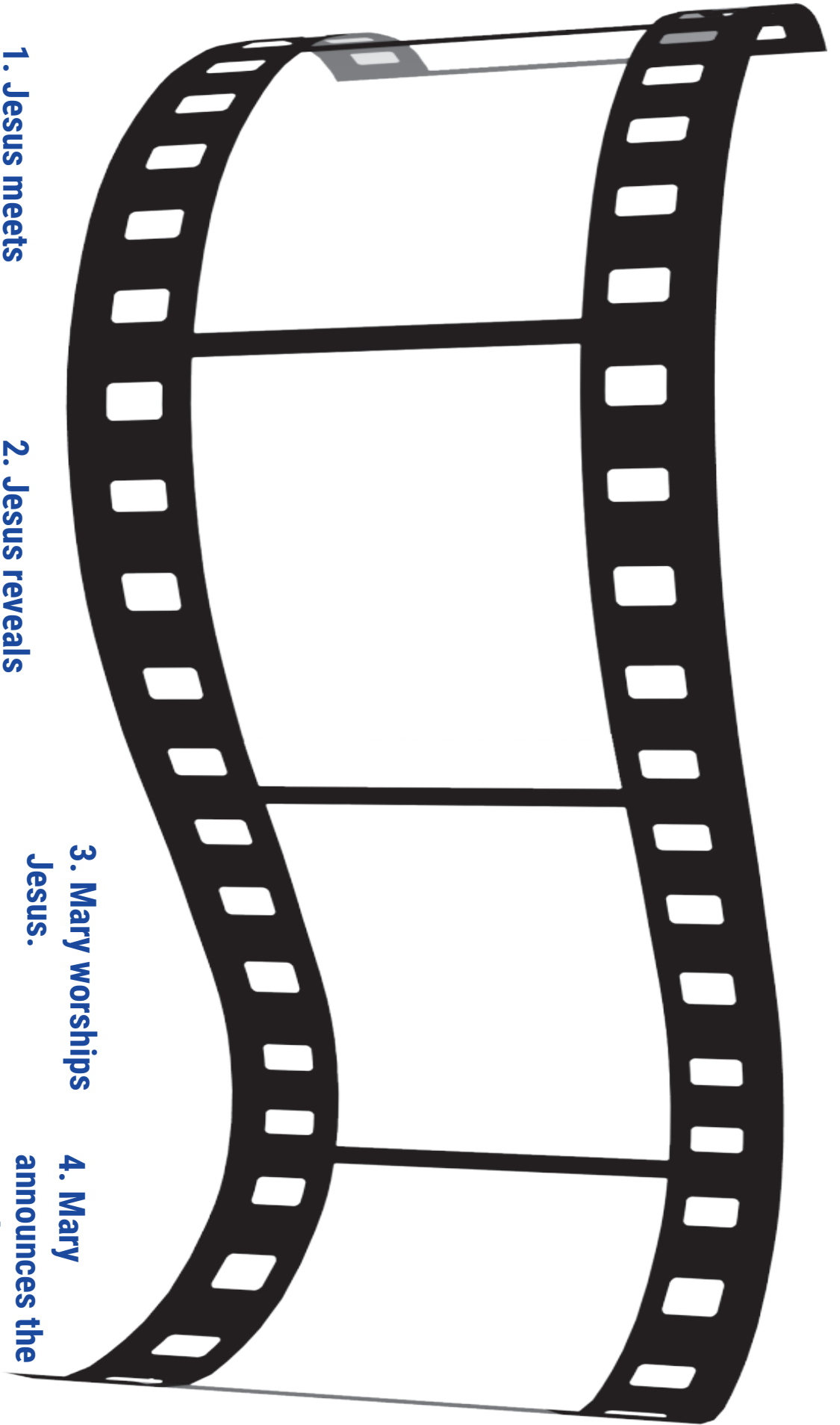
SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, thank You for seeing each one of us and for knowing our names. We praise You, Jesus, for coming back to life so we can **tell the good news** of your resurrection! Help us be like Mary and boldly tell this good news. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, review the story, play another round of the ENGAGE game, finish the film strip, recite your memory verse again, or engage the children in conversation.



KIDS AND ADULTS ALIKE WANT TO BE KNOWN AND RECOGNIZED.
USE THIS STORY AS A REMINDER TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOW HAPPY
YOU ARE THAT EACH CHILD IS HERE TODAY.



**1. Jesus meets
Mary at the tomb.**

**2. Jesus reveals
who He is to Mary.**

**3. Mary worships
Jesus.**

**4. Mary
announces the
Good News to
Jesus' followers.**

