



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

LEVEL UP

BIG IDEA

Jesus beat death.

THE BIBLE

Easter: Matthew 28:1-10;
(John 3:16-17)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to sing along (and dance!) to "[Alive](#)" by Hillsong Young & Free, or another song that celebrates Jesus' resurrection!
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Older kids might also like "[Resurrection Day](#)" by Rend Collective.

POLL | Winning and Losing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask these questions and have the kids respond either by raising their hand or by doing another fun gesture.
- **Raise your hand if you've ever lost while playing a video game or sport. How did it feel to lose?**
- **This time, raise your hand if you've ever won before. How did it feel to win and beat another team or person?**
- Sometimes, we win and other times we lose. Today, we are talking about the time when Jesus won big time! **Can anyone guess what that is?**

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus beat death.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to pretend they are at the biggest, best game cheering on our team! We won and want everyone to know! Let's cheer together: "Jesus beat



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death! Jesus beat death! Jesus beat death!" (Feel free to take this to the next level and add megaphones, pompoms, foam fingers, etc.)

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 28:1-10

- Today, we are celebrating Easter! Easter is an incredibly exciting day. It's not about candy, or Easter baskets or bunnies, although all those things are great. Today is all about Jesus!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Matthew 28:1-10. (Optional: You can show [this video](#) to summarize the life and ministry of Jesus and the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.)
- Jesus was treated so badly! The people were so angry with Jesus that they arrested Him and put Him on the cross. It was terrible! All of Jesus' friends were so sad because they loved Jesus and thought they'd never see Jesus again.
- **But what happened three days later?**
- This is why we celebrate Easter. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive! **Jesus beat death!**

SCRIPTURE | John 3:16-17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read John 3:16-17. Then ask the following questions to your group:
 - **Who is the Son?**
 - **If God loves the world, does that mean God loves everyone?**
 - **How does it feel knowing God loves you so much He sent Jesus — His own son — to save you?**
- Jesus beat death so we could all live the good life! The mistakes we make that would normally count against us — like they do in a video game or sport — are forgiven and forgotten!

VIDEO | Our Easter Story

- Let's see what some kids your age might have to say about the Easter story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) of kids retelling the story of Easter.
- **Can you tell the story of Easter in your own words?**

PRAYER

- Let's take a moment to thank God for sending Jesus.
- God, thank You for sending Jesus to Earth to beat death and to forgive me. Thank You for loving us that much! We love You.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*



ACTIVITY | Stomp Out Sin

- **What are some examples of sin?** Remember, we all sin and make mistakes.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Try to get the kids to think of everyday sins (such as not telling the truth, being rude, not obeying their parents/guardians, taking something that doesn't belong to them, whining, etc.) Write each of their suggestions on a balloon, and make as many balloons as you'd like. Choose a volunteer for each balloon. Have them yell, "I'm forgiven 'cause Jesus beat death!" Then, have them stomp or jump on the balloon to pop it.*
- **When Jesus beat death, what happened to all of our mistakes?** Jesus stomps out our sins when we ask Jesus to forgive us!
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Instead of popping balloons, groups involving kids with special needs could write or draw on a piece of paper instead and tear it apart when they're done. Tearing paper gives sensory input (sounds, feeling). Also, have this group say "Jesus beat death," to make reciting the phrase more accessible for the students with special needs.*

ACTIVITY | Five Words

- Now, let's try telling our own version of the Easter story together as a group.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Get as many kids as possible involved in retelling the Easter story. Depending on the size of your group, you can either have everyone go in order to tell the story or have the kids raise their hand (or use a talking ball) to go next. They can each only say five words (have them count the words on their fingers as they speak). Then, the next person will pick up the story. An adult volunteer can start the story by saying, "Easter is about Jesus who ..."*
- The Easter story is a great reminder of how God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us all. And the best part of story? **Jesus beat death!**
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *As students share their "five word" version of the Easter story, have them use all the fingers on one hand to count out the five words. Then, once they reach five, they look around and give someone a high five who is raising their hand to go next. Then the next student repeats the process.*

RESPONSE | Who Needs to Know?

- God didn't have to send Jesus, but that is how much God loves you. Jesus beat death so our sins could be forgiven. And now that we are forgiven, we can have a relationship with God and one day be with God in heaven!
- Now that we all know the real reason we celebrate Easter, **who can you share the story of Easter with?**
- Remember, Jesus beat death for everyone in the whole world. We should share the story of Easter with everyone!
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Find a safe place, like the sidewalk, where preteens can write or draw, using sidewalk chalk, things related to today's message. The objective: "Could someone get the main truths of Easter from looking at your artwork?" (Bonus: challenge them to draw this on the sidewalk in front of their home to share the message with their neighbors, too!)*

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write or type out the memory verse on a piece of paper, then cut out the words (to make it easier, you could use adhesive labels). Stick each word onto different shapes of large building blocks (such as LEGO DUPLO or Mega Bloks). Ask the kids to try to make something that puts the verse in the correct order.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did the women discover when they went to Jesus' tomb?
- What did the angel tell the women?
- How did they react to the news Jesus was alive?
- Read John 3:16-17 again. If you believe in Jesus, what does this verse promise us?
- What are some ways we usually celebrate Easter?
- What can we do to make Easter about Jesus more than anything else?
- Because Jesus beat death, what happens to your sins?

ACTIVITY | Eggs-cited about Easter!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out and distribute the Week 2 printable. Ask the kids to color in each egg as you describe what each egg represents (see below). Then, they can fold the paper in half (like an egg carton) to take home.
 - **Palm branch:** Jesus enters Jerusalem
 - **Perfume:** Jesus is anointed with perfume
 - **Bread:** The Last Supper
 - **Olives:** Jesus prays at Gethsemane
 - **Three pieces of silver:** Judas betrays Jesus
 - **Dice:** Soldiers divide up Jesus' things
 - **Crown of thorns:** Jesus suffers
 - **Three nails:** Jesus is nailed to the cross
 - **Cross:** Jesus dies
 - **Egg cracking in half:** The veil is torn
 - **Stone:** A stone covers the tomb
 - **Empty:** Jesus is risen!
- We shouldn't keep quiet about good news like this! Use your eggs to tell everyone you know this amazing story of how **Jesus beat death!** Happy Easter!