



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OVERVIEW

CLUE
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

THE BIBLE

The Crucifixion and Resurrection: John 18:28-20:18
(Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; John 11:25-27)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **OBJECT LESSON** | Detective Notebooks
- **ACTIVITY** | Now You See Him
- **QUESTION** | Have you ever gotten bad news?
- **ACTIVITY** | Giant Dice Race
- **BIBLE STORY** | John 18:29-40, 19:1-42, 20:1-18
- **BIG IDEA** | Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Share the Gospel Footprints
- **ACTIVITY** | Fingerprint Cross
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Balloon Surprise
- **SCRIPTURE** | Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Mystery Bag
- **VIDEO** | Two Minute Easter Devotional
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Joshua 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What was everyone shouting when Jesus was on trial?
 - What are some of the things that happened to Jesus before He died?
 - What happened when the women went to the tomb on Easter morning?
 - Why do you think they thought His body was stolen?
 - How does it make you feel to think about what Jesus went through?
 - How does it affect your life knowing that Jesus is alive today?
- **SCRIPTURE** | **John 11:25-27**
 - What did Jesus say someone had to do in order to never die?
 - What do you think He meant by "never die"?
- **ACTIVITY** | **Empty Tomb Eggs**
- **MEMORY VERSES** | **Joshua 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:31**



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

CLUE
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection

THE BIBLE

The Crucifixion and Resurrection: John 18:28-20:18
(Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; John 11:25-27)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

OBJECT LESSON | Detective Notebooks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you'd like, give every kid a small notebook where they can write or draw the clues they collect.*

ACTIVITY | Now You See Him

- Welcome to week three of our series called Clue! This month we're following a series of clues to solve the mystery of why we celebrate Easter.
- So far, our clues have told us that, **every Easter, we worship Jesus**. (Remember the story of the donkey and the people with palm branches?) And **every Easter, we remember Jesus' sacrifice**. (Remember the Passover meal and how Jesus became our Passover lamb?)
- Today, we're going to look at more clues about why Easter is such an important time of the year. Today is a very special day, because we are celebrating the most important part of God's story! We're celebrating when Jesus died and rose from the grave!
- We're looking for clues about the Easter story, so let's play a game to see how well you pay attention to what's going on around you.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids sit in a circle and close their eyes. Walk around and tap one person on the head. This person is now “Jesus.” Tell everyone to open their eyes and start looking around the circle. Tell “Jesus” to wink (or blink) at people when they make eye contact with him. When someone is winked at by “Jesus” tell them to say, “Now I see Him,” without letting anyone else know who Jesus is. Play until everyone has seen Jesus.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** See your weekly instructions for adaptations to help your kids with special needs be successful with this game.
- Last week, we talked about the sacrifice Jesus made for us. He died for us! **After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, His friends thought they would never see him again.**

QUESTION | Have you ever gotten bad news?

- **Have you ever gotten bad news?**
- **What is the best news you have ever gotten? Was it a surprise?**
- In today’s Bible story, we are going to hear about the followers of Jesus. They got really bad news when Jesus died. But three days later, they got some pretty amazing and surprising news!

ACTIVITY | Giant Dice Race

- We’re being detectives today to try and solve the mystery of why Easter is so important. Let’s play a game that will give us another clue.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, make several giant dice (see your Week 1 Lesson Guide for instructions). You can play with three kids up front or split the kids into teams and give each or each team a giant die. Set up cones for a starting line and a finish line across the room. Have them stand at the starting line. When you say, “Go,” they’ll roll their dice and take the number of steps they’ve just rolled. They will keep rolling their dice and taking steps to the finish line until you have a winner. If you play a relay-race version, they will run back to their team with the dice and give the dice to the next person in line.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** See your weekly instructions for details about how to have a fun dice and counting competition with preteens.
- **So what do you think the clue might be for today’s story?** It’s dice!
- **Does anyone know what dice could have to do with Easter?**
- Like we learned last week, Easter is the time of year when we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. The sacrifice He made for us was giving His own life in order to save us.
- Because Jesus died to save us, we call the day Jesus died “Good Friday,” even though it was a very dark and sad day.
- While Jesus was dying on the cross, people mocked Him. Some people even played a game to see who would get to keep Jesus’ clothes.
- This was a horrible thing to happen to Jesus, but it was the fulfillment of a prophecy made a long time ago. **Do you remember what a prophecy is?** It’s a clue from God about what He’s going to do in the future.
- In Psalm 22:18, in the Bible, it says that the Messiah’s clothes would be divided by people casting lots, which is like rolling dice. That’s one of the clues from the Old Testament that helps us solve this mystery! Let’s get ready to learn some more!

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

ACTIVITY | Clue Cards

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a manila envelope with a “Top Secret” sticker on it and an instruction sheet from your Week 3 folder. Each week, you’ll give kids three clue cards to take home that will be pieces of a Clue game they can play with their families. Each week, tell them to put their cards in their envelope and save them. At the end of the month, they can use all the cards to play the game: Clue: Solving the Mystery of Easter. For Week 3, give them these three cards: Mary, the Tomb, and the Nails. (NOTE: Each week, ask if anyone missed a week so you can give them the cards they missed.)
- Our series this month is about solving the mystery of Easter. To help you solve the mystery, you’re going to get your own Clue card game to play at home!
- You’ll get three cards each week: one person, one place, and one object. At the end of this month, you’ll have all the cards you need to make a game called **Clue: The Mystery of Easter**. Make sure you don’t lose them!
- **What do you think today’s clue cards have in common?** Let’s see if we can put them all together as we read today’s Bible story.

BIBLE STORY | John 18:29-40; 19:1-42; 20:1-18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- This Bible story covered a lot, but let’s see if we can recap it!
- Jesus was arrested and put on trial. **Had He done anything wrong?** No – even Pilate said so!
- **What are some of the things they did to Jesus?** They beat Him, made Him wear a crown of thorns, and made fun of Him. They yelled to have Him crucified (hung on a cross to die), even though He was innocent.
- **Why do you think the people wanted Him dead?** Because Jesus claimed to be God, and they said He was lying.
- Even though Jesus was innocent and had never sinned, He died on the cross to take the punishment for ours sins.
- **But what happened after He died?** He was put in a tomb.
- Three days later, Mary went to the tomb, and **what did she see?** The body of Jesus was gone, and she saw two angels!
- **How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angels?**
- Then Jesus Himself appeared. **How do you think Mary and the disciples felt when they realized Jesus was alive?**
- Imagine getting the best news in the world. You would be so overjoyed!
- The news about Jesus coming back to life is great news! It means we can be forgiven for our sins and have a relationship with Him!
- When Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter Sunday, everyone celebrated. Thousands of years later, we still celebrate Easter because we want to continue celebrating that Jesus is alive!

THE BIG IDEA | Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - *Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
 - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)*
 - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
 - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week's Big Idea: **Every Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.**

OBJECT LESSON | Share the Gospel Footprints

- What an amazing Bible story! This is really helping us solve the mystery of why we celebrate Easter today.
- When detectives are on the trail of a suspect or trying to solve a case, they look for things like footprints as evidence to help them solve the mystery.
- Just like detectives, we can use another kind of footprint to help us understand the story of Easter. Let's look at different colors of footprints that will help us understand what the Bible teaches us about Easter.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape a sign that says "Jesus is Alive" to one side of the room and stand at the other side with the footprint printables provided in your Week 3 folder. Let the kids help you lay the footprints on the floor each time you show them one.*
 - **PURPLE FOOTPRINT:** Read Psalm 103:19. God created the world and He rules the world.
 - **GREEN FOOTPRINT:** Read Romans 3:23. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned. From then on, all people were born into sin. Sin is anything we do that God doesn't want us to do. Sin separates us from God.
 - **BLACK FOOTPRINT:** Read Romans 3:23. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned. From then on, all people were born into sin. Sin is disobeying God. We all do things God doesn't want us to do. Sin separates us from God and keeps us from Him.
 - **RED FOOTPRINT:** Read Romans 6:23. The punishment for sin is death. The Bible says someone has to die to pay for sins. Jesus, as the perfect Lamb (remember the Passover?) and He didn't sin. But He took the punishment for our sins and died on the cross.
 - **YELLOW FOOTPRINT:** Read Romans 10:9. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God and to go to heaven when we die. We can choose to believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins.
 - **BLUE FOOTPRINT:** Read John 11:25. Jesus died, but He didn't stay dead. He rose from the grave, and we can have a relationship with Him!
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Let your preteens make their own Share the Gospel bracelets with colored beads.*
- The footprints lead us through the Bible to the big story of Jesus saving us from our sins. These footprints lead us to the cross, but then they lead us away from the cross, because Jesus didn't stay on the cross! He's alive today! Let's celebrate together!

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

ACTIVITY | Fingerprint Cross

- Let's make some pictures to remind us of the act of love Jesus did for us on the cross.
- Detectives use fingerprints to identify their suspects. **Do you know why they use fingerprints?** Every single person's fingerprint is unique.
- In the same way, God made every single person unique. Jesus died on the cross for the whole world so it could be possible for every unique person to know Him.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out the Fingerprint Cross printables from your Week 3 folder and give one to each child. Give them ink pads in different colors. Tell them to pat their fingers on the ink pads and fill in the cross with fingerprints. When they're done, use baby wipes to clean their fingers.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Let them use play dough to make their finger prints.*
- **What does this tell us about Jesus? How do you feel knowing that Jesus died for you?**

OBJECT LESSON | Balloon Surprise

- **Does anyone think they can inflate the balloon without blowing it up? Who wants to come up and try?** It seems impossible to blow up a balloon without blowing into it.
- To all of Jesus' followers, it seemed even more impossible than that for Him to rise from the dead after He was killed on the cross.
- But there is a way to get this balloon to inflate without blowing it up! Watch this!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Follow the instructions in your weekly planning to prepare the balloon and water bottle before service. As you teach, put the balloon over the mouth of the plastic bottle and hold it up so the baking soda falls into the vinegar in the bottle. Watch as it makes the balloon inflate.*
- Our Bible story today had an ending that was surprising to the followers of Jesus, just like we were surprised that we could blow up this balloon.

SCRIPTURE | Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

- We've been talking about clues from the Old Testament, called prophesies, that point to the story of Easter. First, I want to read you a verse from the Old Testament in the book of Hosea. Then I want to read you a book from the New Testament in the book I Corinthians.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verses and read them!*
- **What does 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 say about death and the grave?** It says death has no power over Christ.
- **How did Jesus overcome death?** When He rose from the grave He proved that He could beat death. It had no power over Him!
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, He gives us that power to beat sin and separation from God. Let's celebrate Jesus' resurrection together!

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Jesus is Alive," by Yancy and, "Happy Day."*
- When we're worshipping today, let's celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive!

ACTIVITY | Mystery Bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Mystery Bag printable from your week 3 folder. Give all the kids a brown paper bag and some mystery supplies. They will make their own Easter Mystery Bag to take home and retell the Easter story to a friend or family member. Set out each supply in a bin and let the kids go to each bin to items to make their bags. When they finish making their bags, let them use the objects to practice telling the story with a partner, by pulling out the objects one at a time and reading the card or explaining the meaning of the objects on their own.*
- **Mystery Bag Objects**
 - Tiny plastic donkey – Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-11).
 - Plastic fork – The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-19).
 - Three pieces of silver – Judas betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3).
 - A small cross – Jesus carried His cross to the site of the crucifixion (John 19:17).
 - A small piece of rope or leather – Jesus was tied and beaten. (John 19:2-4, Mark 15:17)
 - Dice – Soldiers divided up Jesus’ clothes (John 19:23).
 - Nail – Jesus was nailed to the cross (John 19:18,37; John 20:25-29).
 - Sponge – They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink (John 19:28-30).
 - Rock – They covered Jesus’ tomb with a great stone (Matthew 27:59-60).
 - Empty Easter Egg – The tomb was empty, because Jesus was alive! (Luke 24:6).

VIDEO | Two Minute Easter Devotional

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this video](#) from 0:11 until 2:05.*
- **What does this video tell you about the meaning of Easter?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus overcame sin and death?**
- **What do you think it would have been like to see the risen Jesus?**
- **What do you think it would have been like to see Jesus ascend to heaven?**

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 1:9; 1 Corinthians 10:31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What was everyone shouting when Jesus was on trial?** (“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”)
- **What are some of the things that happened to Jesus before He died?** (He was beaten, He had to wear a crown of thorns, He was mocked, He was nailed to the cross, and people rolled dice to divide His clothes.)
- **What happened when the women went to the tomb on Easter morning?** (His body was gone.)
- **Why do you think they thought His body was stolen?**
- **How does it make you feel to think about the horrible things Jesus went through?**
- **How does it affect your life knowing that Jesus is alive today?**

SCRIPTURE | John 11:25-27

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read them!
- **What did Jesus say someone had to do in order to never die?** (Believe in Him.)
- **What do you think He meant by “never die”?** (It meant that even when we die, it’s not the end for us because we will be with God in heaven forever!)

ACTIVITY | Empty Tomb Eggs

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU:** Before the service, fill lots of plastic Easter eggs with one bean each, but leave some eggs empty. Give each small group some filled eggs (enough for each kid), one empty egg, and a bowl.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADERS:** You’ve been given a set of eggs – each egg has a bean inside, except for one. Put all the eggs in a bowl. When you say, “Go,” all the kids will each pull out one egg. Whoever gets the empty egg will share either one way the story of Easter has affected their lives or what stands out to them from the story today. Play several rounds.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Provide them with pictures to help them share their feelings about Easter. See your weekly instructions for details.

MEMORY VERSES | Joshua 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you’d like.