



# WEEK 2

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

# LEVEL UP

### BIG IDEA

Jesus beat death.

### THE BIBLE

**Easter:** Matthew 28:1-10

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Egg Balance Race
- **ACTIVITY** | Egg Toss

## TEACHING TIME

- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus beat death.
- **VIDEO** | Level Up, Episode 2
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 28:1-10
- **ACTIVITY** | Jesus Beat Death Relay
- **PRAYER**

## DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Easter Treats
- **ACTIVITY** | Jesus Egg Hunt
- **ACTIVITY** | Easter Poster
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Hebrews 12:2

## PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Stone Roll
- **ACTIVITY** | Tomb Drama



# WEEK 2

## HACKS FOR TODDLERS

# LEVEL UP

**BY KAREN ERNE**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS*

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | Jesus beat death.**

Toddlers do not yet have an understanding of death. Consider replacing "Jesus beat death" with "Jesus is alive!"

#### **ACTIVITY | Egg Toss**



Put a basket in the center of the room and give toddlers plastic eggs to toss into the basket.

#### **ACTIVITY | Jesus Beat Death Relay**

A relay is a complicated concept for a toddler. Instead, give them each a scroll to carry around the room, shouting the (modified) Big Idea. After a while, tell them to put their scrolls in one big basket.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# KAREN ERNE

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Karen is a volunteer in the preschool area of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She has about nineteen years of experience as a Preschool Minister in local churches.

Karen's passion is connecting little ones to the truths of the Bible. Kids learn when they are playing, so Karen writes fun lessons that will help teachers show kids how much Jesus loves them.

Karen is a wife and a mom. She and her husband, Ed, have four kids aged ten through seventeen. Their family loves hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting together.

When Karen is not doing a Bible study with her church friends or helping out at her kids' school, she is often sewing. Karen makes stuffed animals, blankets, toys, and even clothes with her sewing machine.

If you'd like to chat about how your church can more strategically connect parents with ways to teach babies, ones, and twos about the Bible, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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# WEEK 2

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

# LEVEL UP

### BIG IDEA

Jesus beat death.

### THE BIBLE

**Easter:** Matthew 28:1-10

## WELCOME TIME

### ACTIVITY | Egg Balance Race

- **Happy Easter! What are some things that you think about when you think of Easter?** One of the first things that come to mind are Easter eggs! Let's play with some right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into teams. Supply each team with a spoon and a plastic egg. Use tape to mark a start line and a finish line. Ask the first kid in each team to balance their egg on their spoon and walk to the finish line and back. Then, ask them to give the spoon and egg to the next person on the team. Continue until all kids have had a turn. The team that finishes first wins.*

### ACTIVITY | Egg Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put the kids into pairs. Each pair gets a bucket and a bag of ten plastic eggs. Ask them to stand about five feet apart with one holding the bucket and the other with a basket (or bag) of eggs. The kid with the eggs will try to toss all the eggs into the bucket. Then, they switch. The winner is the one who gets the most eggs in the bucket.*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Put a basket in the center of the room and give toddlers plastic eggs to toss into the basket.*

## TEACHING TIME

### THE BIG IDEA | Jesus beat death.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Let the kids decorate this week's printable and then show them how to roll it up and tie a string around it like a scroll.*

- Let's cheer, as loud as we can, "Jesus beat death!" Pretend we are at the biggest, best game cheering on our team! We won and want everyone to know! Let's cheer together: "Jesus beat death! Jesus beat death! Jesus beat death!"

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Toddlers do not yet have an understanding of death. Consider replacing "Jesus beat death" with "Jesus is alive!"*

### VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 2

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

### BIBLE STORY | Matthew 28:1-10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a basket of eggs (filled with cutouts from the Story Eggs printable and other small items) to use as props as you read the story from Matthew 28:1-10. Open each egg and show the kids the contents at the appropriate times in the story.*
  - **Verse 1:** the two women (cutout)
  - **Verses 2:** a small stone
  - **Verse 3:** a bright white piece of cloth
  - **Verse 4:** guards (cutout)
  - **Verses 5-6:** an angel (cutout)
  - **Verses 7-8:** disciples (cutout)
  - **Verses 9-10:** Jesus (cutout)
- **Who went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried?**
- **What did they find when they got there?**
- **What was the good news they ran to tell the disciples?**
- **Jesus beat death!** Jesus is alive! This is why we celebrate Easter. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive!

### ACTIVITY | Jesus Beat Death Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place props that look like stones at one end of a relay path. Roll up paper to look like a scroll and tie with string. If you have a large group, you can set up two relay paths and let two teams compete. Divide each team in half and have each half line up at each stone.*
- **Let's have a relay race to remind us how Mary and Mary felt when they learned Jesus was alive. When I say, "Go!" run with your scroll to the other stone. Hand the scroll to your waiting teammate and shout, "Jesus beat death!" Then, that teammate runs back to the first stone and does the same thing. Keep playing until everyone has carried the scroll.**
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *A relay is a complicated concept for a toddler. Instead, give them each a scroll to carry around the room, shouting the (modified) Big Idea. After awhile, tell them to put their scrolls in one big basket.*

### PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather around the stones used in the last activity to pray together (If your group is small, move the stones next to each other).*
- **Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to Earth to beat death. Thank You for loving us.**

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Easter Treats

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This would be a good time to share a traditional Easter snack, or maybe some Easter cupcakes. While eating, encourage the kids to share their family Easter or Springtime traditions.*

### ACTIVITY | Jesus Egg Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, fill plastic eggs with pictures and items like those used in the Bible story (make multiple copies of the printable used earlier). Make enough eggs with Jesus so every kid will be able to find one. Hide the eggs around the room.*
- Let's have a different kind of Easter egg hunt! Look around the room to find Easter eggs, but you only want to keep an egg that has Jesus in it.
- Mary and Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to find Jesus, but Jesus was not there. **Who did they see instead?**
- **What did the angel tell them?**
- **How do you think they felt when they heard the news?**
- **Who did they go to tell the good news?**
- Let's shout out the good news. **Jesus beat death!**

### ACTIVITY | Easter Poster

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, write "Jesus beat death!" in big letters on a poster board. After the discussion, ask the kids to decorate the poster with Spring stickers (e.g., butterflies, flowers, etc.) or stamps.*
- 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. Easter is about Jesus! The exciting thing about Easter is Jesus beat death! This is why we celebrate Easter!
- **How does that remind you about the real reason for Easter?**
- **What new thing can you do on this holiday to help you remember Jesus beat death?**
- Let's decorate our poster to remember the real reason we celebrate Easter.

### MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, write the words (or pictures that represent the words) to the memory verse on slips of paper and put each word in a plastic egg. Invite the kids to open the eggs and work together to put the words in the correct order to make the memory verse. Say the verse together several times.*

## PLAY TIME

*While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this time while the kids color to remind them of today's Bible story, the Big Idea, and the memory verse.

**ACTIVITY | Stone Roll**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay a crumpled brown lunch bag on its side to resemble a tomb (To make it sturdier, try folding the bag inside out). Crumple up smaller pieces of brown paper to resemble the stone. Have kids take turns trying to roll the "stone" into the "tomb."
- The stone in front of Jesus' tomb was rolled away because Jesus came back to life! Jesus beat death!

**ACTIVITY | Tomb Drama**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide simple costumes and props for the kids to act out today's story (or to pretend to be the characters in the story).

*Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.*