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***WEEK 1***

***PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE***

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death

THE BIBLE

Nicodemus: John 3:1-17

THE BIBLE

**Jesus is Alive!:**Mark 16:1-8

SCHEDULE

**Saturday or Sunday |** Attend a Service!

**9:30-9:45 |** Prepare & Pray

**9:45-10:10 |** Welcome Time

**10:10-10:45 |** Teaching Time

**10:45-11:00 |** Worship

**11:00-11:15 |** Playtime

WELCOME TIME

FREE TIME **| Arrival Activities**

* *Play with children and encourage children to social distance while playing.*
* *Play one song for clean-up time and let children know that all toys have to be put away by the end of the song. Give children hand sanitizer.*

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC **| One, Two, Three**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to sing and celebrate Jesus!*

ACTIVITY **| Valley, Hillside, Summit**

* Hi, friends! This month we are talking about "rising up," about how we can rise up and face anything with God's help, just like how Jesus rose up again!
* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place two, long pieces of tape on the floor to divide the playing area into three sections. Designate the sections as "valley," "hillside," and "summit” and hold up coordinating pictures. When you call out a section, the kids run to that section. If they go to the wrong section, they are out. Make it extra challenging by picking up the pace and calling out the same section several times in a row before switching. Make it even trickier by pointing to one section while calling out another. The last kid in the game wins!*
* It was so important in that game to listen carefully to where you were supposed to go!

ACTIVITY **| Before Rising Up**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:***Before introducing today's Bible story, revisit the crucifixion story from Mark 15. Prepare a chalkboard or dry erase board to draw as you go over the talking points below.*
* *[Draw a hill on the board.]*
* **Have you ever climbed something really tall before? Like a hill or even a big tree?**When you're at the bottom, it might be kind of scary. You might not be sure if you could even make the climb. But if you want to get to the top, you have to start at the bottom.
* Before Jesus did the most amazing thing ever, he had to start at the bottom, too.
* *[Draw a series of arrows from the bottom of the hill to the top.]*
* After Jesus entered Jerusalem, a lot of things started to go wrong. Everyone had welcomed Jesus like a king, but some of the leaders were unhappy with the things Jesus said, even though it was the truth. They thought Jesus was lying about being the Son of God and they didn't like that he challenged their way of doing things. They even got the people to turn on Jesus.
* In the end, Jesus was arrested. Jesus was brought before a ruler named Pilate, who had the power to let Jesus go. Even though Jesus was innocent, the people said they wanted another prisoner named Barabbas released instead of Jesus. They said that they would rather see Jesus die.
* *[Draw three crosses at the top of the hill.]*
* Jesus was forced to carry a cross and climb a hill to a place called Calvary, or Golgotha, while crowds of people yelled mean things at him, soldiers hurt him, and many of his close friends left him. After all this suffering, Jesus was put on the cross, where he died.
* **Why did Jesus have to go through all of this? Why did he have to climb that mountain to die?**For me and you. Because what happened after Jesus died would make it possible for him to save us.
* But thankfully, the story doesn't end there. Let's find out what happened next in today's Bible story.

SCRIPTURE **| Mark 16:1-8**

* Today's Bible story talks about the day Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus is alive! **Can you guys say that with me?**
* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a “stone” by wrapping a hula hoop in a cloth*. *Have kids try rolling the stone around the room before you retell the Bible story from Mark 16:1-8. Gather spices, herbs, essential oils, and aloe on a table.*
* Three women went to the place where Jesus was buried when the Sabbath was over.
  + **Does anyone know what the Sabbath is?** The Sabbath is a day of rest. The Sabbath ended at sunset *(Show the sunset slide)* on Saturday at around 6 p.m.
* I wonder what spices they brought . . . **Do you think they brought salt and pepper? Maybe some garlic powder or Italian seasoning?** *(Hold up the spices and herbs.)*
  + No, I don't think the tasty spices we put on our food are what they're talking about in this story.
  + The spices they brought were for people who were buried in the tomb *(Put some essential oil and aloe in a small jar to pass around so everyone can smell them.)*
* But when they arrived at the tomb, the stone door to the front of the tomb was not there! *(Look around the room and have kids point out where the stone is.)*
* When the women went inside the tomb, they saw someone dressed in a white robe sitting inside.
  + The man told them that Jesus had risen! Jesus was not there! *(Show an empty tomb slide.)*
  + The women were both scared and shocked! The man told them to go tell Jesus' friends that Jesus was alive!
* We do a lot of fun stuff at Easter like egg hunts, where we get baskets with candy and play fun games, but we have to remember that Easter is about so much more! Easter is all about remembering that Jesus died to save us but came back to life!

**THE BIG IDEA | Jesus overcame death.**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a mountain by covering a stepladder in a cloth. Place a hook above the mountain. Choose a kid to be the “mountain climber” and hang up the Big Idea.*
* I need one brave mountain climber to attach this week's Big Idea to our mountain.
* Let's all say the Big Idea together: **Jesus overcame death.**

VIDEO **| Rise Up, Episode 1**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's preschool teaching video.*

PRAYER

* Dear God, we know that you had to die to save us but we are so happy that you are alive! Thank you for loving us enough to overcome death. We love you. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE **| Romans 10:9 (NIV)**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute copies of the memory verse printable. Have kids color in all the pieces. Help kids cut out the stone. Punch holes in the tomb and the stone, and attach it using a fastener. Say the verse together a few times. Have them put their stone in front of the tomb and see how much of the verse they remember.*

WORSHIP

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* *Mr. Ben will lead the preschoolers in worship! Help the kids who are having a difficult time focusing on worship. Participate to set a good example.*

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY **| Easter Craft**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Mr. Ben will lead kids in an Easter-themed craft!*

ACTIVITY **| Tomb Tag**

* Today, we’re going to play a fun game called, “Tomb Tag!” This game reminds us that **Jesus overcame death** when he came back to life!
* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a “tomb” in your space underneath a table or in a corner. Assign two kids to be the “guards.” These kids will be the taggers and will have pool noodles to tag with. Assign another kid to be the “angel.” The guards will chase kids and once they are tapped, they will go into the tomb. The angel’s job is to release the kids from the tomb by tapping them with a different colored pool noodle.*
* **How do you think the women felt when they saw the stone wasn't in front of the tomb anymore?**
* **Why wasn't the stone there?**

ACTIVITY **| Rolling Stone**

* **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give kids tan, brown, or white play doh. Ask them to roll the play doh into a ball shape, review the story by having them roll their stones across the table.*

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