



# Seek and Find

## Jesus is Alive

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus rose from the dead, so I can find a new life in Him.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Matthew 27:27 – 28:10

**KEY VERSE:** “So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God’s grace has saved you.” Ephesians 2:5 (NirV)

 **SCHEDULE**  
 **SMALL GROUP  
CONNECT**

 **7–15 minutes**  
**LARGE GROUP  
LESSON**  
**30–40 minutes**

**REFLECT AND RESPOND  
STATIONS**  
**7–15 minutes**

 **SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES**  
**15–25 minutes**

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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Let's pretend for a moment you just found out that Bill Gates is going to give you 1% of his wealth. 1% of most people's net worth might sound pretty measly, but we're talking about Bill Gates here! 1% of 79.2 billion dollars is 792 million. What would you do first, besides erupting in an embarrassingly loud celebration? Post it on Facebook? Call your family and friends? Schedule an interview on *Good Morning America*? If you were able to refrain from shouting it to the world, you certainly couldn't keep from telling *someone*.

Now let's pretend that you just found out God is going to give you a new life of eternal hope. How would you react? Would you erupt in celebration? Would you tell someone? Everyone? Would you react the way that Peter did?

*"Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to him. This is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3-4.*

Peter tells us that we've been given an opportunity to share in "what belongs to [Jesus]." And what belongs to Jesus is infinitely better than all of the wealth in the world. Earthly treasure is temporary, but this gift from God is eternal; it can never be destroyed or fade away. We just won the eternal lottery and it never runs out! That's what Peter found his joy in:

*"Because you know all this, you have great joy. You have joy even though you may have had to suffer for a little while. Your faith is worth more than gold. That's because gold can pass away even when fire has made it pure. Your faith is meant to bring praise, honor and glory to God. This will happen when Jesus Christ returns." 1 Peter 1:6-7*

On this day of great celebration, I hope and pray that you can find this joy that Peter talks about. More than that, I hope you're able to spread the joy of Jesus' eternal gift to everyone around you.

Mindy Rausch  
GO! Team Member





## LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *Dealing with Difficult Kids*

If you're like a lot of other children's ministry leaders, when you signed up for the job, you may have imagined yourself pouring out wisdom to a group of kids as they sat in wide-eyed wonder of everything you said. They laughed when they were supposed to laugh, they talked when they were supposed to talk, and they followed your instructions without deviation. But if you've been on the job for any length of time, you know that's pure fantasy. The truth is that most kids are very well-behaved most of the time, but there's always one! You know the one I'm talking about. You might even be picturing their face right now. If your heart rate is beginning to rise, take a deep breath. Here are a few tips to help you keep difficult kids from wreaking havoc on your group:

**Don't hesitate to separate kids.** If you have two kids in your group nicknamed "Dynamite" and "Fire," don't sit them next to each other! Some kids just make lethal combinations and when put together, they lose all ability to control their behavior. Simply ask one of the kids to move so they're no longer seated together.

**Have a consistent set of consequences.** Having consequences for misbehavior is a way of creating boundaries. Kids love boundaries. In fact, they thrive when trusted adults create and enforce boundaries. State the consequences ahead of time so that all of the kids are aware of them. You might use something like the "3 Strike" rule. Work with your ministry leaders to determine what the different strikes mean or find out if there's already an established set of consequences for your ministry.

**Include the parents in the problem.** No one knows the kids in your group better than their parents. Not only can the parents give you insight into the source of the problem, they can probably help you fix it as well. Talk to your ministry leader ahead of time to find out if there's any way he or she can assist you with that conversation.

**Don't be afraid they'll stop liking you.** A lot of leaders have a fear that if they enforce boundaries, their kids will no longer like them. Actually, it's the exact opposite. When you create and enforce boundaries, kids will respect you. And the more they respect you, the more they'll like you. You might be surprised to find out that the kids you are closest to are often the ones you've had to discipline the most.





## UNIT DESCRIPTION

Sometimes life can seem like one giant “seek and find.” Where did my sunglasses go? Why can’t I find the TV remote? Didn’t we come here with *three* kids? Gulp! Some “seek and finds” can be maddening or even frightening, but not this time. During the “Seek and Find” series, kids will seek high and low within the Big Bible Story pictures to find the hidden items. In doing so, they’ll get a complete picture of the Easter Story and, more importantly, of what it looks like to have a relationship with Jesus, the Risen Lord and Savior of the World.

## SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- For each kid, print one “Seek and Find: Jesus is Alive” (see Resource Folder) on 8½ x 11 paper.
- Have one marker, pen, or pencil ready to give to each kid.
- Hide glow-in-the-dark Easter eggs in your teaching area or room. Determine ahead of time if you will allow all the kids to search for the eggs or if you will choose a few kids to search.
- Place an oversized plastic Easter egg in the teaching area. If you would like to give a prize to the kid who finds it, choose an appropriate prize (such as candy) and place it inside.
- Print a GO! Home Guide for each kid. (See Resource Folder) Choose which of the Reflect and Respond Stations you would like to make available. Set out the appropriate materials for each of those stations.





## ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

**CG:** “Seek and Find” title graphic  
**Sound:** Play upbeat music as kids move to large group area

### SEEK AND FIND INTRO

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody and hoppy Easter! Do you get it? (*Make bunny ears with fingers and hop.*) Hoppy Easter—because of the bunnies. (*Shake head in embarrassment.*) I know, I know—that joke was kind of lame! Besides, Easter isn’t about bunnies anyway. What is Easter all about? (*Take answer.*) That’s right! Easter is all about celebrating Jesus—our risen Savior!

Today, we’re going to seek and find all sorts of things that help us discover the Easter story in a new way. But best of all, we’re going to seek and find the most important thing ever—a relationship with Jesus. Before we hop into our story, though, we’re going to kick things off with a “Seek and Find” Easter egg hunt. (Do you see what I did there? I said, “*hop*” into the story. Oh never mind—another lame joke.) There’s just one catch, though—we’ll be using glow-in-the-dark eggs!

Determine ahead of time how best to orchestrate the egg hunt. Depending on your space and the number of kids, you may wish for all kids to retrieve the eggs or just pick a few. If you only choose a few kids, encourage the remaining kids to stay seated, but to look for and point out the eggs to the “retrievers.” When ready, turn off the room lights and let the hunt begin. **Lights: Turn room lights off.** For safety reasons, you may want to leave one small light on.

(*Turn room lights back on.*) Nice job finding all of those eggs! You know, this egg hunt reminds me of how the Big Bible Story ended last week. Jesus was arrested, beaten, and hung on a cross. And when He finally died, everything went dark—just like our room during the egg hunt. But things didn’t stay dark, did they? That’s what we get to discover today!

**CG:** “The Big Bible Story” graphic

### THE BIG BIBLE STORY—JESUS IS ALIVE

I have a picture of what happened in the story next, but it’s missing some things. When I tell you to, I want you to flip the paper over and help me find the missing items. Are you ready to see the picture?

Give each kid a “Seek and Find: Jesus is Alive” printout along with a pen or marker. Ask the kids to keep their paper with the picture facing down until told otherwise. You can reduce distractions by having the kids keep their paper face down unless they’re searching for an object. Tell the kids that when they find the hidden objects, they’ll need to strike the “Finders” pose to show they found it. Ask the kids what kind of fun or crazy “Finders” pose they would like to strike and choose one for the duration of the story.

After Jesus died, Joseph, a follower of Jesus, took His body and wrapped it in cloths. Let’s see what happened next. When I say “go,” flip your paper over and try to find the big rock. When you find it, circle it and strike the “Finders” pose. (*Say “go” and begin the “Seek and Find” countdown. At the end of the countdown video, the hidden object will be revealed.*) **Video: PLAY 20-second countdown timer #1.**





Great work! Joseph took Jesus' body and placed it in his own tomb, which is like a small cave, and rolled a giant stone over the entrance. And when I say "giant," (*spread arms fully out*) I mean GIANT! Let me show you what I'm talking about. We're going to pretend like you are the giant, immovable stone.

Tell the kids to stand up, link arms and squeeze together in the center of the room. Tell them to pretend like they are an immovable stone. When all together, push on the outside of the group as if trying to move it. Push unsuccessfully for a few moments and then appear to be exhausted.

Wow—you kids won't even budge! And get this—the stone they rolled in front of Jesus' tomb was even bigger, heavier, and more immovable than you! In fact, the stone that was used would have weighed about 2–3 thousand pounds! (*About 900 to 1300 kg.*) Whoa! Now that's a BIG rock! (*Tell kids to spread back out and take a seat. Move back to teaching area.*)

That wasn't the only thing keeping Jesus in the tomb, though. When I say "go," flip your paper over and find the sword. When you find it, circle it and strike the finder's pose! (*Say "go" and begin the "Seek and Find" countdown.*) **Video: PLAY 20-second countdown timer #2.** Good work! The Roman leaders were worried that the disciples might try to steal Jesus' body and pretend like He had come back to life. So, they sent a bunch of soldiers to guard the tomb and make sure no one could mess with it. I need two kids who want to pretend they're Roman soldiers. (*Invite 2 kids to the teaching area.*) These were probably the biggest and baddest guards they could find. (*Address "soldiers."*) Show me your meanest look and give me a "grrrr." (*Soldiers respond.*) No, you've got to be meaner than that—try again! (*Soldiers respond.*) No, I mean so mean that your grandma won't even give you a hug! (*Soldiers respond.*) That's more like it! (*Address audience.*)

Even though these guards were the biggest and baddest around, something happened to make them run like a couple of scaredy-cats. When I say "go," flip your paper over and find the lightning bolt. When you find it, circle it and strike the "Finders" pose! (*Say "go" and begin the "Seek and Find" countdown.*) **Video: PLAY 20-second countdown timer #3.** Good work! Three days after Jesus died, an angel appeared at the tomb. His body was as bright as lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The angel rolled back the ginormous, immovable stone all by himself. Can you imagine how the soldiers reacted? The Bible say they freaked out and fainted! (*Encourage the "soldiers" to freak out and faint. Afterwards, applaud them and dismiss to audience.*)

While this was happening, Mary, the mother of Jesus, and some other women arrived at the tomb. Flip your paper over and find the perfume bottle. When you find it, circle it and strike the "Finders" pose. (*Begin the "Seek and Find" countdown.*) **Video: PLAY 20-second countdown timer #4.** The women were going to put perfume on Jesus' body, but when they got to the tomb, the stone was already rolled away and the angel was sitting on top of it. Listen to what the angel told the women. (*Open Bible to Matthew 28:5–6 and read aloud.*) "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying." (*Close Bible.*)

Jesus was ALIVE! The women rushed off to find the other disciples and tell them the news. Before they got too far, though, they ran into Jesus himself. And when they saw Him, they fell to His feet and worshipped Him.





**CG:** “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic

## BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

At the end of the Bible story have the kids turn briefly to their small groups or neighbors and discuss the following questions: **For Younger Kids:** What did you like about this story? Why do you think the women worshiped Jesus when they saw Him? **For Older Kids:** What does this story teach us about Jesus? How do you think your life is different because Jesus rose from the dead? After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area. You may want to ask the kids for some of their answers to hear what they were thinking.

**CG:** “Seek and Find” title graphic

## A LITTLE CASE OF BEING DEAD

Do you know what’s amazing about the Easter story? Jesus wasn’t just a little bit dead, or kind of dead, or even mostly dead. Jesus was completely 100% dead as a doornail! And do you know what normally happens to people who are dead? They stay dead! But uh-uh, not Jesus! No way! A little case of being completely dead couldn’t stop Him. After 3 days in the dark tomb, God brought him back to life. Not just a little bit alive, or kind of alive, or even mostly alive. Jesus is completely 100% alive today! Isn’t that amazing! (*Prompt kids to begin applauding.*)

There’s something even more amazing, though. (*Lay down on your back.*) On Easter morning, God didn’t just bring Jesus back to life— (*Slowly sit up and look at kids.*) He brought us back to life too. Some of you might be thinking, (*scratch head in confusion*) “Wait a second, I didn’t even know I was dead.” Well—I hate to break it to you, but you were! Not for real dead—not dead and in a grave. You see, before you knew Jesus, you were *spiritually* dead. That means that you were separated from God (*illustrate with hands*) and living in the darkness of your sin. (*Stand up.*)

**CG:** “Living in the Darkness” graphic

## LIVING IN THE DARKNESS

Let me show you what I’m talking about—Easter-style! I have one more Easter egg hunt for one of you. Oh—there’s just one catch, though. Whoever looks for it will be wearing a blindfold (*hold up blind fold*). Who wants to give it a try?

*Choose a kid and put the blindfold on them. Make sure they can’t see anything! Quietly tip toe to another area of the room and place the large egg. Spin the blindfolded kid around a few times and ask them to find the Easter egg without any help from the kids. Tell them they have 20 seconds to find it. **VDO: Play 20 second countdown timer #5.** Stay close by to keep them from getting hurt, but allow them to stumble and bump into things. Stop the kid at the end of the countdown, but keep the blindfold on.*

Bummer, dude! It seems like you’re having a lot of trouble. Can you tell everyone what it’s like walking around in the darkness? (*Let kid share his experience.*) You know what? That’s kind of what it’s like when you don’t have Jesus in your life. You are spiritually dead—you live in the darkness of sin, you stumble through life, you run into trouble, you feel lost and lonely. Sounds pretty awful—doesn’t it? (*Kids respond.*) Well, it is! But on Easter morning, Jesus gave us a way out of the darkness of sin. That’s what our Bible verse for today tells us. (*Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Ephesians 2:5. Be prepared to give*





*younger kids more time and assistance in finding the verse. When ready, choose a kid to read it aloud or read it aloud yourself while the kids follow along.)*

**CG:** “So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God’s grace has saved you.” Ephesians 2:5

When Jesus rose from the dead, He gave us the opportunity to live a new life—one that is free from the darkness of sin. When you choose to become a Christian—to love and follow Jesus— *(remove blindfold from kid)* God’s grace removes you from the darkness of sin. *(Walk with kid toward the Easter egg, pick it up and hand it to them.)* And when that happens, you’re free to grab ahold of the amazing gift that God has for you—the gift of living a joy-filled life on earth and the gift of living forever in heaven with God. There is no greater gift in the world than that. In fact, I can’t think of a better way to say thanks to God for His gift of a new life through Jesus than to sing a praise song to Him!

**Music:** Play one of your ministry’s favorite praise songs.

Close the Large Group time by singing a high-energy worship song that celebrates Jesus’ power and victory over death. Then, pray for the kids in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. Following the prayer, explain to the kids which of the Reflect and Respond Stations will be available. Remind them to move about the stations very quietly. Tell them they are free to respond to God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them, but if they need suggestions, some of the stations will give them ideas for how to pray, write, or draw. Give each child one “GO! Home” sheet and instruct them to take it with them to the stations. Place small group leaders at the different stations to quietly help the kids. The stations listed below are just the ones that have prompts that are specific to today’s lesson. For more instructions on how the Reflect and Respond Stations work as well as a full list of possible stations, see the “GO! Guide.”

**CG:** “Seek and Find” title graphic  
**Music:** (Optional) Play quiet instrumental music

### REFLECT AND RESPOND STATIONS

**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to God. Praise Him for beating death and giving us hope for a new life through Jesus.

**Journal Station prompt:** Write out your favorite part of the Easter Story. At the bottom of the page, write “Best Story Ever!” to remind yourself how important this story is to you.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: Matthew 28:1–10. Write out your favorite verse.

**Art Station prompt:** Draw a picture of Jesus after He rose from the dead and write the word “ALIVE” underneath it.



## SMALL GROUP CONNECT

This is an optional activity you can do with your kids before the large group lesson begins.

### I SPY KIDS

**Directions:** Choose a “Spy kid” to secretly “spy” something in the room that is visible to the entire group. Allow the other kids in the group to ask yes or no questions about the secret item. If the group can guess the secret item after asking 5 or fewer questions, they get to ask the “Spy kid” a question about them. (For example: What’s your favorite video game?) If the group cannot guess the item after asking 5 or fewer questions, the “Spy kid” gets to ask someone in the group a question about them. If time remains, ask the entire group the following question:

**Question:** What’s your favorite thing to do during Easter?

### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA (Application Activity)

**Set-up:** Each group should have 1 plastic Easter egg for every 2 kids. Ahead of time, mix the eggs up so the tops and bottoms are different colors. Next, use a permanent marker to write a different word on each egg. The word will be written on both the top and bottom of the egg. The words include: Ninja, Chicken, Ballerina, Robot, Donkey, and Dinosaur. (If you have more than 12 kids in a group, you can make up additional words and create additional eggs.)

**Say:** Most of you have probably heard the Easter story before, but a lot of you might not have realized that Jesus wasn’t the only who was raised from the dead that day. The Bible says that we were all dead in sin. But because of what Christ did on Easter, we can all find a new life in Him. We’re going to play a game that will help us think about what a new life in Jesus is like.

**Directions:** Separate the egg tops from the egg bottoms and place them in a bag. Allow each kid to reach into the bag and select one half of an egg. Without showing anyone what their egg says, each kid will have to act like what is written on their egg while looking for the other kid who is acting the same way. (For younger kids, be prepared to whisper their word to them.) When everyone has found their match, have them introduce themselves to each other, then ask them one of the questions below. The kids will share their answer with their partner. When finished, have them return their half of the egg to the bag and sit down. If you would like, you can then ask for some of the kids to share their answer with the entire group. Repeat the instructions above until each question below has been answered.

**Note:** If your group has fewer than 12 kids, remove some eggs so there is only 1 egg for every 2 kids. If you have an odd number of kids, you (the leader) will play the game so that everyone has a partner.





### Questions:

1. How do you celebrate Easter with your family?
2. What is your favorite part of the Easter story?
3. Why do you think sin (or breaking God's rules for life) is so bad?
4. How does it feel to know that Jesus died on a cross for you?
5. How do you think someone's life is different or better when they love and follow Jesus?

### POSE-A-VERSE (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. Today's Bible verse says:

**Older Kids:** "So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you." Ephesians 2:5 (NirV)

**Younger Kids:** "So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. God's grace has saved you." Ephesians 2:5 (NlrV)

Tell your group they have to come up with different poses to help them remember the verse. Let the kids take turns suggesting different poses for different parts of the verse. When finished, turn the Bible verse sign over and have the group recite the entire verse from memory while striking each of the suggested poses. For added fun, have a camera or a smartphone ready so you can get some snapshots of the different poses. When finished, show the snapshots to the kids.

**Question:** How do you think Jesus makes your life new when you become His follower?

### PRAYING THE BIBLE (Group Prayer Activity)

**Say:** The Bible is filled with the prayers of people who loved and followed God. Reading those prayers in the Bible can help us know how to talk to God.

**Directions:** Encourage the kids to turn to Luke 18:13. When ready, choose a kid to read the verse aloud or read it aloud yourself.

**"But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.'" Luke 18:13**

**Question:** The tax collector felt a deep sadness over what he had done wrong, but he understood that God could forgive him. Are there some things that you need forgiveness for?

**Directions:** When everyone is finished sharing, open your group in prayer. On behalf of the group, confess to God that you are sinners and ask God for His forgiveness. Consider opening the prayer to the rest of your group and allowing them to pray for the things they shared. When finished, remind the kids that God is full of grace and quick to forgive our sins when we ask Him.



## LARGE GROUP SUPPLY LIST

What you need:	Amount:	Note:
"Seek and Find: Jesus is Alive" printout	1 per kid	See Resource Folder. Print on 8½ x 11 paper.
Marker, pen, or pencil	1 per kid	
Bible	1	Hide in room as per "Set-up Instructions."
Glow-in-the-dark plastic eggs	8–12	Available at <a href="http://orientaltrading.com">orientaltrading.com</a> and other online stores. Additional option: Place small glow sticks inside light-color Easter eggs.
Giant plastic Easter egg	1	Available online and at many big box and party stores. The bigger the better.
(Optional) Candy	1 bag per service	If you would like, you can place a candy prize inside of the giant Easter egg and give it to the kid who finds the egg.
Upbeat walk-in music		This unit's music recommendation: "Jesus Love" by Royal Tailor. Available for purchase through iTunes or Amazon.
GO! Media (graphics, sound, and video)		See Resource Folder. Download ahead of time and place in media presentation software such as PowerPoint, Media Shout, or ProPresenter.
Worship tracks	2–4	Choose from the Worship songs that your ministry enjoys singing and simply drop them into your media presentation software along with the GO! media.
Reflect and Respond Station materials		Choose which of the stations you would like to include for this week and gather the appropriate materials. See the "GO! Guide" for more instructions.
GO! Home guide	1 per kid	See Resource Folder. Print double-sided on 8½ x 11 paper.

## SMALL GROUP SUPPLY LIST

Activity:	What you need:	Amount:	Note:
<b>Easter Eggstravaganza</b>	Plastic Easter eggs	1/every 2 kids	
	Permanent marker	1	Used to write on the Easter eggs.
<b>Pose-a-Verse</b>	Bible verse sign	1 per group	See Resource Folder. Print on 8½ x 11 cardstock.