

# Spring Unit 4

**Weeks of:** March 28 - April 25

**Bible Focus:** Jesus is Alive

**Bible Verse:** "Jesus said: 'I am alive for ever and ever.'" Revelation 1:18

**Bottom Line:** I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



## Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- God's Son, Jesus, died on a cross to make a way for us to be forgiven for our bad choices. That made his friends very sad.
- But- Jesus did NOT stay dead! He came back to life- just like God planned!
- Jesus is alive! He lives with God in heaven.
- Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend!
- Jesus wants us to tell people about Him like his friends and disciples did.

Sunday	Bible Story	Music
March 28	Palm Sunday: Jesus Enters Jerusalem Matthew 2:1-11	<b>Unit Bible Verse Song:</b> "Jesus is Alive"
April 4	Easter Sunday: The Empty Tomb Matthew 28:1-10	<b>Other Suggested Songs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alive, Alive</li> <li>• God So Loved</li> <li>• We Can Praise Jesus</li> <li>• I Want to Be Like Jesus</li> <li>• Jesus I Will Follow</li> <li>• Yes! Jesus Loves Me</li> <li>• Oh, How I Love Jesus</li> </ul>
April 11	The Road To Emmaus Luke 24:13-35	
April 18	Jesus is Alive Matthew 28:16-20	
April 25	Jesus' Prayer Matthew 6:5-13	

# Jesus Enters Jerusalem

March 28

## Bible Story

Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Mark 11:1-10

## Teacher Challenge

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, people welcomed Him, quoting Psalm 118:25-26 and waving branches. Some expected to make Him their king. Others looked for a way to kill Him. Even those who welcomed Jesus didn't understand that He came to create a deeper freedom than they expected. His death and resurrection brought far more than rest from political oppression—He brought real and permanent freedom! Because we have experienced that freedom, we know that Jesus is worthy of genuine praise—always!

- ➔ In what situations are you finding it difficult to praise Jesus?
- ➔ Talk to God honestly about the fears and worries in your life.

Even if your life today seems as precarious, praise Him! Praise overcomes the darkness of fear and helps us see our lives from God's perspective. Praise Him, even in the midst of your worries. Know that He hears and receives your praise, standing ready to amaze you and help you in the middle of whatever tensions come.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"How good is it to sing praises to our God."  
Psalm 147:1

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Revelation 1:18), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

March 28

## Active Game Center: Find a Leaf



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 31 Leaf Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, masking tape.

### Prepare

Print Leaf Pattern and cut apart, making several leaves for each child. Hide leaves around classroom. Place a length of masking tape on the floor in your playing area. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

### Do

1. Children search for hidden leaves. When children find leaves, they place leaves on masking-tape line and return to look for more leaves.
2. When all leaves have been found, hide leaves and repeat game as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- **In today's Bible story, people were happy to see Jesus when He came to Jerusalem. The people sang songs to Jesus and placed coats and palm leaves on the road Jesus was traveling on. This was their way to show Jesus they were happy He came to their town. Let's play a game to find hidden leaves and put them on a road.**
- **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." We can sing praises to God to give thanks to Him. We can thank God for Jesus!**  
Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, for Jesus.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
*Revelation 1:18*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"How good is it to sing praises to our God."  
*Psalm 147:1*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Instead of hiding leaves, scatter leaves on floor in playing area. Children collect leaves and place on masking-tape line or in a basket.

### For Older Children

Children take turns finding leaves. Print numbers 1–5 on index cards. Each child takes a turn to select a card and then find that number of leaves to place on the masking-tape line.

# Play to Learn

March 28

## Art Center: Clothespin Donkey

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 31 Clothespin Donkey Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, card stock, scissors, yarn, ruler, markers, glue, two spring-type clothespins for each child.

### Prepare

For each child, copy Clothespin Donkey Pattern onto card stock and cut out. (Optional: Use Donkey pattern as a template to trace donkeys onto poster board or file folders.) Cut 2-inch (5-cm) lengths of yarn for tails. Make a sample following instructions below.

### Do

1. Show children your sample donkey. Children use markers to decorate donkey shapes.
2. Children glue yarn to donkeys for tails and attach clothespins for legs.

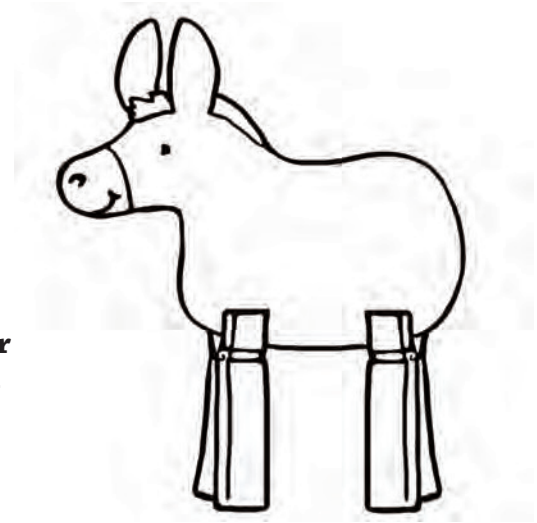
### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem. Jesus rode a donkey down the road. Let's make donkeys to remind us of Jesus' trip to Jerusalem.**
- ➔ **When Jesus went to Jerusalem, the people were so happy that they put palm leaves and their coats on the road. Addison, how do you show you are happy?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." We sing praises to give thanks to God. We can thank God for sending Jesus.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for Jesus. We love You!**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"*  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"How good is it to sing praises to our God."*  
Psalm 147:1

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



### For Younger Children

Children glue wiggle eyes to donkeys and attach additional yarn pieces for manes.

### For Older Children

Children cut out donkey shapes. Children cover donkey shapes with glue and sprinkle loose leaf tea on glue.

# Play to Learn

March 28

## Construction Center: Road to Jerusalem



### Collect

Bible, cardboard boxes, blocks, small pieces of fabric, leaves, toy people; optional—Lesson 31 Leaf Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, green card stock, toy donkey or horse.

### Prepare

(Optional: Copy Leaf Pattern onto green card stock and cut out—several for each child.)

### Do

1. Children use boxes to build Jerusalem and blocks to build a long road leading to the city.
2. Children place fabric pieces and leaves on road and act out the story using toy people as you briefly retell the story events. (Optional: Children use toy donkey or horse to tell the story.)

### Talk About

- **In today's Bible story, Jesus rode a donkey on the road leading to Jerusalem. The people were so happy to see Jesus! They showed they were happy by laying coats and palm leaves in the road. They sang songs to Jesus. Let's build the road to Jerusalem and act out the story.**
- **Jordan, what is a way you show you are happy to see your parents when they come home? We show our love for our parents by hugging them and telling them we're happy to see them.**
- **Jake, can you say "Hosanna"? That is a word people used to tell Jesus they were happy to see Him. Let's all say "Hosanna" together.**
- **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." Singing praises is a way to give thanks to God. We can thank God for Jesus.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"How good is it to sing praises to our God."  
Psalm 147:1

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



### For Younger Children

Place two lengths of masking tape on floor to outline a road wide enough for children to walk down. Children place blocks on masking-tape lines. Children walk down road waving leaves.

### For Older Children

Children use donkeys made in Art Center to act out the story. Be ready to repeat the story several times as children come and go from the Construction Center.

# Play to Learn

March 28

## Dramatic Play Center: Joyful Band



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, musical instruments.

### Do

Children pretend to be in a band. Help children select music instruments and form a line. As you play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD), children parade around the room playing instruments.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God." Let's pretend we are a band marching in a parade!**
- ➔ **We sing praises to God at church. Singing songs about God is a way to give thanks to Him. One thing we can thank God for is His Son, Jesus. Avery, what would you like to thank God for?**
- ➔ **We can give thanks to God in prayer. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for Jesus. We are glad You sent Your Son.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"How good is it to sing praises to our God."  
Psalm 147:1

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



### For Younger Children

Instead of children using instruments, provide streamers for children to wave while parading.

### For Older Children

Provide a baton. Children take turns being the band leader and pretend to direct the children playing instruments.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Listen to Learn

March 28

Matthew 21:1-11,15-16; Mark 11:1-10

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 43 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 CD* and player, real or artificial leaf, large sheet of paper, marker.

## Greet Each Other

Show children the real or artificial leaf. **Let's see how quickly we can pass this leaf around the circle. When you get the leaf, say your name and then hand it to the child on your left.**

Start the game by saying your name and then pass the leaf to the child to your left. Children continue saying names and passing leaf to child sitting next to them until leaf has been passed all the way around the circle.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"How good is it to sing praises to our God."  
Psalm 147:1

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 21. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 43 pictures.

**Who comes to visit you at your home? Let's listen to our story and find out who came to the city of Jerusalem.**



Jesus and His helpers were **walking** to Jerusalem.

Jesus talked to two of His helpers. "Go into the little town ahead of you," He said. "You will find a donkey. Bring the donkey to Me."

Jesus' two helpers went to the town and found the donkey. The two helpers brought the donkey to Jesus. Jesus' friends put their coats on the donkey's back. Jesus sat on the donkey's back and **rode** to Jerusalem.



Someone must have noticed Jesus and shouted, "Jesus is coming!" Then so many people crowded the road to see Jesus, it looked like a parade! They wanted Jesus to be their king.

Men came running to stand by the road. Women stopped what they were doing and ran to see Jesus, too. Children followed along with their parents to join the crowd.



Soon the people could see Jesus riding on the donkey. Some of the people **laid** palm branches on the road. Other people took off their coats and put them on the road, too. This showed that they welcomed Jesus as if He were a king.



As Jesus rode into the city, more and more people came to see Him. Jesus rode the little donkey all the way into the city and up to the Temple. Some people might have **waved** palm branches in the air. The people were treating Jesus just like a king. "Hosanna!" the men shouted. ("Hosanna" is a word that was shouted to praise someone important.) "Hosanna!" the children shouted. The people along the road showed Jesus how glad they were to see Him! It was a wonderful, exciting day!

## Talk About the Story

**How did the people welcome Jesus to Jerusalem?** (They shouted “Hosanna.” They ran out to the road to see Him. They put palm branches and their coats on the road.) **The people wanted Jesus to know that they were glad to see Him. We can show God that we’re thankful for Jesus. What are some ways to give thanks to God?** (Sing songs of praise. Pray and tell God “Thank You.”)

## Sing to God

**Let’s sing a song about something that makes us very happy.** Lead children in singing “Jump, Shout!” (on DVD or track 10 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **Knowing that Jesus is alive makes me happy! We can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.**

**Option:** With parents’ permission, videotape children as they sing the song and do the motions. Show video at the end of the session when children are dismissed.

## Hear and Say God’s Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 147:1, say verse aloud. **Singing praises to God means we say “Thank You” to God. We can thank God for Jesus.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse in the following manner: When children say the words “How good it is,” they clap their hands on each word. When children say the words “to sing praises,” they cup hands around mouths like a megaphone. Finally, when children say the words “to our God,” they raise hands up in the air. Repeat as time allows.

## Pray to God

Pray, **Dear God, we are glad we can sing songs of praise to You. We are glad You hear our songs. Thank You for loving us. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

## Praise to God

On a large sheet of paper, print the words “We thank and praise You, God.” Ask children to name things for which they want to thank God. **Let’s see if we can fill this paper by listing all the good things God gives us and has done for us.** Print children’s responses on paper.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.



# The Empty Tomb

April 4

## Bible Story

Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33—24:9;  
John 19:38-42

## Teacher Challenge

It looked as if death had triumphed; but while Jesus' disciples cowered in fear, Jesus was bursting through the gates of hell "with laughter," as one poet described it—putting to death the power of death!

Jesus' resurrection is the pinnacle of history: in it, Satan was dealt the death-blow that would eventually finish him off. Jesus did exactly what He had said He would do, what the prophets predicted He would do, completing the task His Father had given Him to do!

- ➔ What is the most meaningful way you'll celebrate Jesus' resurrection?
- ➔ How can you communicate your joy to the children you teach?

Because most young children have not yet had first-hand experience with death, they may not comprehend what death and resurrection are about. But let them share the joy and wonder that Jesus' victory has wrought in you! They'll respond gladly to the good news that "Jesus is alive!"

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus is risen from the dead." Matthew 28:7

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Revelation 1:18), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

April 4

## Active Game Center: Sad and Happy



### Collect

Bible, paper plate, markers, tape, craft stick or ruler.

### Prepare

Draw a happy face on one side of the paper plate, and a sad face on the other side. Tape a craft stick or ruler to the paper plate.

### Do

1. Stand on one side of the playing area. Children line up, facing you, on the other side.
2. When you hold up the happy face, children walk quickly towards you. When you hold up the sad face, children walk very slowly. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Our Bible story today tells about a time when Jesus' friends were very sad. Then came the happy day when they knew Jesus is alive! Let's play a game with a happy and sad face.**
- ➔ **Jocelyn, what do people do when they hear good news? They might clap, say "Hooray" or have a big smile. When Jesus' friends knew that Jesus is alive, they were very happy! We are happy that Jesus is alive, too.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead." When we say that Jesus is risen, we mean that Jesus is alive. We can thank God that Jesus is alive. We can pray and give our thanks to God. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive. We love You!**



### For Younger Children

Lead children to walk in a line as you hold up the happy face and to freeze when you hold up the sad face. Hold the paper plate to the side so that children can see it as you lead the line.

### For Older Children

Ask a different volunteer to lead the game for each round of the game. Children make sad faces when the sad face is shown, and happy faces when the happy face is shown.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

April 4

## Construction Center: Block Tomb



### Collect

Bible, blocks, brown paper bag, toy people.

### Do

1. Children use blocks to build a garden and a cave-like structure for the tomb. Crumple the brown paper bag and place in front of tomb as the stone.
2. Briefly retell story events as children use toy people to act out the story.

### Talk About

➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends went to a garden to visit Jesus' tomb. The tomb was the place where Jesus' body was buried. When Jesus' friends got there, the tomb was empty! Jesus is alive. Let's make a garden and tomb to remind us of our Bible story.**

➔ **Juan, what special things does your family do at Easter? It's fun to celebrate Easter with your grandma and grandpa!** (Note: Avoid introducing the subject of rabbits and eggs. However, if a child wants to tell you about these things, acknowledge his or her comments, but do not encourage prolonged accounts.)

➔ **Faith, do you know why Easter is a special day? Easter is the day when we celebrate that Jesus is living! The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead." This means Jesus is alive! We can thank God that Jesus is alive. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that Jesus is alive!**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"*  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus is risen from the dead."* Matthew 28:7

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Instead of crumpling up the brown paper bag to make the stone, younger children place the open paper bag on the floor as the tomb. Children use blocks to build the stone in front of the tomb. Younger children build alone, so bring several brown paper bags.

### For Older Children

Provide real or artificial nature objects (twigs, flowers, gravel, etc.) for children to use in making the garden.

# Listen to Learn

April 4

Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 22:2; 23:33—24:9; John 19:38-42

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 45 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD* or CD and player.

## Greet Each Other

Call out different categories (all the boys, all the girls, everyone wearing blue, everyone who is four years old, etc.). Children who fall into that category stand up and repeat the following prayer: **Thank You, God, that Jesus is alive!** Continue until all children have had at least one turn to repeat the prayer after you.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'" Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus is risen from the dead." Matthew 28:7

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 23. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 45 pictures.

**What do people look like when they are sad? What do they look like when they are happy? Let's listen to hear about a time when Jesus' friends were sad and then happy.**



When Jesus was here on Earth, Jesus did many wonderful things for people. He made blind people see. He made crippled people walk again. He taught people about God.

Jesus **loved** people very much. And many people loved Him.

But not everyone loved Jesus. Some people hated Jesus. They wanted to hurt Jesus. They didn't like it that many men and women wanted Jesus to be their leader!



These **angry** people said, "If we let Jesus go on like this, everyone will believe in HIM, and we won't be in charge!" These people hated Jesus so much they killed Him.

Jesus' friends were very sad when Jesus died. They didn't know God's plan for Jesus.

The sad friends put Jesus' body in a tomb in a garden. The tomb was a little room cut out of the side of a hill. Jesus' friends **rolled** a big stone in front of the opening of the tomb.



On the first day of the week, some women who were Jesus' friends walked to the tomb. The women were still very sad. They thought Jesus' body was in the tomb. But when the women got to the tomb, God had a big surprise for them! The big stone in front of the tomb had been moved. Jesus' body was GONE.



Suddenly, the women saw **two** angels. The angels wore shining white clothes. "Jesus is not dead," the angels said. "He is alive!" NOW Jesus' friends weren't sad anymore. The women were happy to hear this good news! The women ran to share the glad news with Jesus' other friends. "Jesus IS alive!" they said.

**ART: Special Easter Craft will be provided**



## Talk About the Story

**How did Jesus' friends feel when they knew Jesus is alive? (Happy.) It makes me happy to know that Jesus is alive, too. We can thank God that Jesus is alive. How can you show God that you're happy Jesus is alive? What words can you say when you pray to God? (Thank You. I'm glad Jesus is alive. I love You.)**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about Jesus.** Lead children in singing "Jump, Shout!" (on DVD or track 10 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **This song tells us Jesus is alive! We can give thanks to God that Jesus is alive.**

**Option:** Older children lead other children in doing the motions suggested for "Jump, Shout!"

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 28:7, say verse aloud. **This verse tells us that Jesus is not dead. I'm glad that Jesus is alive and I can thank God for Jesus.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse together a few times. Sing the words of the verse to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," ending with "He is alive today!"

## Pray to God

Ask the children to stand up. Say the following prayer, inserting the name of several children into the prayer: **Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive. Thank You for loving Brianna, Todd and Gwen.** As you say each child's name, he or she sits down. Repeat, naming each child in your class.

## Praise to God

Lead children in the following poem and motions:

**We tiptoe quietly to the tomb.**



**We are so very sad.**



**But look! There is an angel**



**Who is telling us, "Be glad!"**



**Jesus isn't here now.**



**He is alive, not dead!"**

**We run to tell the others.**



**"He's risen, as He said."**



## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# The Road to Emmaus

April 11

## Bible Story

Luke 24:13-35

## Teacher Challenge

Two followers of Jesus—who had seen Jesus heal sickness, forgive sin, raise the dead and give hope where there was none—were in despair. Jesus was dead! In grief, they walked the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

A Stranger fell in with them who explained one Scripture after another about the Messiah. Hope rose in the listeners. As they sat down to eat, these two realized JESUS had been with them all along! When Jesus disappeared, they HAD to tell of their new hope! So they hurried seven miles in the darkness—that was no obstacle; Jesus was truly alive!

- ➔ How might someone act who believes in God's real and living presence?
- ➔ In what way can you show your knowledge of God's presence in your life?

God has given us the same miracle of His presence with us! Remember the disciples' example. Recognize that in the darkest moment, He is with you. Share your hope in whatever way you can to help your children understand this good news—Jesus is alive!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Thanks be to God for Jesus." 2 Corinthians 9:15

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Revelation 1:18), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

April 11

## Active Game Center: Beanbag Circles



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, two beanbags.

### Do

1. Children sit in a circle on the floor. Give two children sitting on opposite sides of the circle one beanbag each.
2. As you play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD), children pass the beanbags around the circle. When the music stops, the two children holding the beanbags name a place they go.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
*Revelation 1:18*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Thanks be to God for Jesus." *2 Corinthians 9:15*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, two of Jesus' friends walked on a road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Jesus came and walked with them! Let's play a game and talk about the places we go.**
- ➔ **Nathaniel, where is a place you go with your mother? Going to the store is fun! Jesus is with us wherever we go.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus." Jesus is with us when we go to the park, to the beach, and to our grandma's house.**
- ➔ **Jesus is with us in the morning and at nighttime, too. Jesus is with us all the time! We can thank God that Jesus is with us all the time. Ariana, what is a way we can give thanks to God? (Pray to God. Sing songs to God.)**



### For Younger Children

Children toss a beanbag to other children in the circle while the music plays. Younger children may not be able to verbalize the places they go. Simply say "Jesus is with (insert name of child holding beanbag) all the time."

### For Older Children

Add an additional beanbag after each round of play.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

April 11

## Construction Center: Playground Play



### Collect

Bible, yarn, scissors, blocks, small cardboard tubes, small cardboard boxes, toy people.

### Prepare

Cut yarn into various lengths.

### Do

1. Children stack and arrange blocks, cardboard tubes and cardboard boxes to make a playground or park.
2. Children use lengths of yarn to make swings, outline a pond, etc. Children play with toy people in the playground they've built.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for Jesus." We can thank God that Jesus is with us all the time. Let's make a place where we like to go.**
- ➔ **Brittany, what is something you like to play with at the park? Who do you like to play with at the park? When you are playing with your sister at the park, Jesus is with you!**
- ➔ **Eliot, where is a place you like to go? Jesus is with you at the library. Marissa, where is a place you like to go? Jesus is with you at the soccer field. Jesus is with you wherever you go!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for Jesus. We're glad that Jesus is always with us.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"*  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Thanks be to God for Jesus."* 2 Corinthians 9:15

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Children may have difficulty building with blocks. Place a large box in one corner of the activity area. Children carry blocks over to box and place inside. Children also enjoy sorting blocks if they are different colors or shapes.

### For Older Children

In addition to building a playground, children build a road leading up to the playground and play with toy cars on the road.



# Listen to Learn

April 11

Luke 24:13-35

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 46 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, time or stopwatch, sheet of paper, marker.

## Prepare

On sheet of paper, print "Jesus is with us at . . ."

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. **Listen carefully to what I say. If you have been to a park, put your hands in the air.** Children who can answer yes put their hands in the air. **Now, if you have been to the zoo, roar like a lion.** Continue naming places and actions until everyone has had an opportunity to respond at least once.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 46 pictures.

**When did you have a happy day? What was it that made that day especially happy? We like to feel happy, but sometimes we feel sad. Listen to hear about a time when Jesus' friends were sad.**



**Two** of Jesus' friends were very sad. They were sad because Jesus had died. The two friends slowly walked down a road. They were walking from the big city of Jerusalem to the little town of Emmaus (eh-MAY-uhs).



As they walked, they talked about Jesus. They talked about the sad day when Jesus died. They wondered about the stories they had heard that Jesus was alive again. *How could Jesus be alive?* They did not know what to think!

As the two **walked** along, a man came up and walked with them. The man asked them, "What are you talking about?"



"Don't you know what has happened?" one friend asked. "We thought Jesus was our king. But some people who hated Jesus killed Him. Jesus is dead." The friends were sad.

The man continued to walk and talk with them. When they came to the town of Emmaus, it was time to **eat**. The two friends said to the man, "Stay and eat with us." The man did stay with them.



When the dinner was ready, the man picked up some bread and prayed. Then He took pieces of the bread and handed them to the two friends. Right then the two friends knew the man was Jesus! They were so **excited**! Jesus is alive! But suddenly, Jesus was gone.

Even though it was nighttime, the two friends hurried back to Jerusalem. They found other friends of Jesus. The two friends told the others, "Jesus is alive!" Everyone who heard this good news was very happy.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Thanks be to God for Jesus." 2 Corinthians 9:15

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Talk About the Story

Show with your face the way you think Jesus' two friends felt when they thought Jesus was dead. Show the way you think they felt when they knew that Jesus is alive and with them. Jesus' friends were happy to know that Jesus was with them! Our Bible tells us that Jesus is always with us, too. Where do you go in the morning? Where are you when it's nighttime? Jesus is with us all the time!

## Sing to God

Let's sing a song about praising God. Lead children in singing "Jump, Shout!" (on DVD or track 10 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **We sing praises to God to tell Him "Thank You" for the wonderful things He does. We can thank God that Jesus is with us all the time.**

**Option:** Invite a musician from your church to play "Jump, Shout!" on a guitar.

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 2 Corinthians 9:15, say verse aloud. **God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born because God loves us. Jesus is with us all the time. We can thank God that Jesus is always with us.** Lead children in repeating the verse by clapping their hands on each word. Repeat with other motions (stomping feet, clapping hands over heads, tapping knees, etc.).

## Pray to God

**We can thank God that Jesus is with us all the time. Let's thank God right now. When I point to you, say your name. Dear God, thank You that Jesus is with (Colin) and (Erin) and (Monica) all the time.** Repeat until each child has had a turn to say their name. Close prayer by saying. **Thank You, God, that Jesus is with all of us all the time. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

**Let's see how many places we can name in one minute.** Start timer or stopwatch. Invite volunteers to name places they go. Print children's responses on paper you prepared. **Jesus is with us at all these places!**

ART: Jesus Paper Sack Craft



## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# Jesus Is Alive

April 18

## Bible Story

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-9

## Teacher Challenge

Jesus promised His disciples that they would do great things “because I go to the Father.” (John 14:12.) Yet Jesus’ friends were focused on the fact that He was leaving. Jesus wanted them to see that what seemed like the end heralded the grandest new beginning ever! He now could rightfully claim universal sovereignty. He was—and is forever—the undisputed King of all that is! All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus! (See Matthew 28:18.)

- Look back in your life. Where have you seen an “ending” turn into a beginning?
- Thank God that you are His child and that He is with you through all endings and beginnings.

You belong to the absolute Monarch of the universe. His Holy Spirit has come to guide and empower you because He went away. For a child of the King, every ending is simply a new beginning!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
“Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever.’”  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever.’”  
Revelation 1:18

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Teacher’s Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Revelation 1:18), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

April 18

## Active Game Center: Tell the News



### Collect

Bible.

### Do

1. Children stand on one side of the playing area, and the teacher on the other. One at a time, children walk up to the teacher, who whispers "Jesus is alive!" to each child.
2. When all children have been told the message, teacher counts to three. On three, children shout "Jesus is alive!" together. Repeat with other messages ("Jesus is with you." "Thank You, God, for Jesus.").

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends heard some exciting news. Let's play a game to find out what Jesus' friends were so happy about.**
- ➔ **Robin, what do you do when you have good news? It's exciting to tell other people good news. Jesus' friends told others that Jesus is alive. We can tell our family and friends that Jesus is alive.**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'" I'm glad that Jesus is alive! We can thank God that Jesus is alive.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Children stand in a line. Teacher whispers message to each child. Child can repeat message if desired.

### For Older Children

Each round, vary the way children approach the teacher (hopping on two feet, hopping on one foot, walking backwards, crawling, etc.).



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

April 18

## Art Center: Fridge News

### Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, ruler, tissue paper, glue, Con-Tact paper, permanent marker, magnetic strips.

### Prepare

For each child, cut one 4-inch (10-cm) square of construction paper and one 4-inch (10-cm) square of Con-Tact paper. Cut or tear tissue paper into small pieces. Cut magnetic strips into short lengths.

### Do

1. Children glue tissue paper onto construction paper squares. When squares are filled, teacher assists children in covering tissue-covered side of construction paper with Con-Tact paper.
2. Teacher uses permanent marker to write “Jesus is alive” on Con-Tact paper. Children glue magnets to back of square to make refrigerator magnets.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, Jesus’ friends were happy to know that Jesus is alive. Jesus’ friends sang songs and praised God. They told others about Jesus. Let’s make a fridge magnet that will tell others the good news that Jesus is alive!**
- ➔ **Hayden, who can you tell that Jesus is alive? It’s good to tell your friend that Jesus is alive.**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, “Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever!’” Jesus is alive and loves us. We can thank God for Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We’re so glad that Jesus is alive.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
“Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever.’”  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever.’”  
Revelation 1:18

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Children use glue sticks to glue tissue paper onto square.

### For Older Children

Children make two magnets, one for themselves and one to give to a friend.

# Play to Learn

April 18

## Construction Center: Up the Mountain



### Collect

Bible, medium-sized cardboard box, brown or green fabric, blocks, toy people.

### Do

1. Place cardboard box in center of playing area and cover with brown or green fabric to make a mountain. Children use blocks to make a road leading to the mountain.
2. As you briefly retell the Bible story events, children use toy people to act out the story.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus and His friends went for a walk together in the country. It was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. But Jesus' friends weren't sad. They were happy that Jesus is alive! Let's build the mountain and act out the story.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever!'" We're glad that Jesus is alive! We can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.**
- ➔ **Jesus' friends were glad that Jesus loved and cared for them. Jesus loves and cares for us, too. Shelby, what is a way Jesus shows His love to us?**
- ➔ **It's good news that Jesus is alive and loves us. Lee, who is someone you can tell that Jesus is alive?**
- ➔ **We can thank God that Jesus is alive. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. Thank You that Jesus is alive.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Rather than re-enacting the Bible story, children simply build a road leading to the mountain. Children play with toy people on road and mountain. Use the conversation suggestions above to link children's activity with the lesson.

### For Older Children

Children build the city of Jerusalem a little way from the mountain and build a road leading from Jerusalem to the mountain.

# Listen to Learn

April 18

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-9

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 47 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, blanket, jingle bells of various sizes and kinds, small shakers.

## Greet Each Other

Guide two children to form a door by standing and facing each other with hands raised above their heads and fingers locked. Children form a line in front of the door. Lead children in saying the following words as children step through the door: **Who's stepping through the door? I see my friends Aiden and Mason!** Continue, naming each child. (Optional: After a few children have stepped through the door, choose two other children to form the door.) **We're going to hear about some good news we can tell our friends!**

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 47 pictures.

**What do you see when you look up into the sky? Listen to today's story to hear what Jesus' friends saw in the sky.**

"It's true! It's really true!" Jesus' friends said to each other. "We saw Jesus. He is not dead anymore! He is ALIVE!" These friends were VERY excited and VERY happy!



Suddenly, while they were talking, Jesus was in the room with them—just like that! His friends were SO **surprised** that they did not know what to say!



"Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "It's Me." His friends must have smiled. They weren't frightened anymore. Jesus was with them again!

Jesus was with His friends for many more days. He taught His friends things **God** wanted them to know. Jesus' friends were SO happy that Jesus was with them again. They knew Jesus loved and cared for them.



But soon it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. One day, Jesus and His friends walked out into the country. He said to them, "I want you to go and tell everyone about Me. And remember: I will be with you always!" Jesus wanted His friends to know that He would always care for them.

Then Jesus began to go up, up, up from the ground. His friends **watched** Jesus rise up into the sky! Soon a cloud covered Jesus and His friends couldn't see Him anymore. But Jesus' friends weren't sad. They were happy because they knew Jesus was alive, even though they couldn't SEE Him. And they knew Jesus had promised to always care for them.



The friends walked back to Jerusalem. They went into the Temple. They sang praises to God! They **prayed** and talked about God! They worshiped God and were happy because they knew Jesus was alive. They knew He would care for them!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Talk About the Story

**What did Jesus promise His friends?** (Jesus promised to always be with them.) **Our Bible says that Jesus is always with us, too. Jesus is with us because Jesus is alive. We can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive. Who is someone you would like to tell the good news about Jesus to?**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song to praise God. When we praise God, it means we tell or sing about the great things He has done.** Lead children in singing "Jump, Shout!" (on DVD or track 10 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **We praise God because He has done great things for us. We can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Revelation 1:18, say verse aloud. **This verse tells us that Jesus will always be alive.** Lead children in saying the verse. First the boys say "Jesus said" and then the girls say "I am alive." Finally, boys say "for ever and ever" to finish verse. Have children repeat the verse in this manner several times, alternating which group says each phrase.

**Option:** If you take a weekly offering during this worship time, explain to children that giving money is one way to show thanks to God. **This money will be used to help other people learn the good news that Jesus is alive!**

## Pray to God

Pray, **Dear God, we are glad for the good news that Jesus is alive. Thank You that Jesus loves and cares for** (name children in your class). **We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

Children hold a blanket while an adult places several bells on the blanket. Play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD). Children bounce bells to music and describe the sounds. **We are glad that Jesus is alive! We show we are glad when we sing and make music.** Add more bells or small shakers!

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.



# Jesus' Prayer

April 25

## Bible Story

Matthew 6:5-13; Mark 1:35-37; Luke 11:1-4

## Teacher Challenge

Do you think Jesus' disciples must have been puzzled when Jesus rose early in the morning or stayed away all night to pray? What could cause someone to miss so much sleep? Yet they began to see how Jesus' time alone with His Father created an amazing, powerful bond that empowered His work! They realized that time with God was the source of power they needed, too. And Jesus taught them that they could pray directly to their loving Father in heaven for the simplest needs—daily food, forgiveness, help. This new kind of prayer expressed the power of a living relationship with God!

- ➔ How do you benefit from time spent alone with the Father? Make a list!
- ➔ What makes it hard for you to carve out time to pray?

As Jesus laid out this model of prayer for His followers, we need also to lay it out for our children. It is profound, yet simple. Our children need to learn that God gives all they need. And He's waiting to hear from them!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Pray to God, and He will hear you."  
Job 22:27

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Revelation 1:18), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

April 25

## Active Game Center: Places I Go



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 23 Places I Go Pictures 1-8 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, tape.

### Prepare

Tape Places I Go Pictures to walls around classroom.

### Do

1. Children form a circle in the playing area. As you play "Welcome, Hello!" (track 1 on CD), children walk in a circle.
2. After a few moments, stop the music. Children move to a picture on a wall and place their hand on it. More than one child can touch each picture. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Pray to God, and he will hear you." We can pray to God anywhere. Let's play a game and pretend we're visiting different places.**
- ➔ **Ben, you're touching a picture of a forest. What could you talk to God about at a forest? You can thank God for the beautiful trees.**
- ➔ **Morgan, you're touching a picture of a store. What could you talk to God about at the store? You can ask God to keep you safe.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You that we can talk to You everywhere we go. Thank You for hearing our prayers.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'" *Revelation 1:18*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Pray to God, and He will hear you." *Job 22:27*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Glue Places I Go Pictures to paper plates and lay them facedown in different places around the room. When the music stops, children search for plates and turn them over to find the pictures.

### For Older Children

Use catalog or calendar pictures to expand the variety of places shown.

# Play to Learn

April 25

## Art Center: Prayer Place Mats



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 23 Prayer Place Mat Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, 18x12-inch (45x30-cm) sheets of construction paper, glue, markers.

### Prepare

Print a Prayer Place Mat Pattern for each child.

### Do

Children glue Prayer Place Mat Pattern to center of construction paper and decorate with markers to make place mats. Children take prayer place mats home and use at dinner table.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Pray to God, and he will hear you.” When we pray, we can thank God for all the things He’s done for us. Let’s make a Prayer Place Mat to remind us to pray to God.**
- ➔ **Aaron, what can you thank God for when you sit down to breakfast? You can thank God for the good food He gives you.**
- ➔ **Julia, you could use this place mat when you eat dinner. What could you thank God for at night? You can thank God for the good time you had playing with your friends.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for hearing us when we pray. Thank You for loving us.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
“Jesus said, ‘I am alive for ever and ever.’”  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“Pray to God, and He will hear you.”  
Job 22:27

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



### For Younger Children

Provide stickers for children to use to decorate their place mats.

### For Older Children

Children draw on place mats people for whom they can pray.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today’s Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

April 25

## Construction Center: Prayer Blocks



### Collect

Bible, building toys (Legos, Duplos, etc.).

### Do

Children build things for which they want to thank God (house, tree, dog, sandwich, etc.).

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus taught people how to pray to God. This story teaches us how to pray, too. When we pray, we can thank God for the good things He has done for us. Let's build some things to thank God for.**
- ➔ **Isaac, what is something you are thankful for when you are tired and want to lie down? You can build a bed. You can thank God for a warm bed to sleep in.**
- ➔ **Destiny is building her home because she's thankful that God gave her a home to live in. Destiny, what are some other things at your home that you can thank God for?**
- ➔ **I'm glad to thank God. Saying "Thank You" to God shows that I love Him. Rachel, what are some other ways we can show our love for God?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Pray to God, and he will hear you." God loves us. He always listens when we pray. One thing we can tell God when we pray is that we love Him. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for listening when we pray. We love You.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'"  
Revelation 1:18

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Pray to God, and He will hear you."  
Job 22:27

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.

### For Younger Children

Instead of building things for which children want to thank God, children play with large blocks and toy people.

### For Older Children

Rather than trying to guess what a child is building, ask a child to tell you. Then connect their answer to the lesson focus of talking to God. **Ian, what are you building? You can thank God for keeping you safe when you travel in the car.**

# Play to Learn

April 25

## Dramatic Play Center: Breakfast Prayers



### Collect

Bible, toy food, toy dishes.

### Do

Children use toy food and dishes to act out having breakfast. Teach children a simple prayer, such as, "God is great! God is good! Let us thank Him for our food. Amen."

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus taught His helpers how to talk to God. We can talk to God, too! When are some of the times you talk to God? Let's act out talking to God before eating breakfast.**
- ➔ **Megan, you are eating an egg for breakfast. What would you like to say to God before you eat? God will hear you when you pray.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Pray to God, and he will hear you." God hears us when we pray because God loves us. I'm glad I can talk to God and tell Him I love Him.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. We love You, too!**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'I am alive for ever and ever.'" *Revelation 1:18*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Pray to God, and He will hear you." *Job 22:27*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for the good news that Jesus is alive.



### For Younger Children

Younger children may not be able to verbalize their own prayers. Have them repeat a simple prayer after you.

### For Older Children

Children say their own prayers while playing.

# Listen to Learn

April 25

Matthew 6:5-13; Mark 1:35-37; Luke 11:1-4

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 37 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, sheet of paper and marker.

## Prepare

Print the following letters on the sheet of paper: *b, d, p, t, s, m, f* and *k*.

## Greet Each Other

Ask children to take turns saying their name and a number between 1 and 5. Other children clap (or jump, or turn around) that number of times.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 6. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 37 pictures.

**What happens when you lose your favorite toy? When we lose a toy, we look and look to find it. Let's listen to a story about a time when Jesus' friends couldn't find Him.**



One day, Jesus had made many sick people well. And all day long, Jesus had been telling people about God's **love**. Now it was bedtime. Jesus went to bed in a house with His friends.

When it was morning, many people came to see Jesus! Jesus' friends went to find Jesus. They probably called His name, but Jesus didn't answer. *Where was Jesus?* His friends must have wondered.



Jesus' friends **looked** inside and outside the house. They **STILL** did not find Jesus.

So Jesus' friends walked down the road to find Jesus. Soon they came to a quiet place. They saw Jesus there, all alone. He was **praying**. He was talking to God. Jesus often prayed by Himself.



One day, one of Jesus' friends asked, "Will You teach us to pray?"

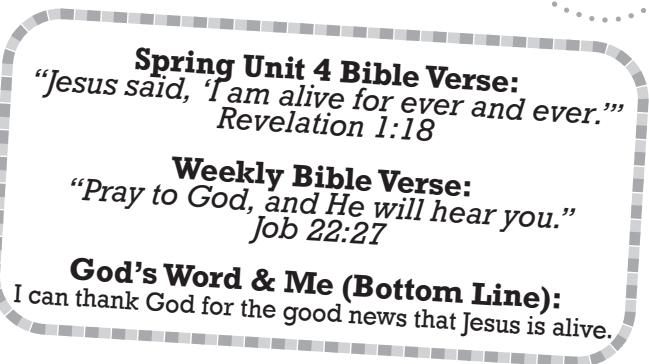
"Yes," Jesus said, "I will teach you to pray."

Jesus said, "When you pray, pray like this:

"Our Father in heaven, You are so good. I pray that all people will obey You. Give us what we need each day. Forgive the wrong things we do. We forgive people who do wrong to us. Help us to do right. You are the King. You can do anything. Amen."



Jesus told His friends that we can talk to **God** in the same way we talk to a kind, loving father. Jesus told us to ask our Father for what we need. Jesus said we should ask God to forgive the wrong things we do. And we should forgive other people for wrong things they do to us. We can ask God to help us do right things.



## Talk About the Story

**What did Jesus teach His friends to do?** (Pray. Talk to God like He is a kind father.) **Jesus teaches us how to talk to God, too. We can always talk to God. God promises He will always listen when we pray. What are some of the things we can say to God?** (I love You. Thank You for loving me. Please help me do good things.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about Jesus.** Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves You and Me" (on DVD and track 8 on CD). **Who does this song tell us Jesus loves?** (You and me.)

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Job 22:27, say verse aloud. **This verse tells us that God will always hear us when we pray. We can tell God that we love Him when we pray.** Lead children in singing the words of the verse to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" (Pray, pray, pray to God, and He will hear you. Pray to God, pray to God, and He will hear you.).

**Option:** Children experiment with singing the words of the verse to other familiar tunes ("Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush," etc.).

## Pray to God

Pray with children, pausing for them to repeat after you. **Dear God, . . . thank You . . . for hearing . . . when we pray. . . .**

## Praise to God

Show paper with letters printed on. Children name things for which they could thank God beginning with each letter shown on paper.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.