

# PRE-PRIMARY

## TEACHER BOOK



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# AT THE JUNCTION **GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE**

Luke 23:33–46; 24:1–12; Acts 1:1–12; 2:1–47

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## **TOPIC**

God's strong love

## **THEME**

The Good News changes people's lives.

## **DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE**

Students will know that God loves them and there is saving power in the gospel.



## **MEMORY VERSE**

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,  
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone  
who believes" (Rom. 1:16).

- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (32133) and Giddyup Junction passes (32134).
- Open the class time with prayer.



## Option 1: Barn Raising and Cabin Building

### Materials

- Variety of building toys such as wood blocks, connecting toy logs, and large cardboard blocks; *optional*: action figures of people and animals.

*Before class:* Place the building materials in stations around your classroom. All the stations should have an equal number of each kind of building material.

**ACTIVITY:** As students arrive, help them get settled at one of the stations. Tell the students to pretend they have just moved to Giddyup Junction. Encourage them to work together to build log cabins or houses. **SAY:** Let's pretend we are neighbors helping one another build a house or a barn.

In the lesson we will learn about a group of people who helped one another. They had believed the good news about Jesus. So if anyone needed anything, like food or clothes, the others helped.

## Option 2: Giddyup Junction, Get Ready to Go!

**ACTIVITY:** Teach this fun action rhyme to your little cowboys and cowgirls just before Explore the Bible! time.

Giddyup, partner, get ready to go (*Gallop in place.*)

To hear of the God Who loves us so! (*Cup hand around ear.*)

Tip yer hat, and stomp yer feet, (*Tip hat, stomp feet.*)

Dust off yer chaps, and take a seat. (*Wipe hands on thighs, sit.*)

Ya'll listen to God's Word so true (*Teacher, hold your Bible open; children form book with hands.*)

That tells of God's love for me and you! (*Point up, to self, to children.*)

Yee-haw! (*Pretend to take hat from head, wave around, then place imaginary hat in lap with hands.*)

## Option 3: What's New in the General Store?

### Materials

- Large appliance box(es); paint; utility knife; wooden crates or painted boxes; play food and cooking utensils; picture books about western towns.

*Before class:* Build a general store out of one or more appliance boxes. Cut a door and window(s). If desired, paint and decorate the boxes to look like a western store. Paint the words "General Store" at the top. Place some wooden crates or

### Teacher Tip ►

*Optional:* Complete this action rhyme each day, as you transition to Explore the Bible! time.

### Teacher Tip ►

Explain that cowboys wore covers on their legs called chaps to keep their legs from being hurt by thorns, branches, or ropes.



paint small boxes to look like display tables outside the store. Each day of VBS, you will place something new in the general store for the children to discover.

Today fill the crates with play food. Inside the store, place several dishes, cooking supplies, and utensils. Place picture books about western towns inside the store.

**ACTIVITY:** As the children arrive, invite two or three at a time to explore inside the general store. Station a worker nearby to talk about how important the general store was to a frontier town like Giddyup Junction. Encourage the children to look at picture books and pretend to shop for items their own family might need at Giddyup Junction.

## INTRODUCTION

### Materials

- Small rocks; gold spray paint; sand; shallow plastic containers about 4" in depth; plastic tablecloth; towels; toy beach digging tools; baby wipes.

*Before class:* Gather rocks. Spray paint them and let them dry. Be sure there will be at least one gold rock per child. Place the plastic tablecloth on the ground. Prepare one plastic container per two or three children and place containers on the tablecloth. Be sure towels and baby wipes are nearby. Divide the rocks evenly among the containers; cover with sand.

**SAY:** A long time ago, in 1848, exciting news traveled from the West to people in the East: *gold!* There was gold in the hills out west! It was incredible news. **ACTIVITY:** Help children mine for gold with the toy digging tools. After each child has had a turn, workers help clean students' hands with the baby wipes and towels.

In our lesson today, some good news began to travel all around Jerusalem, Judea, and Galilee. But it was not news of gold. No, it was better news than that. It was the good news of how to become part of God's family and live in Heaven with God forever and ever. It was the best news ever! It changed people from bad to good, from mean to kind, and so much more! Let's find out more about this incredible Good News from God's Word.



### ◀ Teacher Tip

*Optional:* instead of spray-painting rocks, use **prospector's gold nuggets** (32266).

### ◀ Teacher Tip

Your students will likely want to keep their treasures.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

### Teacher Tip ►

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

### New! ►

Visual Book PowerPoint Download (32107EB) from RBPstore.org.



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2

### Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32107) or visual book PowerPoint download (32107EB).

Our lesson today starts out with sad news. But don't worry, good news is coming—and it is the best, most wonderful, most exciting news ever!

You see, many years ago God sent His Son, Jesus, to live on the earth. Jesus was born and grew up. In many ways He was like you and me. But Jesus was different from us too, because He never did anything wrong. Jesus never disobeyed His parents, or said something that wasn't true, or thought a mean thing about one of his brothers. Jesus was perfect and holy.

Still, one day the temple leaders in Jerusalem caught Jesus and tied Him up. They didn't like what Jesus said or what He did. So the leaders had soldiers nail Jesus to a cross and hurt Him terribly. Finally Jesus died.

But this was God's plan. His plan was that Jesus would die on the cross for our sins, which are the wrong things we think, say, and do. But the story doesn't end there. Remember, good news is coming!

**ACTIVITY:** Hold up your fingers and count to three with me: One, two, three. Hold up those three fingers. Jesus was dead for three days. On the third day a few of the women who followed Jesus went to His tomb.

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. **ACTIVITY:** Role play going to the tomb. **SAY:** Let's pretend we are going to Jesus' tomb. Three days ago our best Friend, Jesus, died on a cross. Show me your saddest faces ever. Now let's walk to the tomb. (Students walk in place.) Walk slowly, we are very sad.

When the women arrived, they discovered that the stone was rolled away from the tomb! An angel was there, and he had some good news!

"Why are you looking among dead people for Someone Who's alive? Jesus isn't here! He is alive again!"

**ACTIVITY:** Invite children to say with you, "Jesus is alive again!" and show their happy faces.

Yes! Jesus was alive! During the next forty days, many people saw Jesus. He spent time with His friends Peter, James, John, and many of His other special friends, called disciples. He ate with them and talked with them.

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.



One day Jesus and His friends were together in a special place. Jesus told them, “Now it is your job to tell people about God’s love. Tell people everywhere about Me.” Then, as the disciples watched, Jesus began to go up into the air! Up, up, up, Jesus went. Soon a cloud covered Jesus. His friends could not see Jesus anymore! They just stood there looking up. Jesus had gone back to His home in Heaven to live with God, His Heavenly Father.

Suddenly two angels appeared. “Why are you just standing there looking up?” the angels said. Soon Jesus’ friends would start telling other people about Him!

They did not have long to wait. Something amazing was about to happen. One day, Jesus’ friends were all together. Suddenly they heard the sound of a powerful wind.

**ACTIVITY:** What does wind sound like? Can you sound like the wind? You try. (*Students make wind sounds.*)

Was it a storm? No! It was the sound of God sending His Holy Spirit. While Jesus was on earth, He had promised to send the Holy Spirit to help His friends.

Then something else amazing happened. In the city of Jerusalem, many people from all over had gathered together for a special festival. These people were from different countries and nations, so they spoke different languages from one another.

Suddenly everybody stopped. They listened—then they all started crowding together. All the people heard Jesus’ friends talking in their own languages, telling them about Jesus! “What’s going on?” people whispered to one another. They didn’t realize that the Holy Spirit of God was helping Peter and Jesus’ other friends speak in different languages!

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

Peter stood up. He called out, “Listen, everybody! God is doing all this.” Peter told the crowd that long ago the Bible said these things would happen. He told all the people about Jesus. Peter said, “Yes, Jesus died on a cross, but God raised Him back to life! We saw Him ourselves. Jesus is God!”

When the people heard what Peter said, many of them were very sad about the wrong things they did. They were sad about their sin. “What should we do?” they asked.

Peter answered, “Turn from your sin by trusting in Jesus, and God will forgive your sin.” A huge crowd of people responded. “Yes!” they said. “We want to trust Jesus.”

Guess how many people listened to Peter and trusted, or believed, in Jesus? Three thousand! Wow—that’s a lot of people!

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

But that was not all! The good news of God’s love changed those people that day. They wanted to find out more about Jesus and how to obey God. They ate



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4

together and talked to God in prayer together. They loved God and they loved one another. If anyone needed any food or clothes or something else, the others helped. What a difference the good news of God's love makes for people!



## DECISION TIME

### Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (32136).

Do you know now why I said this lesson starts out sad, but ends with good news? Jesus' friends were sad when He died. He died for the wrong things we think, say, or do. The Bible word for wrong things is "sin." The Bible also says that our sin separates us, or keeps us apart, from God.

But there is good news! Jesus came alive again. And God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die on that cross and be punished for your sin. You can become part of God's family by trusting, or believing, in Jesus!

**ACTIVITY:** Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite students who want to learn more about salvation to look up at you. Assign workers to pray with and counsel responding students.

If you have already believed the good news about Jesus, God wants you to share His love with others. God will help you do that. You can show God's love and can help other people want to trust Jesus by being kind and by helping people.



## DISCOVER

### Mighty Balloons

### Materials

- Balloons; music CD set (32130) or music CD (32167 or 32168); CD player.

*Before class:* Inflate several balloons. Have extra balloons on hand in case balloons pop.

**ACTIVITY:** Students sit on the floor in a circle. The circle should not be too big; for a larger class, make multiple circles. Play a VBS song on the CD player. As the music plays, toss two balloons into the circle. Students bat the balloons and try to keep them in the air. If a balloon touches the ground, the

students must begin again. If the balloons are still in the air after a minute, introduce a third balloon.

**SAY:** Wow, you did a good job keeping the balloons in the air! But still, you were only able to keep the balloons up for a while, not forever.

Our human strength and abilities only last for a while—but God is not like that. His strength has no end, and His love is stronger than anything we can think of. Today we learned about the strength and power of God’s love, and that many, many people—thousands of them—were changed forever by the good news of God’s love.



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

**“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).**

Long ago, many people went to the Wild West looking for gold. At the beginning of today’s lesson we looked for gold too.

**ASK:** Why did people want to find gold? (*Because gold was worth a lot. They wanted to get rich.*)

The good news of Jesus can make us rich in a much better way! *Gospel* means “good news.” Our verse says the gospel is powerful. Those who believe in Jesus will be saved, or rescued, from the punishment their sins deserve.

“I am not ashamed (*Shake head no.*)  
of the gospel of Christ, (*Sign “Jesus.”*)  
for it is the power (*Make muscles.*)  
of God (*Point up.*)  
to salvation (*Sign “save.”*)  
for everyone who believes.” (*Nod head yes.*)  
Romans 1:16 (*Form open book with hands.*)

### Jesus’ Great Love

#### Materials

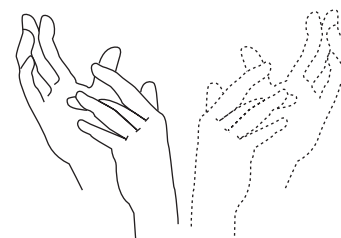
- Red construction paper; scissors.

*Before class:* Cut out hearts from red construction paper. You will need one heart per child.

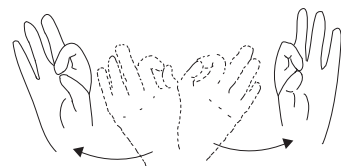


#### ◀ Teacher Tip

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



Jesus



Save



**ACTIVITY:** Give each child a heart. Say the verse out loud, and have children hold up their hearts as you say the verse. Repeat the activity again, and have the children stand on their tippy toes as they say the verse with you. On the third time, have them hop in place while they hold the hearts and say the verse with you.



## APPLY IT NOW

### Option 1: Showing God's Love to Others: Serving

#### Materials

- Mini muffins, mini cupcakes, or other small treats; gluten-free option or option for children with food allergies; napkins; cups; water in pitchers.

**ACTIVITY:** Place the treats on a tray at the front of the room. Assign students to distribute napkins and cups. Then instruct the students to find a partner. Each student must serve his or her partner. Encourage students to use words like “May I get you a muffin?” and “Would you like some water to drink?” The students should not serve themselves. They should look to serve others. Discuss how the early Christians showed God’s love by sharing and helping one another.

### Option 2: God Loves You!

**SAY:** Jesus loves you! Let’s sing a song that tells us how much Jesus loves us.

**ACTIVITY:** Have the students sit in a circle. Sing the chorus of “Jesus Loves Me” together using the following words. Continue singing the chorus until you have used every child’s name. As you sing a child’s name, encourage other kids in the circle to point and smile at their friend.

“Yes, Jesus loves [Child’s name], yes, Jesus loves [Child’s name].  
Yes, Jesus loves [Child’s name], the Bible tells me so.”

**PRAY:** Thank God for loving each one of the children and the workers.