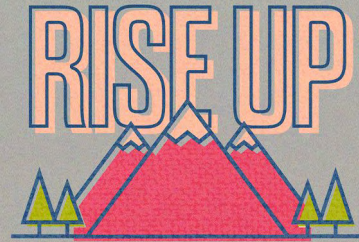




# WEEK 1

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



### THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

### THE BIBLE

Jesus is Alive!: Mark 16:1-8

#### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Summit Songs
- ACTIVITY** | Easter Egg Mountain
- ACTIVITY** | Valley, Hillside, Summit

### TEACHING TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Before Rising Up
- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 16:1-8
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus overcame death.
- VIDEO** | Rise Up, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | Colorful Cross
- PRAYER**

### DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Out of the Tomb
- ACTIVITY** | Tomb Tag
- ACTIVITY** | Open Tent
- MEMORY VERSE** | Romans 10:9 (NIV)

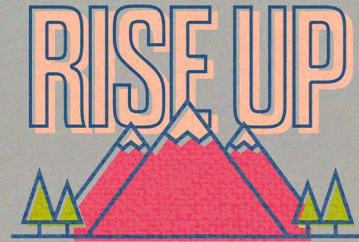
### PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Rolling Stone
- ACTIVITY** | Stepping Stones



# WEEK 1

## HACKS FOR TODDLERS



**BY DARBY GEORGE**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

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

#### **ACTIVITY | Easter Egg Mountain**

Use plastic cups instead of spoons to pass the eggs.

#### **ACTIVITY | Valley, Hillside, Summit**

Provide pictures of each: "valley," "hillside," and "summit" so the kids know which areas to run to during the activity.

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

Punch a few holes in the top of the mountain and thread the rope through. After the kids attach the Big Idea sheet for the week onto the front carabiner, give each kid an opportunity to pull on the back side of the rope to bring the Big Idea to the top of the mountain!

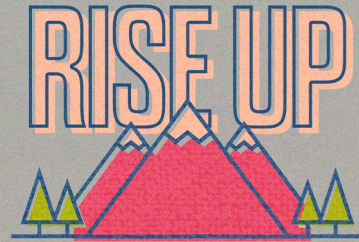
#### **ACTIVITY | Colorful Cross**

Create a cross out of foam that toddlers can trace on their paper with a white crayon. Then instead of outlining it with glue, have them fill the inside of the cross with glue, then add the salt and paint.



# WEEK 1

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

### THE BIBLE

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

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Summit Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to sing and dance along to fun worship songs to celebrate Jesus, such as, "[One Two Three](#)."

### ACTIVITY | Easter Egg Mountain

- Hi, friends! This month we are talking about "rising up," which makes sense because today is Easter, when we celebrate how Jesus rose up again!
- I'm so excited about today's activity. We are going to play an awesome game called, "Easter Egg Mountain!"
- When a group of people climb a really tall mountain, they have to work together to make sure everyone stays safe. In this game, we'll also be working together as a team.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide kids into two teams and have them spread out in a line across the room. Give each team an easter basket filled with 24 plastic eggs at one end and the dessert stand at the other (Line the rim of each layer in the dessert stand with tape so that the eggs won't fall off). The first kid picks up an egg from the basket with the spoon, then passes the egg and spoon to the next kid. The last kid in line takes the egg and spoon, places it on the dessert tower, then races to the front of the line with the spoon to start the relay over again. Anyone who drops an egg must hold their spoon in the air and count to ten before picking up the egg and continuing play. First team to build their Easter egg mountain wins!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use plastic cups instead of spoons to pass the eggs.
- This was a cool game because everyone got involved. And that's the great thing about Easter, too – Easter is for everyone!

### ACTIVITY | Valley, Hillside, Summit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place two, long pieces of tape on the floor to divide the playing area into three sections. Designate the sections as “valley,” “hillside,” and “summit.” When you call out a section, the kids run to that section. If they go to the wrong section, they are out. Make it extra challenging by picking up the pace and calling out the same section several times in a row before switching. Make it even trickier by pointing to one section while calling out another. The last kid in the game wins!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide pictures of each: “valley,” “hillside,” and “summit” so the kids know which areas to run to during the activity.
- It was so important in that game to listen carefully to where you were supposed to go!

## TEACHING TIME

### ACTIVITY | Before Rising Up

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

### SCRIPTURE | Mark 16:1-8

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

### THE BIG IDEA | Jesus overcame death.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a large, six-foot-tall mountain out of cardboard and bulletin board paper (it can be as simple as a large triangle with snow caps). Space out and attach four [carabiners](#) from the top to the bottom of the mountain using duct tape or hot glue. Run [climbing rope](#) through the carabiners. Print each week's Big Idea (You can find these in your Programming folder) on an 8.5x11-inch piece of card stock and punch a hole at the top. Ask a volunteer "mountain climber" to add a new Big Idea to the mountain each week, starting at the bottom.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Punch a few holes in the top of the mountain and thread the rope through. After the kids attach the Big Idea sheet for the week onto the front carabiner, give each kid an opportunity to pull on the back side of the rope to bring the Big Idea to the top of the mountain!
- I need one brave mountain climber to add this week's Big Idea to our mountain.
- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **Jesus overcame death.**



### VIDEO | Rise Up, Episode 1

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

### ACTIVITY | Colorful Cross

- Let's create a reminder of what Jesus did for us to overcome death!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of black construction paper. Tell them to draw a large cross outline on their paper with a pencil, then go over it using white glue. Next, completely cover the glue design with salt, then shake off the excess salt. You can recycle the excess salt by pouring it back into a container that can be reused for someone else's paper. Have kids dip their paintbrush into watercolor paint and gently touch a part of their design with the brush to have the color spread. You do not have to wait for the glue to dry before painting. Encourage the kids to be gentle so as not to disturb the wet glue under the salt. Leave aside to dry.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Create a cross out of foam that toddlers can trace on their paper with a white crayon. Then instead of outlining it with glue, have them fill the inside of the cross with glue, then add the salt and paint.

### PRAYER

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

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Out of the Tomb

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a donut hole and a regular glazed donut cut in half. Place the donut cut side down on a plate and roll the donut hole in front of the opening like [this](#) to represent the stone being rolled away from Jesus' tomb.
- **What is your favorite thing about Easter?**
- **How many eggs do you think a bunny could fit in its mouth?**
- **What's the best Easter candy?**

### ACTIVITY | Tomb Tag

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

### ACTIVITY | Open Tent

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch this [video](#) for instructions on how to make a paper tent. Help kids fold these or make these in advance for them. Tell the kids to write the name or draw a picture of the person who told them about Jesus inside the tent.
- We usually share tents with our family members when we go camping. Aren't you glad the person in your tent told you about Jesus? Now we are all part of God's family!

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

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

## PLAY TIME

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

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Rolling Stone

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

### ACTIVITY | Stepping Stones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a path around the room for kids to "climb" using kid-sized [stepping stones](#) or colored construction paper cut into circles.

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