
Teacher BIBLE STUDY

Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't God just say, "You are forgiven"? God is just and requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust. According to God's Word, the payment of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23) But not only is God just, He is also loving. That is why Jesus was willing to die in our place. He loved us.

God's law for the people was plain. Read Deuteronomy 6:5. But God's people, and all people, have broken the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sin. (Matt. 1:21) Jesus came to die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Jesus' resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice. If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like other military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21)

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5) And Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the climax. Everything that was written about Jesus in the Old Testament and spoken by the prophets was coming true. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Preschool WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus died on the cross and is alive.

Key Passage: Luke 24:46

Unit Christ Connection: God's plan for redemption is fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Large Group Worship

(15–20 minutes)

Small Group Activities

(25–30 minutes)

Large Group Closing

(10+ minutes)

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36–28:10

Jesus and His friends went to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus told His friends, “Stay here while I go pray.” Jesus took three of His friends with Him. He said to them, “I am very, very sad. Please stay awake with Me.” Jesus went ahead of them and fell facedown. He prayed to God: “My Father! If it is possible, don’t let this happen. But if this is Your plan, I will do it!”

Jesus returned to His friends and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you stay awake for just one hour?” He asked. Jesus prayed two more times to God. Both times, His friends fell asleep. “Get up,” Jesus said. “It is time.”

Suddenly Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, arrived. A large crowd had followed Judas, and the people in the crowd carried clubs and swords. Judas kissed Jesus to show the crowd which person was Jesus. The men in the crowd arrested Jesus. “Why do you treat Me like this?” Jesus asked. “Am I a criminal?” But Jesus knew this was all a part of God’s plan. The disciples were afraid, and they all ran away.

Jesus was taken to the high priest. “Are you really the Messiah, the Son of God?” the high priest asked.

“Yes, you are right,” Jesus said.

“He has spoken against God!” the men accused Him. “He deserves to die!” They did not believe Jesus was God’s Son.

The next morning, the men took Jesus to see Pilate (PIGH luht), the governor. “Are you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked Jesus.

“Yes, you are right,” Jesus said.

Pilate didn’t think Jesus was guilty of any crime, so he wondered how he could free Jesus. Pilate gave the people a choice. He would release Barabbas (buh RAB uhs)—a very bad criminal—or he would release Jesus. “Release Barabbas!” the people said.

“What should I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked. “Kill Him on a cross!” the people replied. “Crucify Him!”

“Why? What has He done?” Pilate asked. But the crowd kept shouting “Crucify Him!”

Pilate handed Jesus over to the people. Pilate's soldiers said, "You are a king, are you? Then you need to dress like a king!" They made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe around Him and pretended to bow down to Him. They made fun of Jesus and beat Him. Then they led Him away to kill Him.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. The soldiers put nails through His hands and His feet. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus. The people shouted at Him, "Save Yourself!"

Darkness covered the land. In the afternoon, Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus died.

Jesus was buried in a tomb that was cut into a rock. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.

Three days passed. Two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. What would they do now that Jesus was dead? Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards were so scared that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who died. He is not here! He has been raised from the dead, just as He said He would. He is heading to Galilee, and you will see Him there."

The women were so happy! Jesus wasn't dead anymore—He was alive! Just then, Jesus met them. He said, "Good morning!" The women worshiped Him. Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid anymore. Go and tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

Christ Connection: The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He took our punishment because we sinned. God forgives us for sin because Jesus died for us. God raised Jesus from the dead to be King over everything.

Large Group WORSHIP

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- Play the unit song "King of Kings" in the background. Welcome children, following your church's security procedures.
- countdown video (optional)
- "'King of Kings' Motions"

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Timeline Map

Large Group Worship (15–20 minutes)

Welcome and sing

Play the countdown video. Welcome new arrivals. Sing and move to "King of Kings." (See "King of Kings" motions.)

Ask a few volunteers to tell their favorite part of worship time. (*Bible story, prayer, singing, offering, key passage, timeline*)

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Show where the Old and New Testaments divide. Show the Book of Matthew. Explain that it's the first book in the New Testament and that it tells about when Jesus lived on the earth.

Point to the key passage poster and read the passage and its reference. Look at the timeline map. Make a sweeping motion across all of the pictures.

Say • Every single Bible story that is pictured here makes me think of today's story. The Bible verse makes me think of today's story. It's the most important story in the whole Bible! What Bible story do you think it is?

- “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection” video (optional)

Tip: The Gospel Project for Kids® desires to present Scripture accurately and in an appropriate way for kids. If you are concerned about the appropriateness of today’s Bible story for younger preschoolers, tell the story rather than show the video. Focus less on the details of the crucifixion and more on the awe and wonder of the resurrection.

- “The Third Day” song
- “Jesus Is Alive” song
- “Famous One” song
- offering basket
- “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” song
- Big Picture Question Poster

Tip: Do activities

- as a group, all at the same time
- in small groups that rotate through each activity
- in as centers, allowing kids to browse and choose which to do

Watch or tell the Bible story

Say • Let’s all make a sleepy face. Make a face that shows that you’re afraid. Now sad. Show me a happy face! In today’s story, people felt all of those things at different times. Listen closely to hear what made the people feel that way.

Play the Bible story video or tell it in your own words with intensity and excitement.

Worship with song and pray

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus died on the cross and is alive.*

Pray, thanking God that Jesus died on the cross for sinners and that He is alive.

Sing the key passage song, “The Third Day.”

Rejoice by singing “Jesus Is Alive.” Encourage kids to worship God with movement as they sing. Mention that Jesus died on the cross because He loved us.

Softly play “Famous One” as volunteers pass the offering basket.

Remind kids that Jesus lived in heaven but came to earth, where He was born and grew up. He died on the cross but rose again and returned to heaven. He is alive today. We can sing about it. Sing “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High.” Display the big picture question poster, and review the big picture question.

Transition to small groups

Dismiss kids to small groups a few at a time by sending those whose shoes have laces, shirts have buttons, hair has bows, and so on.

Small Group ACTIVITIES

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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Tip: Select from the activities those you can staff and which your class would enjoy.

- "Jesus Is Alive" song



Note: See these American Sign Language signs online.

Small Group Activities (25–30 minutes)

Sing and make music

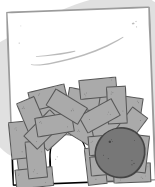
Say • Jesus died on the cross. Is Jesus still dead?

Lead kids in saying NO! and shaking their heads no.

Sing "Jesus Is Alive." Use the video on the DVD, keep time with rhythm or body instruments, or sing using the following motions. *Alive*—move hands with *L* handshapes (thumb and index finger of each hand form an *L*) up the body to indicate a living body. *Happy*—brush the palm up the chest, happily (and smile). *Loves*—cross hands in a hug over the heart.

Make a torn paper tomb scene

Tear several pieces of brown or gray construction paper into 1- or 2-inch scraps. Kids might prefer to tear the scraps themselves. Draw an upside-down *U*, with the opening at the bottom of the page, to represent the entrance of the tomb. Guide kids to fill the rest of the page by gluing the brown or gray paper scraps around the entrance to resemble the rock into which the tomb was carved. They should glue the circle next to the tomb opening to represent the stone rolled away from the tomb.



- brown or gray construction paper
- tan 3-inch paper circles, 1 per kid
- white paper
- glue sticks
- green paper (optional)

Older kids might like to tear and glue green paper for bushes or trees in the garden.

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus died on the cross and is alive.* Look in the tomb. It is empty! Jesus is alive!

- assorted colors of heavyweight paper
- flower-center circle for each puzzle
- white paper
- tape
- colored markers

Match flower petal puzzles

Make daisy flower puzzles where kids match 3-D petals to the same color petals outlined on the page. Cut different colors of 1-by-11-inch strips. Tape the ends of the strips together to make petal shapes. Glue a colored circle on a white page to be a flower center. Arrange five or six petals around it. Trace around each petal using the same color as the petal. For example, a flower may have a red center circle and alternating yellow and blue petals.

Remove the petals from the page and invite kids to match the petals to the same colored petal outlines on the flowers.

Say • Jesus prayed in a garden because He was about to do a hard thing. *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus died on the cross and is alive.*

- seedlings
- potting soil
- paper or clear plastic cups
- markers
- ziplock bags

Plant spring flowers

Plant spring flowers in paper or plastic cups. Kids may use crayons or markers to decorate the cups. Send them home in ziplock bags. Label each kid's bag with his name. Talk about how the flowers are alive.

Say • Jesus is alive!

Play a “Duck, Duck, Goose” game

Invite kids to play “Duck, Duck, Goose” and insert the phrase “Jesus is, Jesus is, Jesus is, alive!”

- countdown video (optional)

Transition to large group closing

Large Group CLOSING

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- colorful envelopes or cutout paper flowers, 8
- slips of paper
- "Do the Dizzy Doozy" song

Large Group Closing (10+ minutes)

Before the session, print each word of the answer to the big picture question, *Jesus died on the cross and is alive*, on a slip of paper; tuck each slip into a colorful envelope or tape it to a cutout paper flower. Hide them around the room.

Sing "Do the Dizzy Doozy" or another fun song. Do the motions with enthusiasm!

- Big Picture Question Poster
- "The Third Day" song

Review and pray

Say • What did Jesus do for sinners? To find the answer, look around the room and gather hidden words.

Arrange the words to make the answer. Repeat together: "Jesus died on the cross and is alive."

Ask the following questions to review the Bible story.

- Jesus asked His friends to pray with Him. What did they do instead? (*fell asleep*)
- What did Judas do to show the crowd which man was Jesus? (*gave Jesus a kiss*)
- What did the frightened disciples do? (*ran away*)
- The high priest and the governor knew that Jesus didn't deserve to die, but they let the crowd of people decide what to do with Jesus. What did the crowd do? (*They said Jesus was lying when He said He was God's Son.*)

They wanted Jesus to die on a cross.)

- Jesus died on a cross and His body was put into a tomb. What happened three days later? (*Jesus rose from the dead. He was alive again.*)
- Who discovered the empty tomb? (*the two Marys*)
- The angel said that Jesus was alive; they should go to Galilee to see Him. Whom did the women meet along the road? (*Jesus! He was alive!*)

Pray. Thank God for loving us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us because of our sin. Thank God that Jesus is alive! Play “The Third Day.” Sing it together.

- cutout paper flowers, several for each kid
- small ziplock bags
- jelly beans
- blank address labels (optional)

Option: Show the video “Off the Grid” about a missionary family living in Senegal.

Missions project: Share Jesus-story treats

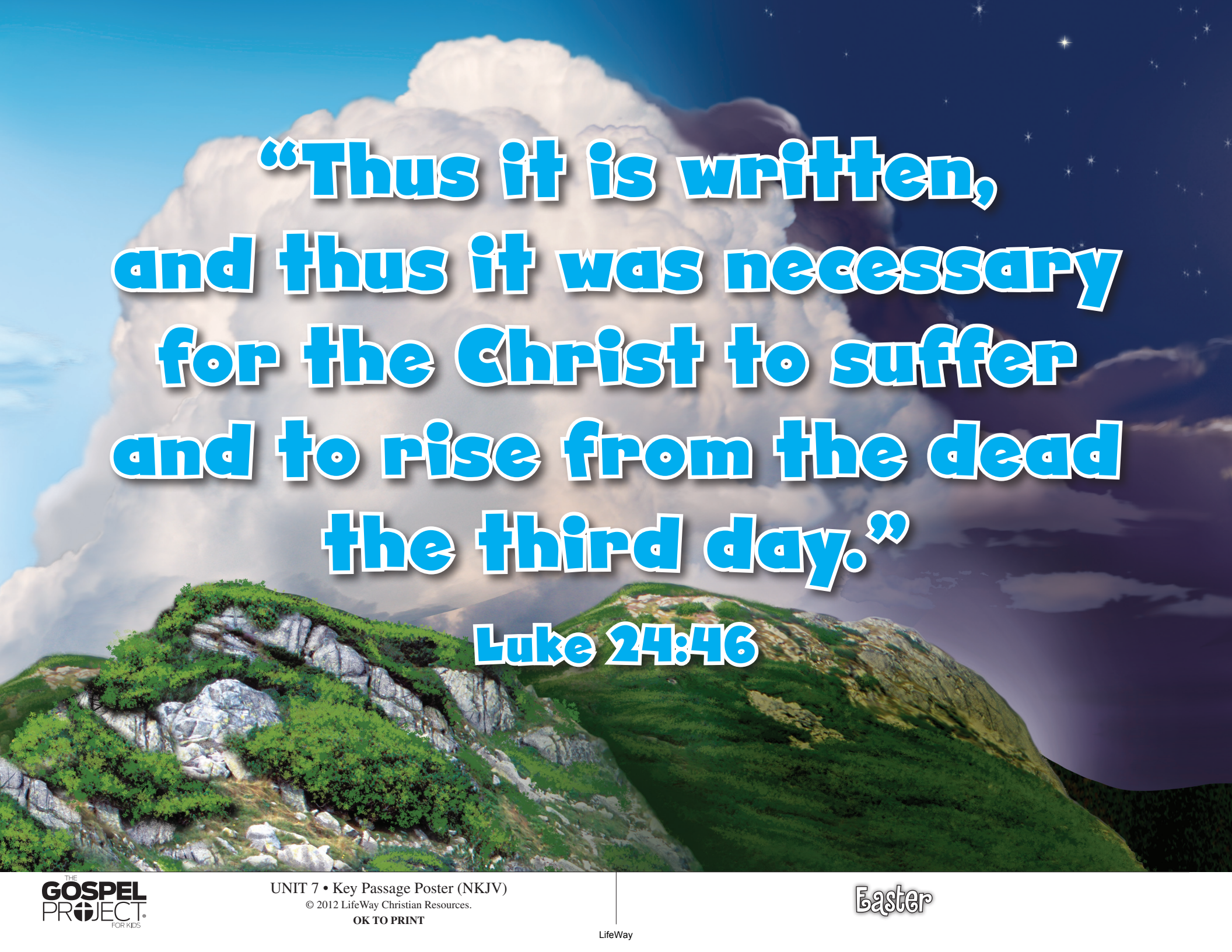
Print the big picture question and answer on paper flowers, or print them on blank address labels and stick them onto the flowers. After sanitizing hands, kids may place a flower and a few jelly beans inside a ziplock bag.

Boys and girls can make and take as many as they want. Ask them to share a message about Jesus by giving the treats to friends, neighbors, family members, or people at church. Emphasize that doing missions includes telling people what Jesus did for them.

Play a feelings game

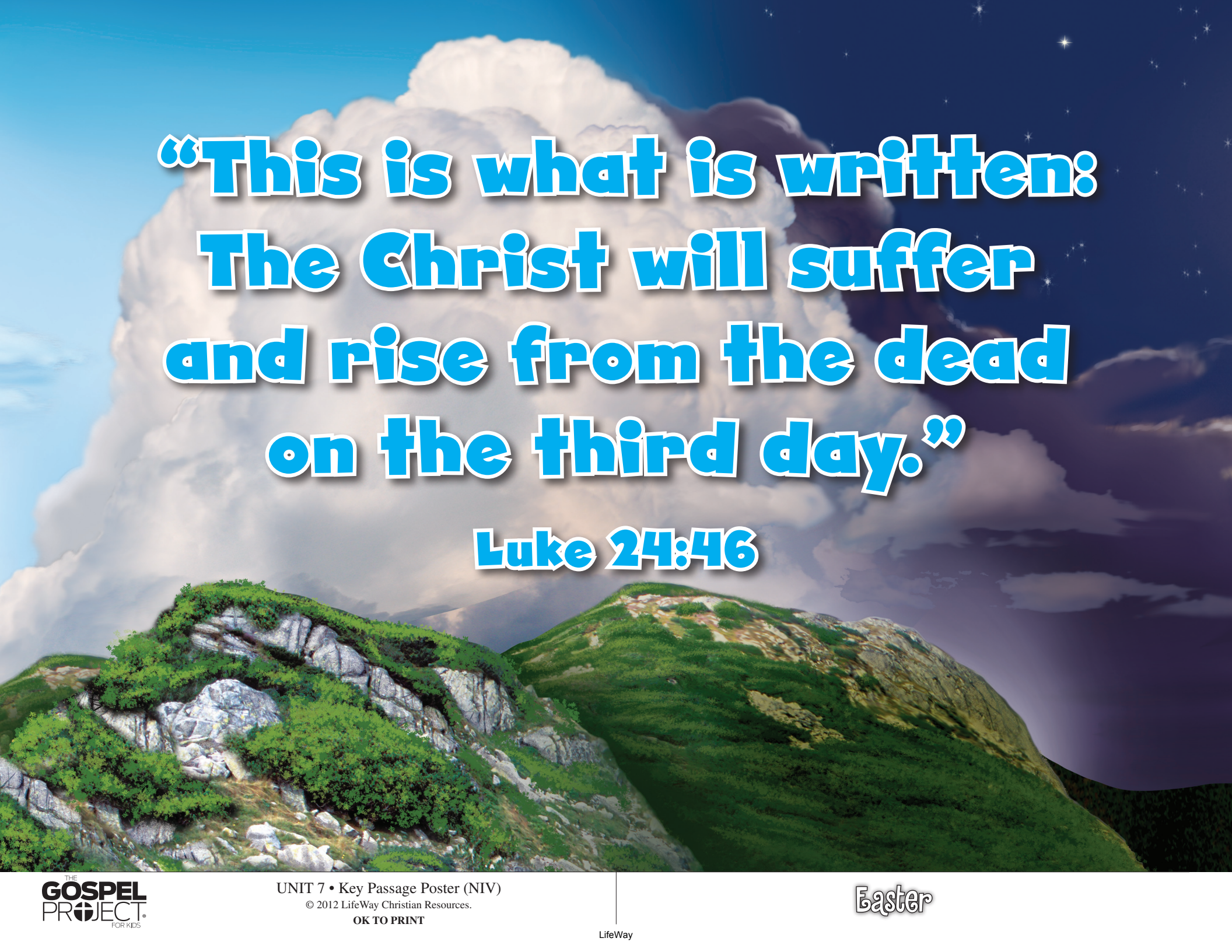
In today’s story, people felt many different emotions. Call out an emotion and ask kids to show what that feeling looks like. Kids can make faces or express the emotion through movement. Use feelings like happy, sad, angry, silly, worried, scared, loving, stressed, tired, and surprised. Gradually, begin to name emotions faster. Periodically say, “Jesus is alive! How does that make you feel?”

- Follow church security rules for dismissing preschoolers.



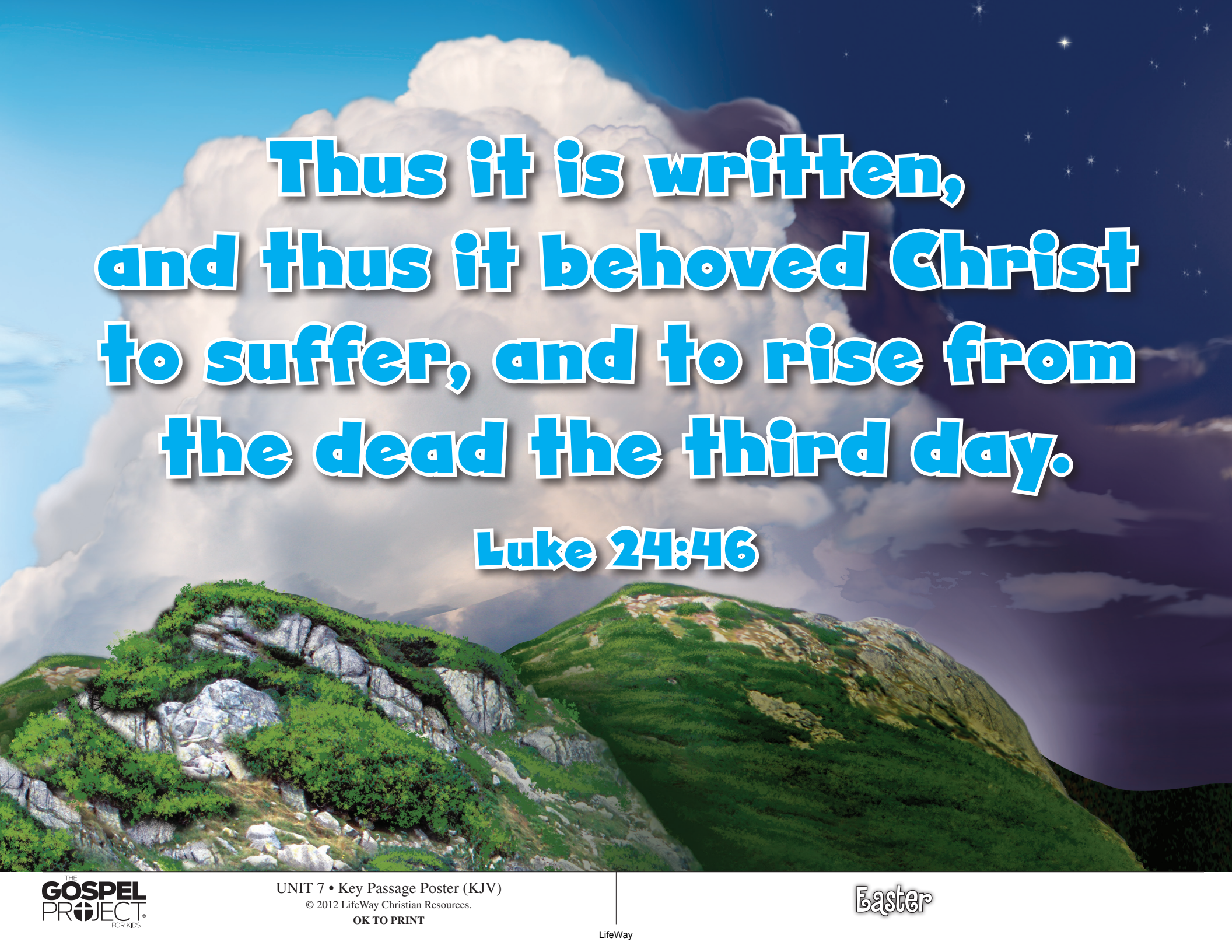
**“Thus it is written,
and thus it was necessary
for the Christ to suffer
and to rise from the dead
the third day.”**

Luke 24:46



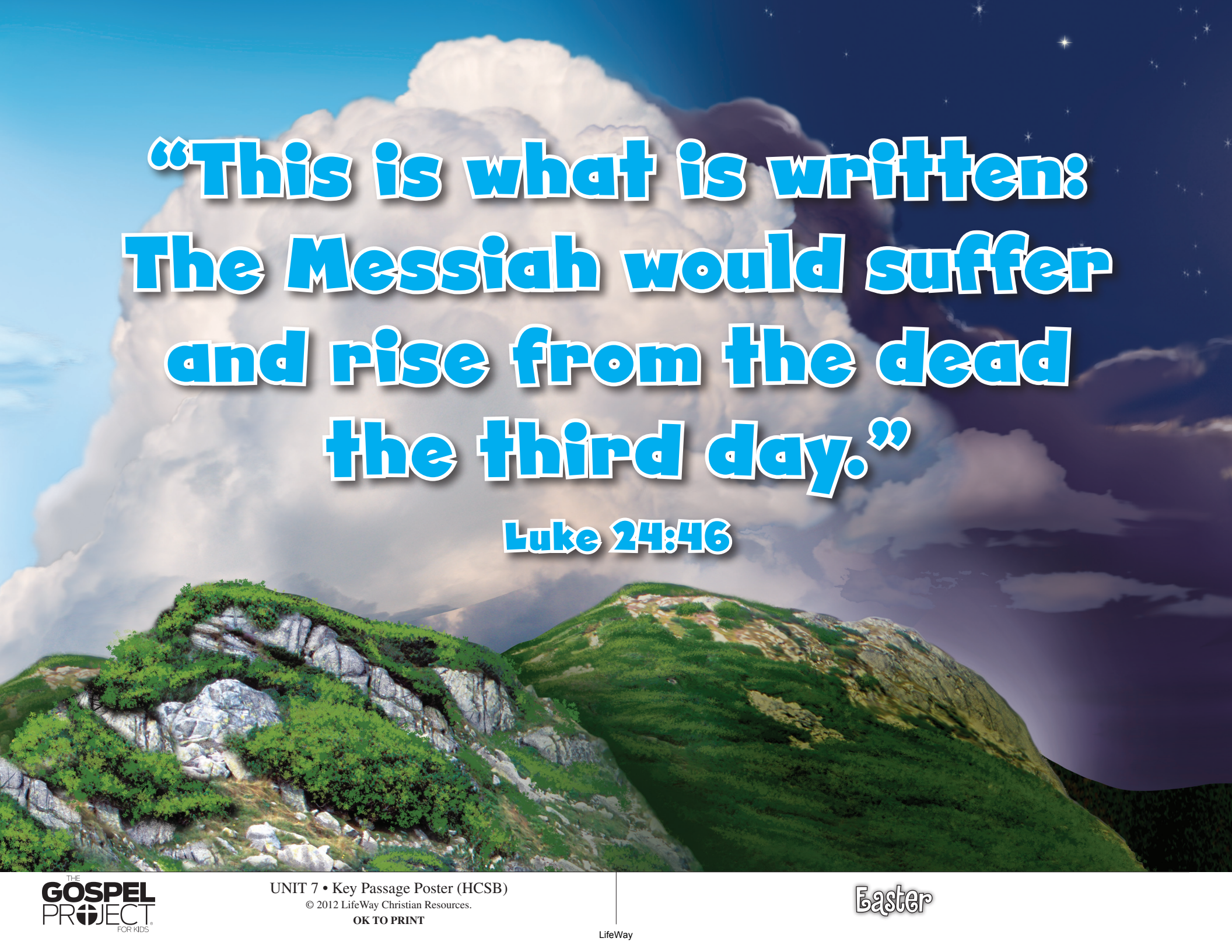
**“This is what is written:
The Christ will suffer
and rise from the dead
on the third day.”**

Luke 24:46



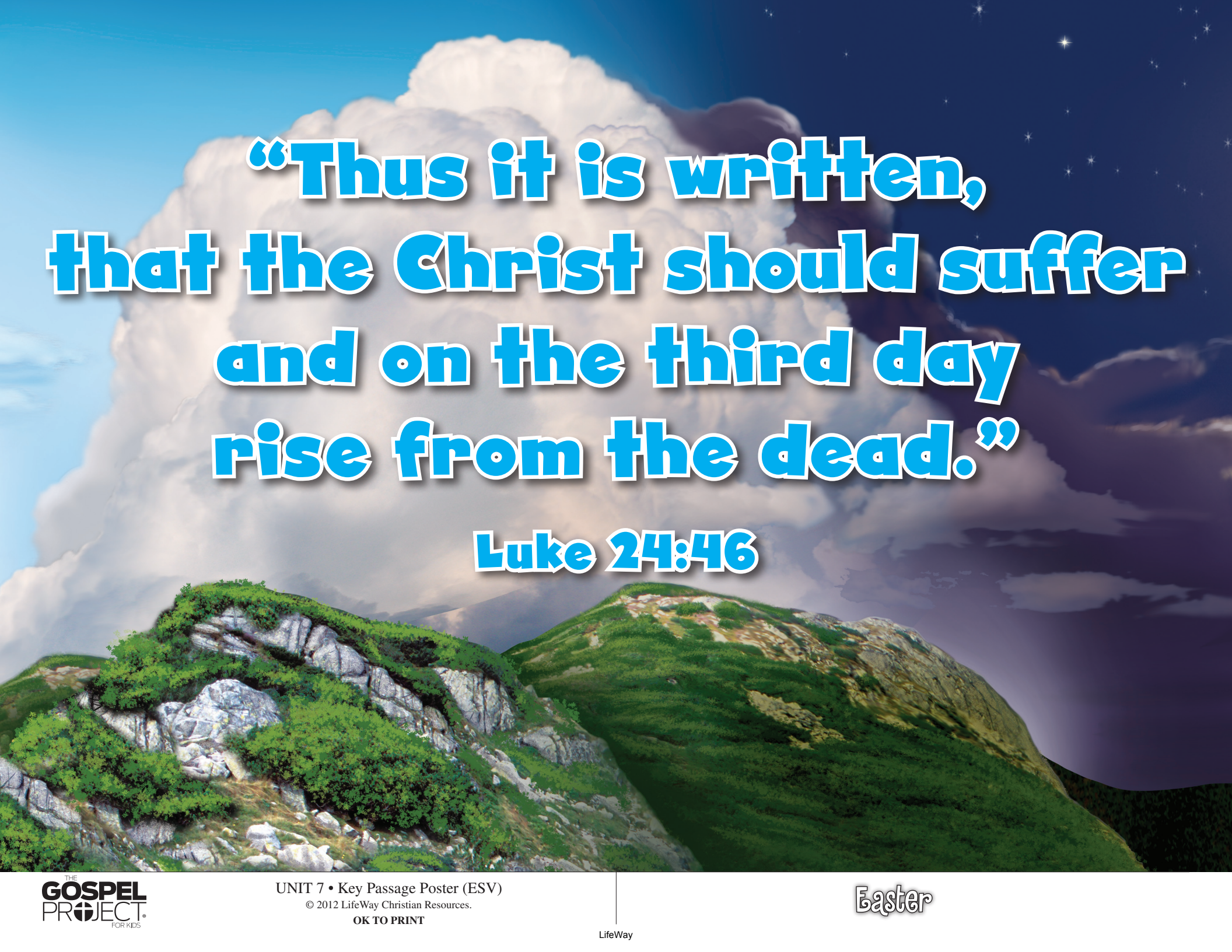
**Thus it is written,
and thus it behoved Christ
to suffer, and to rise from
the dead the third day.**

Luke 24:46



**“This is what is written:
The Messiah would suffer
and rise from the dead
the third day.”**

Luke 24:46



**“Thus it is written,
that the Christ should suffer
and on the third day
rise from the dead.”**

Luke 24:46

What did Jesus do for sinners?

Jesus died on the
cross and is alive.

“King of Kings” Motions **Instructions:** Use American Sign Language Signs, or sign and step to the music. See signs demonstrated online.

Words:

Sophie Conty and Naomi Batya

Music:

Ancient Hebrew Folk Song

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of peace, glory, hallelujah!

Sing using American Sign Language signs. With young preschoolers, use the “king” sign for king, lord, and prince. Include signs for these words:

“King of kings” (king *hand sign*) “and Lord of lords” (king *or* lord *hand sign*)

“Glory” (glory *hand sign*) “hallelujah” (hallelujah *hand sign*)

“Jesus” (Jesus *hand sign*) “Prince of peace” (hand sign for king *or* prince)

King • Using the *K* hand shape (*little finger and ring finger folded down; tip of thumb between index finger and middle finger*), right hand crosses body from chest to waist, suggesting where a royal sash is worn.

Lord • King sign using *L* hand shape (*index finger and thumb make an L; other fingers folded down*)

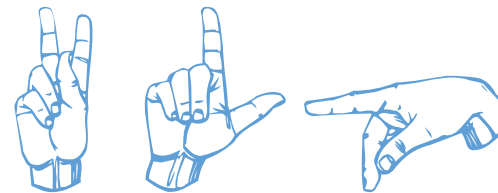
Glory • Left hand is in front of the body, palm up; right hand claps down on left hand and moves up in an arc with fingers wiggling to indicate that something is shining.

Hallelujah • Both fists, thumbs up, are thrown upwards and waved in celebration.

Jesus • Touch the center of one palm with the middle finger of the other hand; repeat with the opposite palm and middle finger. (*nail prints*)

Prince • King sign with *P* hand shape (*index finger points out*)

Peace • Palms together with fingers of each hand touching heel of opposite hand; twist to normal position and spread apart, palms down



K

L

P

Or

sing using these
steps or others that you
choose:

“King of kings” (*step right*) and “Lord of lords” (*step right*) “glory” (*hand sign*)
“hallelujah!” (*hand sign*) “King of kings” (*step left*) and “Lord of lords” (*step left*) “glory” (*hand sign*)
“hallelujah!” (*hand sign*)

“Jesus” (*hand sign*) “Prince of peace” (*prince or king hand sign*) “glory” (*hand sign*) “hallelujah!” (*hand sign*)

“Jesus” (*hand sign*) “Prince of peace” (*prince or king hand sign*) “glory” (*hand sign*)
“hallelujah!” (*hand sign*)

