
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 BIBLE STUDY 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.

Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

Snack and Transition

(20 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.

Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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- Prepare: Play the song "King of Kings" in the background.
- Supply an offering basket.
- Post an allergy alert about "Resurrection Rolls."
- Set out a few favorite toys.



- "Jesus Is Alive" activity page, 1 per kid
- crayons or pencils

Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)

Today's Bible story is a hard story that ends with a wonderful miracle—all in God's plan from before the foundation of the earth!

Activity Page: Jesus Is Alive!

Ask boys and girls to circle five living things in the picture and draw squares around five things that are not living.

Talk about the differences between living and non-living things. Non-living things could have been made from living things or could never have been living. In today's Bible story, Jesus was alive, and then He died, but then He was alive again!

Say • How do you know that something is alive? What about the things you circled in the picture? (*Living things must do all of the following: feed; move; breathe/respire; excrete waste; grow; react to changes around them, such as heat, cold, light, dark, sound; reproduce.*)

Talk about any characteristics that kids may mention.

Say • What about things like sand or gold? (*They are non-living, and nothing about them was ever alive.*)

What about paper or jelly? (*These are non-living things made of something that once was alive—paper from trees; jelly from fruit.*)

Invite kids to identify living and non-living things around the room.

- a few toys, possibly ones that represent living and non-living things

Play “Find and Sort”

Choose a few toys or blocks to hide for kids to find. If you wish to continue the “alive/not alive” conversation, you might choose to hide play animals and vehicles. After kids find the toys, sort them into alive and not alive sets.

Say • Mary wondered, “Where is Jesus?” She was happy when she found Him alive.

- “King of Kings” song

Transition to Bible study

Assemble the kids before moving to Bible study. Play the song “King of Kings” as you move.

Large Group BIBLE STUDY

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Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

- shoe box with lid

Introduce the Bible story

Show kids a shoe box and ask what they think is in it. Most people expect to find shoes in a shoe box. Ask what a tomb is and what people would expect to find there. (A tomb is where a person who has died is buried.)

Say • The Bible story today is about a very sad time for people who loved Jesus. Jesus died. He was buried in a tomb. It was a cave cut into a rock. The women who went to the tomb thought Jesus' body would be in the tomb.

- "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection" video

Watch or tell the Bible story

Say • Watch (or listen) for what happened to Jesus.

- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

Talk about the Bible story

Walk through the scenes of these days. Move to a different location in your room for each change of scene. Show the Bible story picture.

1. Gethsemane—Jesus prayed to God while His friends slept.
2. Still in Gethsemane—Judas and a crowd came to arrest Jesus.

3. Before the high priest—Accusers did not believe Jesus is God’s Son.
4. Before Pilate, the Roman governor—Pilate gave the crowd a choice. They chose to release Barabbas and kill Jesus. They dressed Him like a king to make fun of Him.
5. Site of the crucifixion—Darkness covered the land, and Jesus died.
6. At the tomb—Jesus was buried, a stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and soldiers guarded it.
7. At the tomb—Two friends named Mary went to the tomb. An angel came down in an earthquake, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The soldiers fainted.
8. At the tomb—The angel said not to be afraid. Jesus had been raised from the dead. Jesus met them and said to tell His friends where to meet Him.

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

- Key Passage Poster
- “The Third Day” song

Sing the key passage song

Listen to “The Third Day.” Talk about the fact that details of today’s Bible story were written many, many years before it happened. Jesus said that He was the Messiah. People did not want to believe Him, but He *is* the Messiah, and He died and rose from the dead just as the Scriptures had said.

Play “The Third Day” again and try singing along.

Tip: Do activities one of these ways:

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

Transition to small groups

Describe the small group activities you have set up.

Say • Jesus rose on the third day. Let’s count steps and hop as we go to the activities: one, two, three, hop! (*Step, step, step, hop!*)

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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- large box, smaller boxes, or a sheet

Small Group Activities (20–25 minutes)

Look into the tomb

Make a tomb with large boxes, a sheet over the chairs, or a large box with a door cut into it. Check to see that the kids understand what a tomb is. Preschoolers may take turns running to the box, looking inside, and saying, “The tomb is empty!”

Say • Why was the tomb empty? (*Jesus had died and was buried, but He was raised from the dead and is alive.*)

- heavyweight paper
- crayons
- blank address labels (optional)
- masking tape
- watercolors or thin tempera paint
- painting smocks

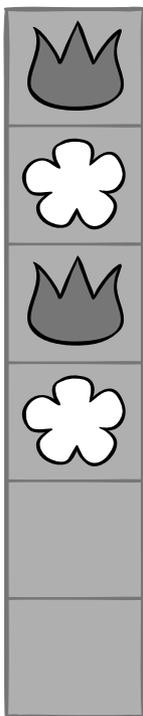
Paint Easter postcards

Precut heavyweight paper to postcard size. Print *Jesus is alive!* in the center of the card or on blank address labels to stick onto the card. Older preschoolers may prefer to copy it onto the card by themselves. Encourage each kid to print his name on the bottom of the card. Cover the words with masking tape. Kids may use watercolors to paint flowers or a garden scene around the words. Remove the masking tape when the paint is dry. Turn the card over and print the name of the person for whom the postcard was made.

Say • *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus died on the cross and is alive.* Jesus said to tell this good news.

- 3-inch-wide strip of paper, marked off into squares
- markers or crayons
- glue
- supplies for making flowerlike patterns such as cupcake liners; seed packets; flower stickers; markers; foam flower shapes; die-cut or artificial flowers

Flower Pattern



Make flower patterns

Cut a long strip of paper and divide it into squares.

Preschoolers may use this sheet to create a pattern. They may make patterns with different kinds or colors of flowers, different colors of cupcake liners (“blossoms”), flower seed packets, colored stickers for leaves, foam or die-cut flower shapes, leaves from artificial flowers, or colored flowers that they draw.

A young preschooler might create an alternating pattern such as red flower / yellow flower / red flower / yellow flower. A more advanced pattern might be blue flower / pink flower / pink flower / blue flower / pink flower / pink flower.

Say • When Jesus talked to God before He died on the cross, He was praying in a peaceful garden with olive trees and flowers.

- brown paper sacks
- construction paper, various colors
- yarn
- markers or crayons
- glue sticks
- child-size scissors
- Bible

Create soldier costumes and guard the tomb

Make a soldier costume for each kid. Cut holes in a brown paper sack for arms and head. Kids may cut slits along the bottom of the sack to make large fringe. They can cut buttons, medals, and stripes to glue onto their uniforms. Tie yarn for sashes.

Read Matthew 28:1-6 and let the “soldiers” pretend to experience an earthquake—stand up, sway, and then fall down. Add in the angel and the two Marys if you want to play through the entire scene. Conclude by saying together softly and then gradually louder, “He is alive!”

Say • Soldiers guarded the tomb where Jesus was buried.

- half sheets of paper
- binder rings, 1 per kid
- hole punch
- crayons or markers

Make a prayer journal

Encourage kids to make a prayer journal. Provide half sheets of paper and a binder ring. Ask kids to draw pictures on each sheet of paper of people for whom they would like to pray. Punch a hole in the corner and slide each page onto a binder ring.

Say • Jesus went to the garden to pray, and we can pray and talk to God, too.

- canned crescent rolls
- large marshmallows
- butter
- cinnamon
- sugar
- oven
- parchment paper (optional)
- marker (optional)

Bake resurrection rolls

Give each child a canned crescent roll and a large marshmallow. Dip the marshmallow in melted butter and sprinkle it with cinnamon and sugar. Carefully wrap the roll around the marshmallow to seal it inside. Bake it in a preheated 350° oven for 10–12 minutes. The marshmallow will melt, leaving a hole. When rolls cool, kids can break the rolls open and see that they are empty. Like the tomb, the crescent roll is empty!

If you bake on parchment paper, label each kid’s roll on the paper. Practice making these at home!

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- countdown video (optional)
 - Allergy Alert
 - snack food
 - paper cups and napkins

Snack and Transition (20 minutes)

If your snack includes allergens, display the allergy alert for parents to see as kids arrive. If you made resurrection rolls, you might want to eat them at snack time.

Play the countdown video and challenge kids to help clean up everything before the countdown reaches zero. Take a bathroom break, wash hands or use hand sanitizer, and serve the snack.

Thank God for the snack.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons

Transition

When a child finishes her snack and throws away her trash, she may select a book or puzzle, color the Bible story coloring page, or work quietly at another activity you provide. If she chooses to write or draw on the journal page, suggest that she show what she remembers best about the Bible story.

Easter

Key Passage: Luke 24:46

Session 1: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

Session 2: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

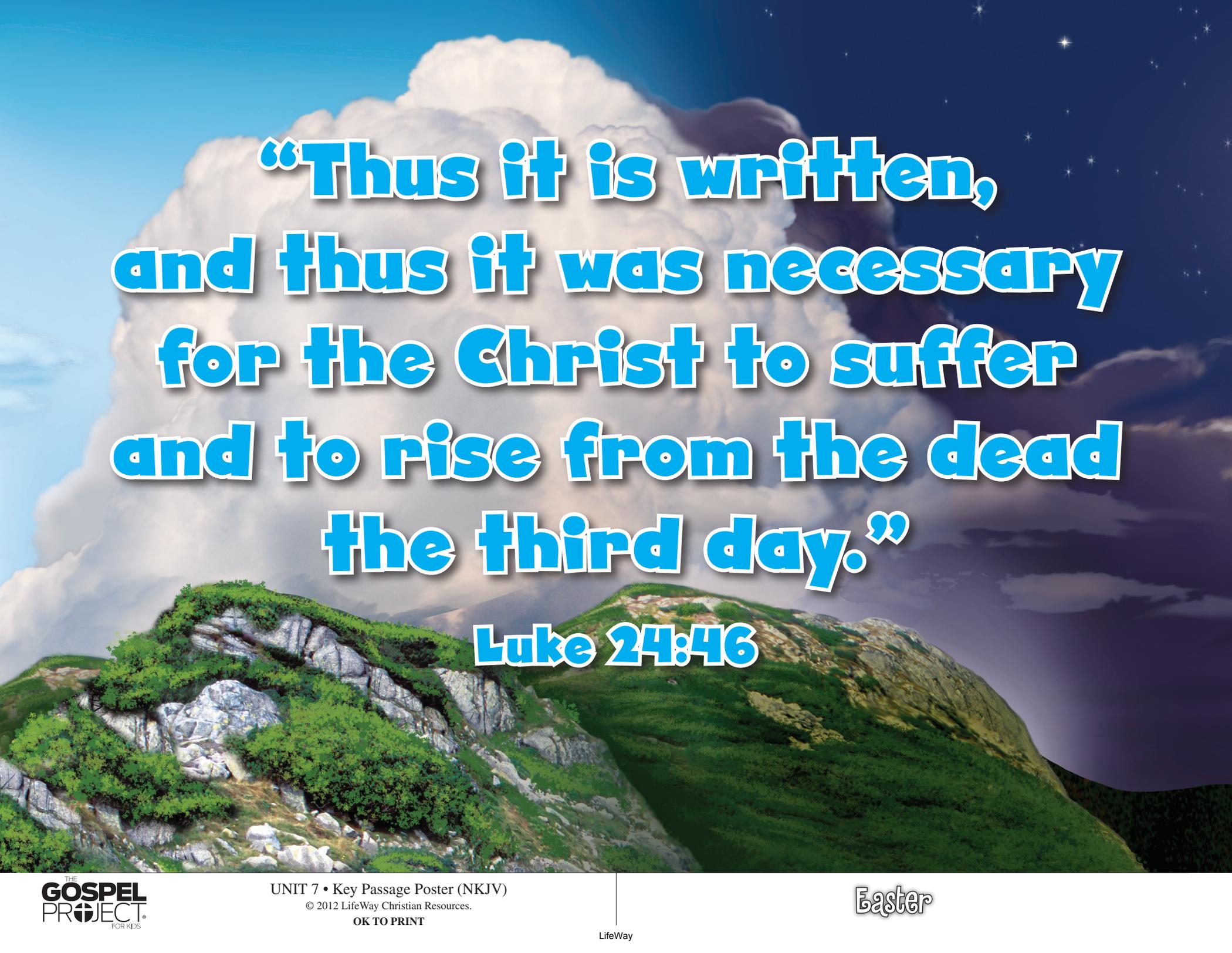
Matthew 26:36-28:10

Session 3: Jesus Appeared to Many

People

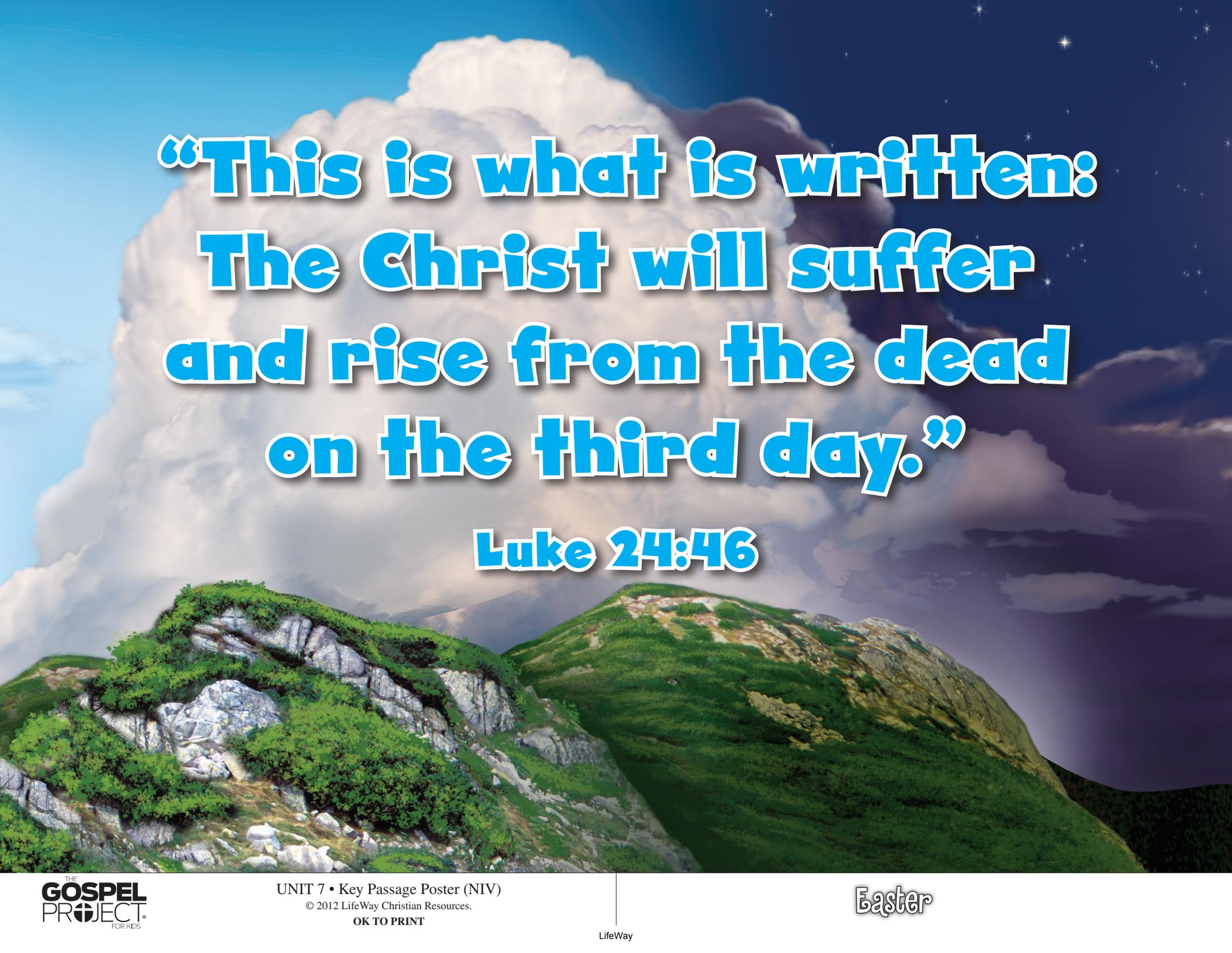
*Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29;
Acts 1:3,9-11*





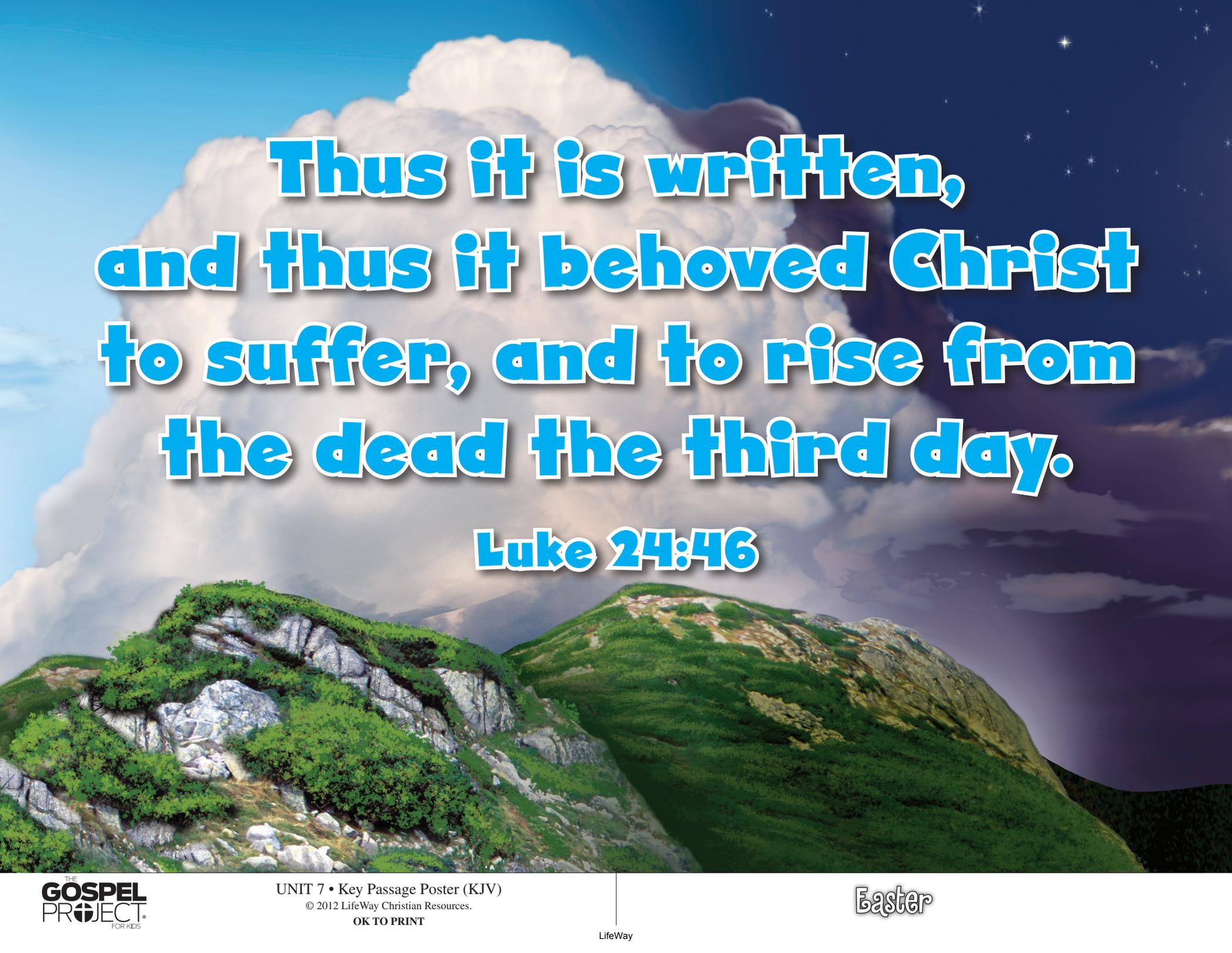
**“Thus it is written,
and thus it was necessary
for the Christ to suffer
and to rise from the dead
the third day.”**

Luke 24:46



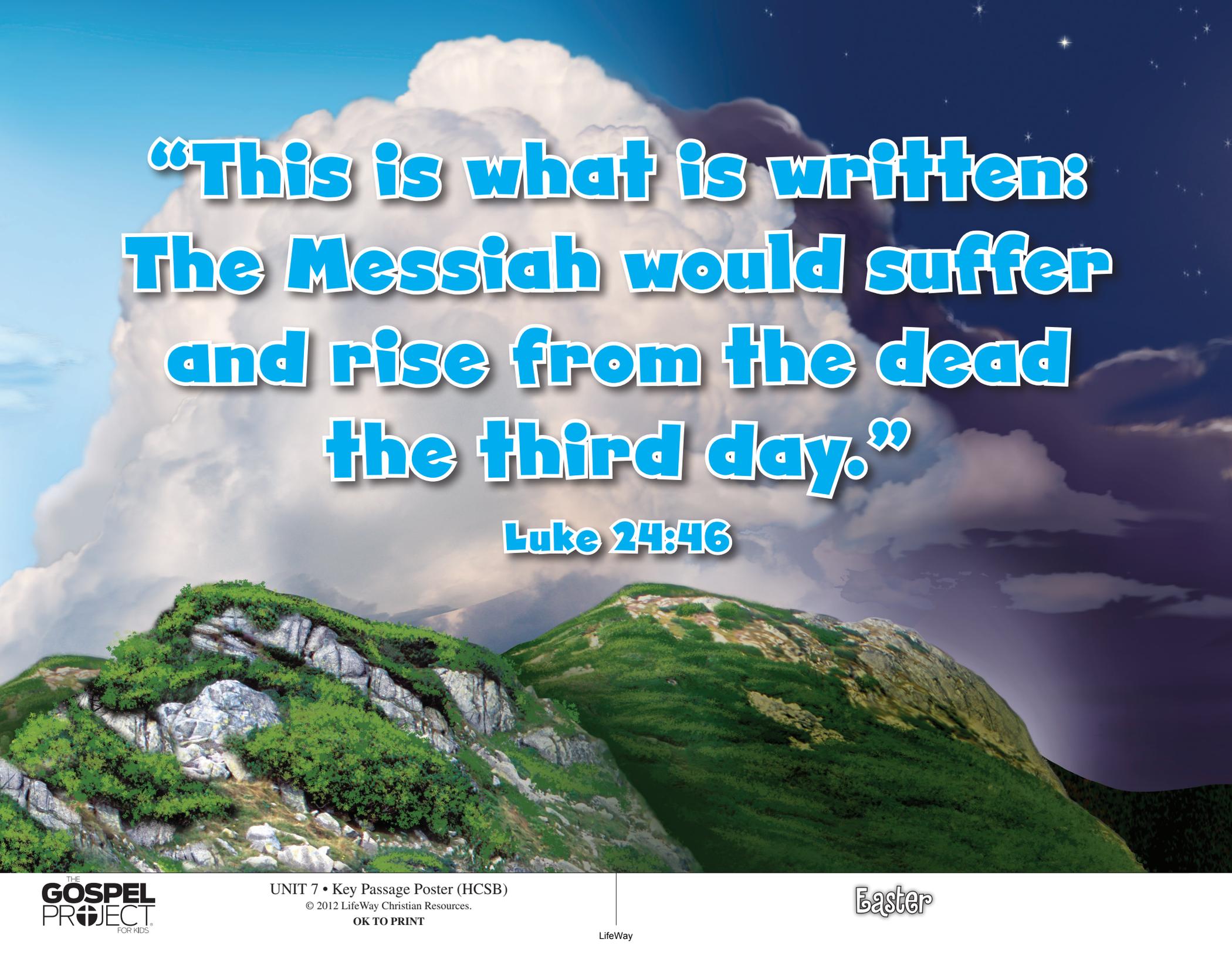
**“This is what is written:
The Christ will suffer
and rise from the dead
on the third day.”**

Luke 24:46



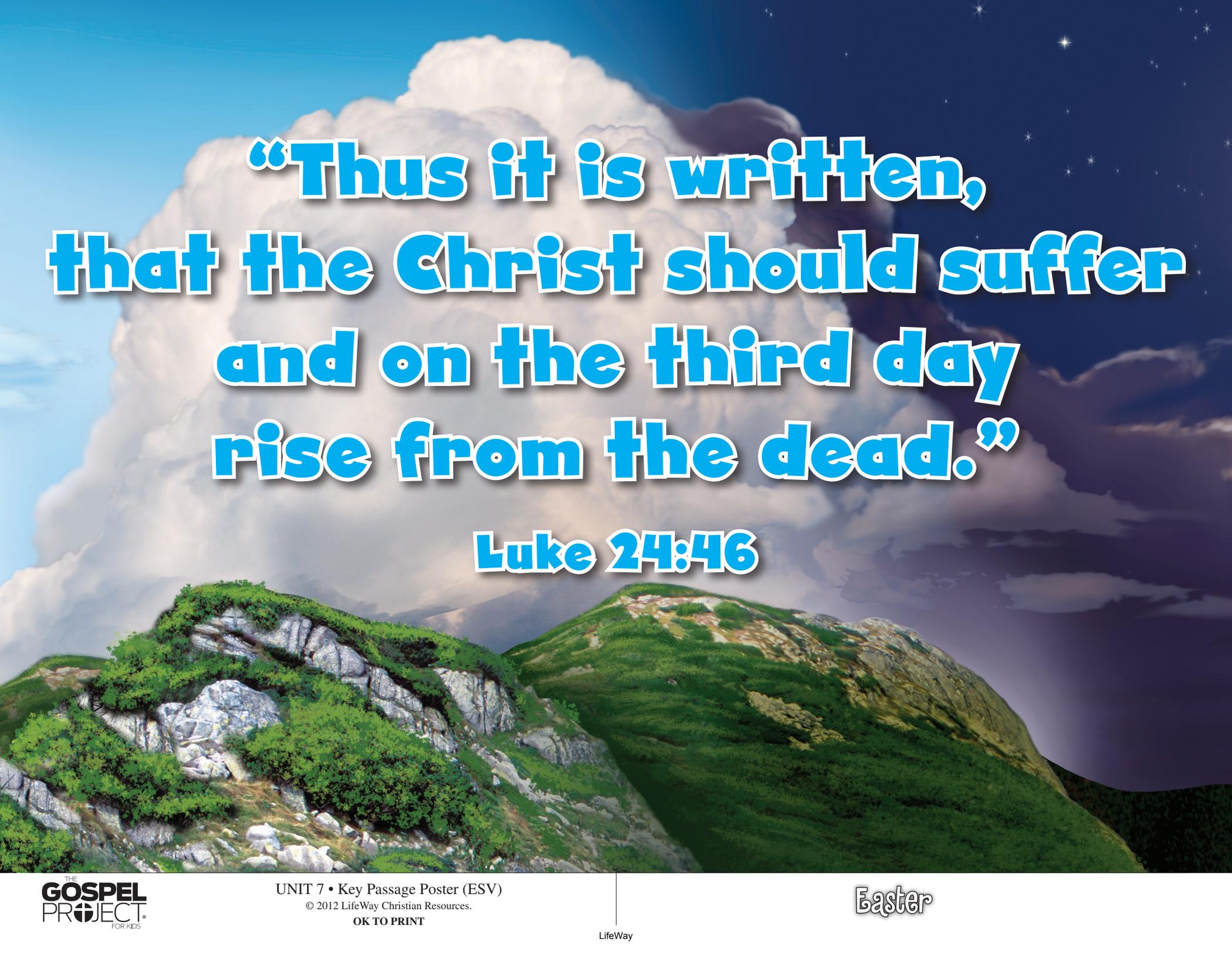
**Thus it is written,
and thus it behoved Christ
to suffer, and to rise from
the dead the third day.**

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.

Jesus Is Alive! Instructions: Circle five things in this picture that are living things. Draw squares around five things that are not living things.



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

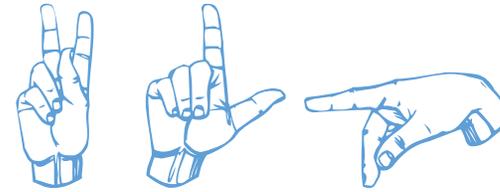
Words:

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!**



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*)

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*)

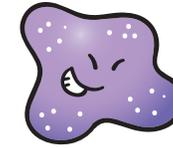
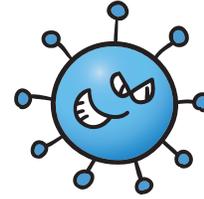
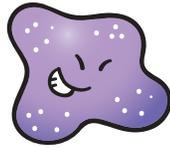
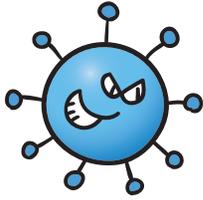
Glory • Left hand is in front of the body, palm up; right hand claps down on left hand and moves up in an arc with fingers wiggling to indicate that something is shining.

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



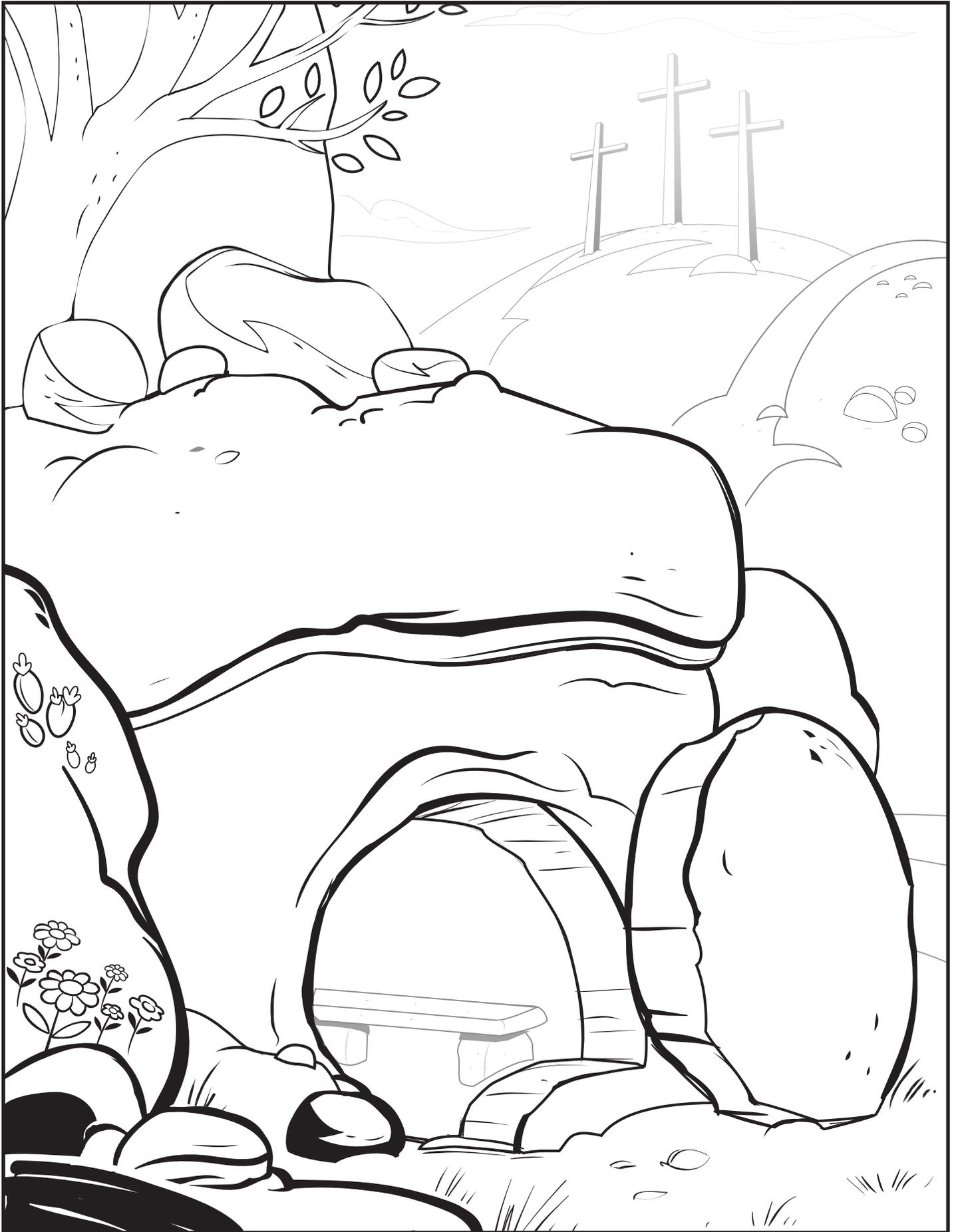
Today your child will be
tasting/touching/sniffing

Please notify a teacher
 if your child should not
 participate in this activity.



Instructions: Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.





Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36-28:10

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