

**SERIES: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE**  
**LESSON 8—HE IS RISEN!**

**Bible Reference:** John 20:1-21

**Key Verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4—For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

Signs that say: *Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Peter, John, Angel, Guard, Guard*

-Psalm 23 Posters

-Marker Board for Easter “Hangman” (without the Hangman!)

-Items for the “Stained Glass” Cross Craft—wax paper, cross pattern, the cross frame pattern, tissue paper, and glue.

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**PRAYER PART—“You anoint my head with oil.”**

*Choose three volunteers to hold the Psalm 23 signs.*

*Ask your students to read Psalm 23 with you. If you want, show them again an easy way to find Psalm 23.*

**PSALM 23**

SAY: Look at verse 5 where the Bible says, “**You anoint my head with oil.**”—As the sheep entered the sheepfold, the shepherd would feel across them for any scratches or wounds that they might have sustained during the day. If a sheep had a scrape, he would pour oil on it to help heal it.

**ASK: Can you name a person in the Bible that God healed?**

SAY: When Jesus was on the cross, some of the people said, “He saved others but He can’t save Himself.” At any moment Jesus could have healed Himself and taken away all of His own pain but His suffering and death was the payment for our sins. Like a good shepherd would lay down his life for his sheep, Jesus laid down His life for us.

**ASK: Can you name other times in the Bible when someone was “anointed with oil”?**

SAY: King David, who wrote this chapter, was proclaimed as the future king of Israel when the prophet Samuel anointed his head with oil. God had a purpose for David and God has a purpose for you too. Jesus died and rose again because God has great plans for your life.

SAY: Close your eyes. I’m going to ask a few questions but I don’t want anyone to answer them aloud—just think about them. Then I’ll pray.

-What is God’s purpose for your life?

-Why do you think God created you?

-How does it make you feel that God has special plans just for you.

-How does it make you feel that Jesus died just for you and rose again because He loves you that much?

SAY: God’s plan is for you to commit your life to Him and walk with Him every day. Let’s pray...

**Prayer**—Pray and thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior to die, be buried and rise again the third day. Thank Him for His love and how He takes care of us.

**OPENING ACTIVITY** (Optional)—Easter “Hangman” (without the Hangman!)

Use a marker board to play a game of Hangman with your students but instead of using a Hangman, every time your students guess a letter that is not used, you will draw a part of a picture of the tomb with the stone and two stick-figure guards.

The phrase the kids are trying to guess is: **Jesus is Alive**

The first letter missed = A large circle representing the stone. (Put this in the middle)

The second letter missed = A small circle on the right of the Stone for a guard’s head.

The third letter missed = The guard’s stick-figure body

The fourth letter missed = The guard’s stick figure arms

The fifth letter missed = The guard’s stick figure legs. (This guard is complete.)

The sixth letter missed = A small circle on the left of the Stone for a guard’s head.

The seventh letter missed = The guard’s stick figure body

The eighth letter missed = The guard’s stick figure arms

The ninth letter missed = The guard’s stick figure legs

If your students guess the phrase before the game is over, finish the drawing and ask them what the picture represents.

SAY: This is where we left off last week in our story—Jesus had died but we all know that Jesus didn’t stay dead. This is a picture of the tomb—There’s the stone with two Roman guards standing watch. Today we get to see what happened next.

### **BIBLE LESSON**

*(Based on Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8)*

ASK: Who remembers what happened in our Bible stories the past few weeks?

Take a few moments to review the previous lessons with an emphasis on last week’s Bible Story as Jesus was condemned to die and beaten and taken to the cross.

*Choose three volunteers—Give them the signs that say, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome.*

SAY: Jesus died on a Friday afternoon. Since Saturday was the Sabbath and the Passover holiday, these ladies waited until Sunday morning to bring spices to Jesus’ tomb. After a person died, people would use the spices to anoint their bodies. It was a way of honoring them and saying good-bye.

ASK: **What do you think is going to happen?** (Ask and see if your students can tell you the resurrection story.)

**Read Matthew 28:1-10.** Tell your students to especially listen for Peter’s name. (NOTE: They won’t hear it here but we want them thinking about it.)

*Choose three volunteers—Give one the “Angel” sign and the other two the “Guard” signs. Then use your students to briefly retell the story. When you are finished, give your volunteers a hand let them have a seat.*

**ASK: In all of that did you hear them say anything about Peter?**

SAY: The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is told at the end of each of the Gospels. We just read what Jesus' disciple Matthew recorded. Mark wasn't one of the disciples but later in life history tells us that he traveled with Peter. In the Gospel of Mark we find a very interesting statement. When the angel told them to go tell the disciples, he specifically said to go tell his disciples "and Peter."

**ASK: Why do you think Peter's name was added like this?**

**ASK: What did Peter do the last time we saw him?** (He denied Jesus.)

**ASK: How do you think Peter felt when He heard that the Lord has specifically called for him?**

SAY: The Lord made a point to include Peter even though He had made a terrible mistake. Then in John's Gospel, we learn a little more. Listen to what happened when the ladies arrived where the disciples were...

**Read John 20:1-10**

SAY: Peter and John (in his John's Gospel, John never mentions his own name but refers to himself like "the other disciple" or the disciple "whom Jesus loved,") run out to the tomb and find it empty. At this point they are very confused and don't understand what is going on. The stone is rolled away. Some of them have seen an angel. Some of them believe that someone moved His body. Mary Magdalene who first came to the tomb and ran back to the disciples, apparently has now come back to the tomb.

**ASK: How do you think she felt? How do you think Peter and John felt?**

SAY: This is how Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had once healed, felt.

**Read John 20:11-18.**

SAY: Jesus was alive! Not all of them believed this at first but it was true and is the greatest truth of all. Jesus died and rose again for you and for me. And just like Peter who had denied Jesus, we too get a second chance. The Lord knows you by name as well and has great plans for your life too.

PRAY and thank Jesus for dying in our place and coming back to life. Also give thanks that God gives all of us a second chance.

## KEY VERSE

SAY: In today's story we see how Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. Jesus defeated sin and death and is Lord of all.

## VERSE CHALLENGE

SAY: I'm going to read several verses to you but I'm going to leave out some words that I want you to try to guess. Tell me what you think is missing.

*Read the following parts of 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 and help your students guess the missing words which are in parenthesis below. If you want, you can write this on a marker board altogether or one verse at a time.*

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that \_\_\_\_\_ (Christ) \_\_\_\_\_ (died) for our \_\_\_\_\_ (sins) according to the Scriptures, that he was \_\_\_\_\_ (buried), that he was \_\_\_\_\_ (raised) on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to \_\_\_\_\_ (Cephas [that's Peter]), then to the \_\_\_\_\_ (twelve).”

SAY: Because of what had happened, Jesus appeared to Peter before He appeared to the other disciples. They needed to have a personal conversation. The Bible doesn't tell us what happened in that conversation but there is another story that tells us about a conversation between them after Jesus' resurrection during the forty days He walked on the earth after He died.

SAY: Maybe today there are things in your life that you know you've done that are wrong. Jesus died and rose again to set you free from sin so that you can be JUST LIKE JESUS. Maybe today you need to have a one-on-one conversation with the Lord about some bad things you've been doing that you don't need to do anymore.

Control Tool: Leader: *How should you be?* / Students: *Just Like Jesus!*

## Dismiss to Small Groups

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time. *Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **OPTION #1—“Stained Glass” Crosses**

Discuss what the cross represents today. What does it mean to your students? Where do you see crosses? In Jesus’ day a cross represented death—A cross was how they killed criminals. Remind your students that Jesus took our death and the punishment for our sins and defeated both sin and death as He rose again. Talk with them about what this means to them? Then encourage them to take the craft home, to hang it in their window as a constant reminder of how Jesus rose again.

Directions:

- Give each of your students a cross pattern to use in cutting out a wax paper cross.
  
- Lead them in gluing pieces of colored tissue paper all over this wax paper cross.
  
- Once they are finished, they can cut out a frame for their cross (using the pattern provided) to glue on top of the “stained glass” to look like a frame.

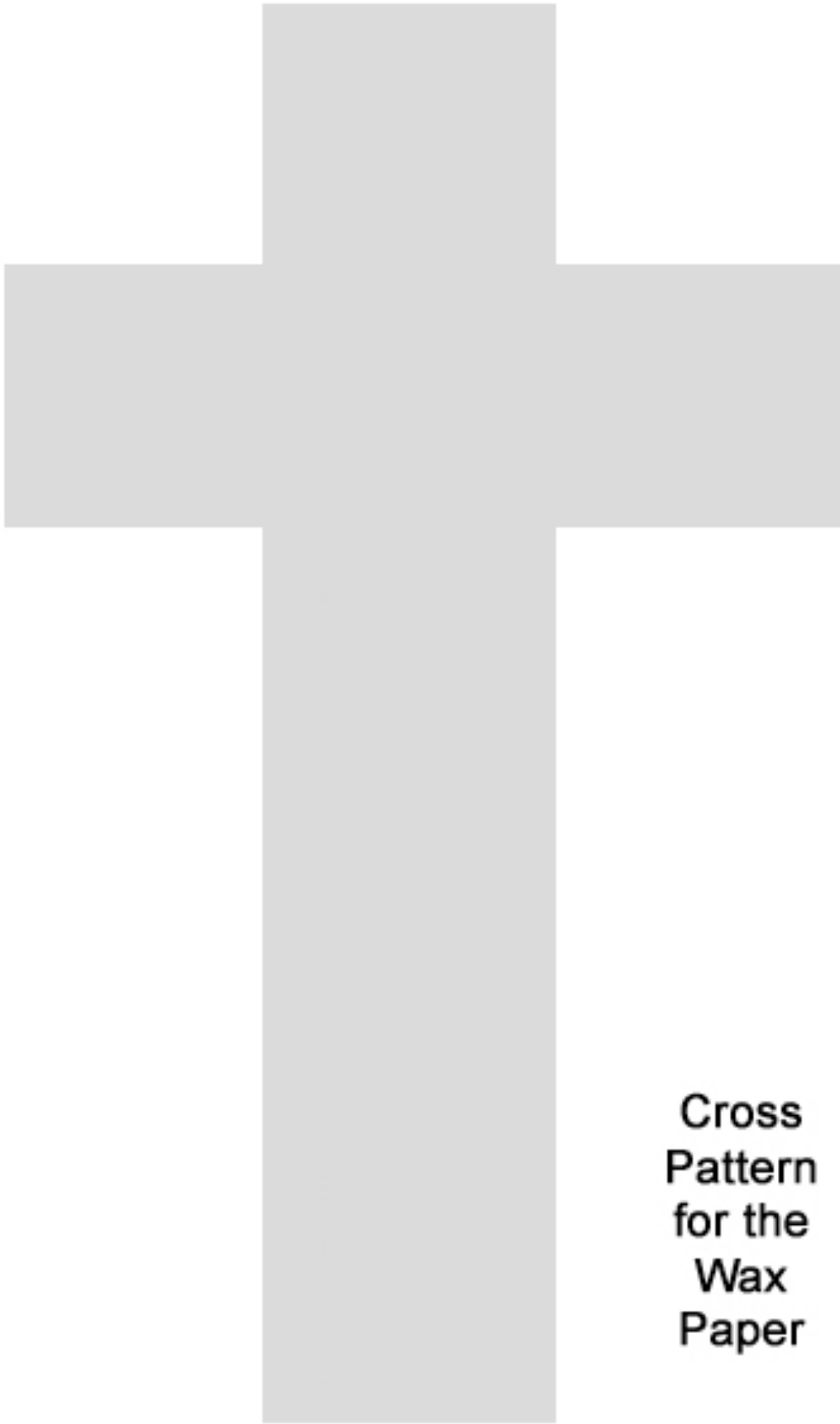
### **OPTION #2—Small Group Discussion**

#### **PSALM 23—part 8**

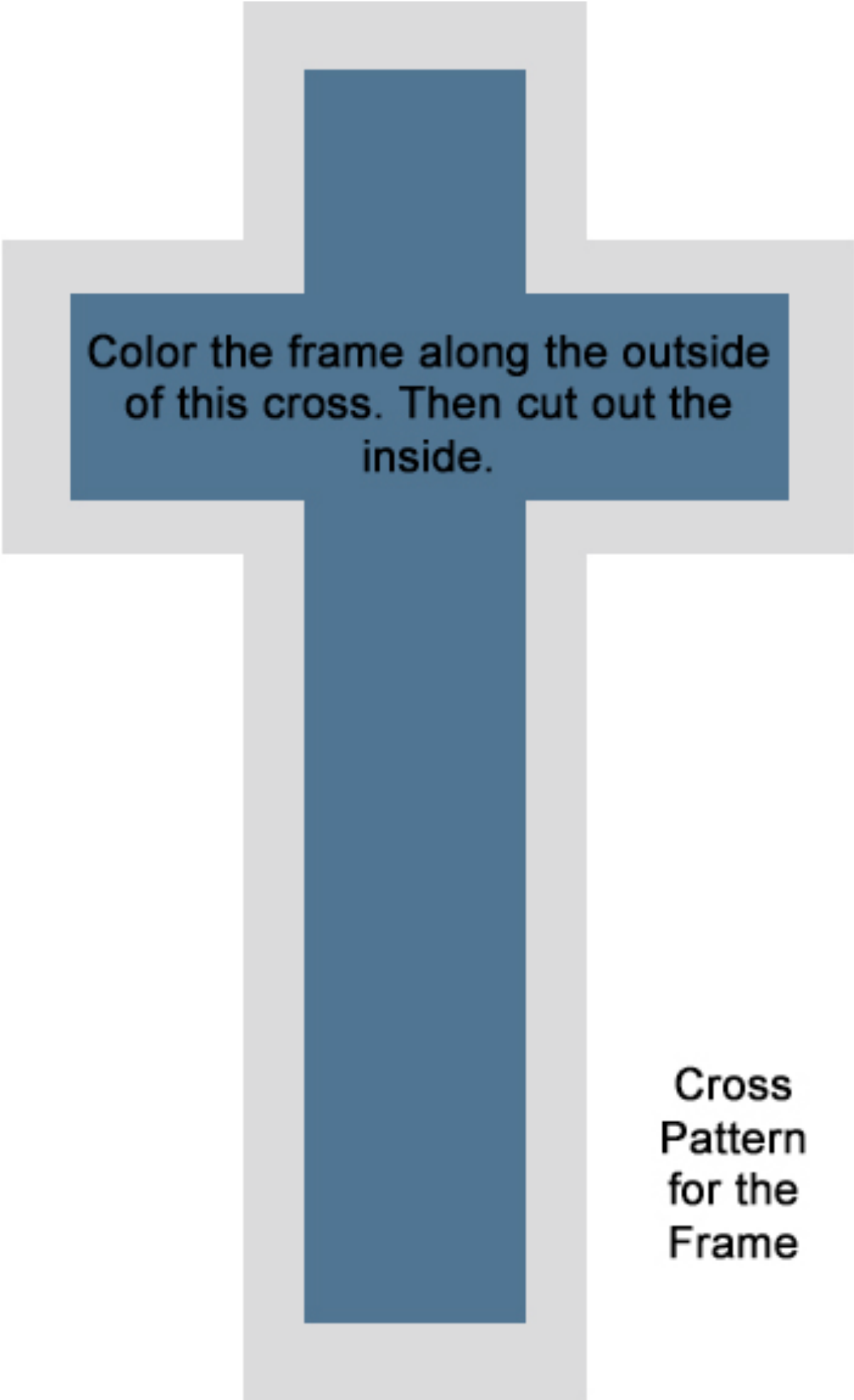
**My cup runs over.** —It’s more than the cup can hold and so are God’s blessings for us. They are more than we know and more than we can ever contain. What are ways God has blessed you? What are some things for which you can praise the Lord? What are some things for which you are thankful?

**Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** —This is true of all those who follow God. What does it mean to follow God? What does a follower of God “look” like? What does he do? What does he not do? What does it cost a person to follow God? What are the rewards for following God?

**Prayer**—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.



**Cross  
Pattern  
for the  
Wax  
Paper**



Color the frame along the outside  
of this cross. Then cut out the  
inside.

Cross  
Pattern  
for the  
Frame