

# big faith

## SESSION 8

### Unit 2: Seeds of Faith

**Faith Focus:** Jesus helps us grow in our faith.

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)*

## GROW IN FAITH

### Grow Through Love—John 20:1-18

Although the story of the Resurrection is very familiar, the story is always surprising and maybe even a little confusing. None of the Gospels actually describe the Resurrection itself, and even Mary Magdalene does not recognize Jesus in John's account. She encounters Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. Only when Jesus speaks Mary's name does she finally realize.

Jesus' resurrection will always remain a part of the mystery of our faith. But our faith is a Resurrection faith—one that does not rely on evidence of how the Resurrection actually occurred. We know that Jesus is alive because of the witness from those who have gone before us and by our own experiences of Jesus' presence in our daily lives. Just like Mary knew the sound of Jesus' familiar voice, we too know the love of Jesus all around us. Easter is a time to grow in our faith as we celebrate God's great, never-ending love. Jesus is alive!

- Play outside and enjoy nature.
- Celebrate love.
- Use wonder and joy to explore the Resurrection.

## SESSION OUTLINE

### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us  
Grow In Our Faith

Easter Bouquet (Craft)

### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

### FUN WITH FAITH

Name and Share (Game)

Tissue Paper Cross (Art)

### SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

## SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

stapler

hole punch

green chenille stems

rubber bands

CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or  
streaming device

permanent markers

cardstock

brightly colored tissue paper  
glue

# COME TOGETHER

## Prepare to Learn

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

**Prepare Ahead:** Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13), Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19), and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the empty tomb sticker on the Session 8 space.

**SAY:** This month we are learning about how Jesus helps us grow in our faith. On Easter Sunday, we retell one of the most amazing stories about Jesus!

**ASK:** How do you celebrate Easter? How does the church celebrate Easter?

## Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us Grow in Our Faith

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, scissors, stapler

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19). Photocopy "Acts of Love Booklet" (Leader Guide—p. 58) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the "Acts of Love Booklet."

**SAY:** Today we will hear an amazing story about how Jesus died and then rose to life again! Jesus' life is a sign of God's love for us. Easter reminds us that love is the most powerful thing in the world!

**ASK:** Who loves you? How do you know?

**SAY:** There are many ways that we remember and honor Jesus, and on Easter Sunday we see lots of them! People might dress up, share a meal, give each other flowers, pray, sing, and celebrate together.

- Give children time and space to color the page.
- Help the children cut the pages apart and staple the pages together to create a booklet.

## Easter Bouquet

**Supplies:** Activity Sheets, scissors, hole punch, green chenille stems, rubber bands

**Prepare Ahead:** Tear out "Easter Bouquet" (Session 8 Activity Sheet) for each child.

**SAY:** One way that people show their love for each other is by giving flowers. Sometimes people give flowers to the church as a way to show God their love by sharing something beautiful with the church.

- Give each child an activity sheet. Help them cut out the flowers.
- Punch a hole in the center of each flower, then thread a chenille stem through the hole of each flower, twisting the stem like a knot to keep it secure.
- Have each child gather their flowers together in a bouquet and secure them with a rubber band.

**ASK:** Who do you want to share flowers with to show your love?

## FAITH CONNECTIONS

### Read the Story

*Supplies: CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus' resurrection (John 20:1-18) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**SAY:** The story of Easter shows us that God's love is amazing! When Jesus rose to life on Easter morning, he continued to share God's love with the world.

**ASK:** How can you share God's love with the world?

### Big Faith Video

*Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 8 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the video?

### Faith Response

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, permanent markers*

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) and Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

**SAY:** God is with us all the time and loves us no matter what happens. God was with Jesus when Jesus was raised to life in the garden on Easter morning. We can have faith that God's love is powerful because we know the story of Easter.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.

**ASK:** How do you think Mary felt when Jesus said her name in the garden? How do you think Jesus felt when he saw his friend Mary?

- As the children share, invite them to use a permanent marker to draw on the poster the emotions that Mary and Jesus may have felt.

*Tip: If you have a large group, you might consider laminating your poster and letting children use a dry-erase marker to respond so that you can use it week to week. You may also choose to let children respond on sticky notes and place those on the poster.*

## FUN WITH FAITH

### Name and Share

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we heard how Jesus knew Mary's name when he saw her in the garden on Easter morning.

**ASK:** How do you think Mary felt when Jesus said her name?

- Gather the children into a circle. Pick one child to go first and say, "I am [child's name] and I want to tell [another child's name] about God's love!"
- The child who was named goes next.
- Repeat until all children around the circle have had a turn and have been named.

**ASK:** How did it feel to hear someone say your name? How did it feel to call another person's name?

### Tissue Paper Cross

**Supplies:** cardstock, brightly colored tissue paper, glue, crayons

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy the cross template (Leader Guide—p. 90) on cardstock for each child. Cut colored tissue paper into small squares, 2–3 inches across.

**SAY:** Easter is a special day when we celebrate God's great love for us. Because we know that Jesus rose again, we can grow in our faith knowing how much God loves us. Let's make a reminder of God's love.

- Give each child a cardstock cross.

- Show the children how to scrunch up the tissue paper and glue it onto the cross. Children may choose to use a different color on the heart, color the heart, or leave the heart white.

**ASK:** How do you know Jesus loves you? How do you know God loves you?

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack*

*Prepare Ahead: Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).*

*Photocopy the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) as needed.*

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

**SAY:** When we tell the story of Easter, we grow in our faith because we remember the power of God’s love. God’s love is the strongest thing ever! God loved Jesus through Jesus’ whole life, and God loves each of us through our whole lives.

**ASK:** How does it feel to know that God loves you? How could you share God’s love with other people?

- Gather the children into a circle. Have them go around the circle and each say, “I am [child’s name] and God loves me!”

**SAY:** We can have faith that God loves us because we know that God loved Jesus. We grow in our faith every time we remember God’s love and share God’s love with others.

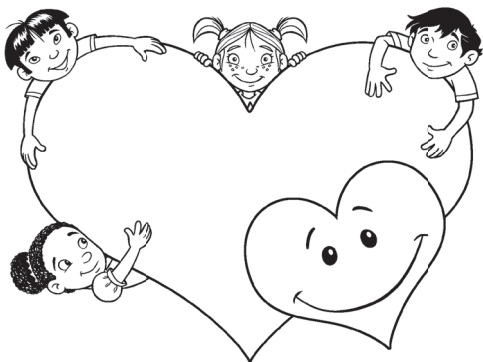
- Invite the children to pray with you.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for loving us all the time. We praise you for raising Jesus to life on Easter. We thank you for showing us how to share love with our world every day. We love you. Amen.

- Send the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who has not yet received them.
- Also send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

Color the pages of the booklet. Then cut out the pages and staple them together on the left side. Share the booklet with someone you love.

## Acts of Love



## Share a toy



## Tell someone you love them



## Give a gift



## Listen when someone speaks



## Plant a flower

