

WEEK 3
LESSON GUIDE

FULL BLOOM

BIG IDEA

Jesus makes all things new.

BIBLE

Jesus is Alive:

Luke 24:1–12; Revelation 22:1–5

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Once you plant a seed, you'll need to provide the right amount of water, sunlight, and air so that it can bloom into something brand new. This week, we'll hear about how Jesus died, came back to life, and made a way for all of us to bloom and grow with God. He came out of the darkness and brought light into the world because **Jesus makes all things new.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Hey, welcome back to *Full Bloom*. Last time, we were in the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus, learning about what he was feeling. But guess what? Today's a super special day in our garden—it's Easter Sunday! Everything looks even more amazing than before—flowers are blooming wider, grass is greener, and all the bugs are having a blast together. It's like a huge party in our garden, but why?

Well, let's find out together why this day is so special. Get ready for an awesome story that's going to make our garden party even more exciting!

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Egg-cellent Egg Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take two plastic tablecloths, one for each team, and cut a hole in the center of each that is large enough for a plastic egg. Set out one basket (preferably without a handle) for each team. Scatter plastic eggs on the ground. Show kids how to place the hole in their tablecloth over the egg and then slide the tablecloth under the egg to pick it up. Have three or four kids from each team pick up an egg using only the tablecloth, then get the egg to their basket. Continue until all eggs are collected, or have the next three to four kids from their team try.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Level up the challenge by cutting the plastic tablecloths in half and cutting three holes in each. Have only two preteens manage one tablecloth piece together, but have more pairs out collecting eggs at a time. Set a time limit to see how many eggs they can collect in that time frame.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Simplify the movements for this activity. The first kid tosses an egg onto the tablecloth (no holes) that two kids are holding. Then the two kids must work together to lower one edge of the cloth so the egg rolls into the basket.
- I love an Easter egg hunt, but I've never seen one like that! It's so fun to know there are still new, creative

ways to play games together. In today's story, we'll get to see something new and creative happen, and it's fun for us all.

ACTIVITY | Caterpillar Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, set up four cones and label them using the [printables](#) provided to indicate the four stages of the butterfly cycle. Spread the cones out in a wide circle and have everyone sit inside the circle. Split the kids into two teams. One member from each team starts at the first stage (egg) and has to complete each of the assigned tasks before returning to the circle and tagging the next player. Those who are finished can sit outside of the circle. The first team to get everyone through the cycle wins.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Put together a slideshow of "old" things that modern technology, aka "new" things, have replaced or updated, like [these](#). Show one "old" thing, then have two players race to find an image of a "new" thing using the web browser on a device that you provide. For example, for a Nintendo 64, they can show you a Nintendo Switch or any newer gaming console.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** To include kids using wheelchairs, create alternate movements they can do. Egg to Caterpillar: Crouch lower in their chair as they roll. Caterpillar to Chrysalis: Roll backward. Chrysalis to Butterfly: Spin twice. Butterfly back to circle: Roll fast, then flap arms as wings.
- There is so much life inside of a garden. It's not just plants blooming and growing, but animals and insects. During spring, caterpillars go through a full transformation, growing from little caterpillars into the flying butterflies we see all around the garden.
- Let's play a game to remember how butterflies go from egg to adult butterflies. Here's how you get from one stage to the next:
 - Egg to Caterpillar: **Hop with your hands over your head.**
 - Caterpillar to Chrysalis: **Crawl on the ground.**
 - Chrysalis to Butterfly: **Spin in a circle as you make your way to the next stage.**
 - Butterfly back to circle: **Flap your "wings" and rush to tag your teammate.**
- Today's Bible story is all about the miraculous way Jesus makes everything new, like how an egg becomes a butterfly.

QUESTION | What's your favorite Easter activity?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the question and have kids take turns sharing their answers.
- **What's your favorite Easter activity?**
- There are so many great Easter activities we get to try out. Whether we love coloring eggs, having an Easter egg hunt with our families, or eating all the treats we can find, there's so much to love about the Easter season.
- But Easter is about so much more than marshmallow Peeps, candy, or colorful eggs. It's about what Jesus did to connect us back to God, as close as the first humans were to God in that garden. What did he do, exactly? Let's find out together.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Luke 24:1–12 (Jesus is Alive)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to sit on the ground on top of picnic (or regular) blankets as you share today's Bible story. You will need the seed from a peach or avocado for today's teaching. Hold up your seed for the kids to see as you start teaching.
- All around the world, there are gardens we can visit. Whether we're looking at the garden in our backyard or

the very first garden, the Garden of Eden, every garden starts off the same ... with a seed.

- Do you ever wonder what it must be like to grow from a seed? This is a really big seed, and there's no light inside of it. It's so dark inside of the seed, but it doesn't stay that way.
- Over time, with the right amount of water, sunlight, and air, the seed begins to open. The shell that once didn't have much going on will eventually begin to sprout, and something brand new will begin to grow from the seed.
- That's like what happens in today's story. Out of the darkness, God did something brand new for the world, changing everything.
- **Let's read Luke 24:1–8.**
 - After Jesus was arrested in the garden, he went through unimaginable pain. Then he was put on a cross and left to die. After he died, his body was placed inside a tomb, and a stone closed off the entrance. His friends and family mourned his death, but God knew something they didn't know. Jesus wouldn't stay in the tomb forever.
 - Three days later, some of the women who had followed Jesus visited his tomb and brought spices used for the dead. They were surprised by what they saw. The stone in front of the tomb was gone. When they walked into the tomb, they saw Jesus wasn't there either.
- **What might you have thought if you were one of the women?**
 - As they looked around, they saw these two men in really bright clothing, like having a flashlight shine into your eyes. These men told them that Jesus wasn't in the tomb, of course, because he was alive.
 - So, they did what any of us would do when something incredible happens ... they went and told their friends.
- **Let's read Luke 24:9–12.**
 - Their friends couldn't believe what the women were saying. After all, they had seen Jesus die. So, they went to see for themselves, and it was just like the women said. Jesus was indeed alive.
 - Jesus conquered death and came back to life! Like a plant from a seed, he came out of the darkness to bring new life into the world. This is why we celebrate Easter. Jesus died, and because he did, our separation from God due to sin could be fixed.
- But Jesus didn't remain dead. He came back to life and showed that God is more powerful than even death and that powerful God loves us and wants to know us. Our life with God can now be in *full bloom*, thanks to Jesus!

BIG IDEA | Jesus makes all things new.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut out the flowers in the [printable](#) provided. Gently fold the edges of each flower toward the center. Take a large bowl filled with water and place each flower into the bowl. As they absorb water, the flowers will slowly begin to unfold and "bloom." Pass the bowl around for kids to see. Consider creating more than one bowl for large groups. Hang the Big Idea flowers to dry using clothespins on a line. Check out [this tutorial](#) to see how this works.*
- It's time for us to help our third Big Idea bloom! Let's take a look at what it says.
- Let's say it together: **Jesus makes all things new.**

VIDEO | A Clip About The "Resurrection Plant"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show a clip [like this one](#) where a Rose of Jericho plant blooms from dry to colorful. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#) Or, if it works for your group, plant a Rose of Jericho during Week 2 and check on how it's blooming this week.*
- **Has anyone ever heard of a resurrection plant?**

- A resurrection plant is a special plant, sometimes called the Rose of Jericho, and there's something really cool about it. All plants need water, light, and oxygen to bloom and grow big and tall. If a plant runs out of water, it will typically dry up, wilt, or die.
- The resurrection plant doesn't do this, though. If it runs out of water, it will curl into a little ball for days, weeks, or even longer. Then, when it finally gets some more water, it can fully bloom and start to grow. Even when it looks like all hope is lost for our plant, there's still so much life inside of it. Out of something dried up, new life can grow!
- That's why they call it a resurrection plant. Something that was once dead is alive again. That's what Jesus did. He was dead but came back so we could have a new life with God!
- **Jesus makes all things new.**

OBJECT LESSON | Resurrection Garden

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can build a resurrection garden ([like this](#)) as you talk to kids or provide materials for each kid or pair of kids to follow along with you. You will need a terracotta saucer or small plate, a mini pot or cup, dirt, a rock, a cross made of two small sticks held together with tape or string, and artificial grass, grass seeds, and flowers.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *You may want to provide kids with some images that help tell the story of Jesus to others. Check out the coloring pages or Bible story illustrations provided in your resource folder to put together a booklet kids can carry around to help them remember and share their stories!*
- Let's build a resurrection garden to help us remember what happened in today's Bible story—and why Easter is such an important day for us!
 - **Fill the saucer with dirt.** Jesus, the savior of the world, came to earth and walked among humans.
 - **Stick the cross in the dirt.** Jesus was crucified—he was put on the cross. He was arrested and died even though he was innocent.
 - **Lay the pot down sideways.** After his death, he was buried in the tomb. Three days later, some of his friends went to visit his tomb.
 - **Place the rock next to the pot.** The big rock keeping Jesus' tomb closed wasn't where it should have been ... it was rolled away. Because Jesus is alive!
 - **Add the grass and flowers all around the resurrection garden.** Jesus made it possible for new things to grow. More specifically, he made a way for us to grow closer to God. Because of what Jesus did, we can have closeness with God in the Garden of Eden!
- A garden is where things are supposed to grow. Look at this resurrection garden and think about the ways you'd like to grow with God. We know it's possible because **Jesus makes all things new.**

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 22:1–5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or paraphrase this Scripture for kids.*
- **Did you notice that the Bible starts and ends with a garden?** There's a garden at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis—the Garden of Eden—and then, here in the last book called Revelation, there's another garden.
- Doesn't this garden sound amazing? There's a flowing river, trees full of fruit, and so much beauty to take in. Best of all, this garden is where God lives. In this new garden, we get to spend time with God forever. This is the garden Jesus wants to take us to.
- When Jesus came into the world, he wanted to help us get back into this garden where we could spend time with God. Everything Jesus did was to help make a way for us to have brand new lives with God. In this garden, there's no pain or hurt. There isn't any darkness because God lights up the garden. How cool is that?
- All of it is because Jesus came to the world to do something brand new. **Jesus makes all things new.**

VIDEO | *Full Bloom*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Garden Time With God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this time to have kids calm down and think about what they learned today. You can do this as a large group or sort kids into small groups with a leader in each group. You may choose to use an oil diffuser with fragrances like lavender, lemon, or orange during this time.
- Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Imagine you are in a garden, and the sun is just rising. The morning dewdrops can be seen on the plants, and you have to squint a little as the sunlight comes through the cracks in between the trees.
- **Name some sounds you hear.**
- As you think about being in this garden, turn your thoughts to God. God created everything in the garden and helped it to grow ... including us. Let's talk about some ways we can grow today.
 - **Can you think of some things in this world that you feel are broken? How might Jesus make those things new?**
 - **What do you think your life would look like without Jesus?**
 - **Do you want to have the new life Jesus gives? What can you do to be closer to God?**
- Gardens never stop growing. When a plant has everything it needs, it will grow for years and years. That's why some trees and plants can end up as big as a house!
- There are always ways for us to keep growing close to God. We can learn more about who God is or try new ways to spend time with God. If we make a mistake, we don't need to worry. Jesus gives us a chance to start over.
- Jesus is how we grow in full bloom with God. **Jesus makes all things new.**

RESPONSE | Stone Affirmations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This response requires rocks and permanent markers or paint pens. On one side of the rock, have kids write "old me." On the other side, have them write "new me" and decorate that side with bright colors.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Some preteens may have stepped into a new life with Jesus today or this month, and that's amazing! Think of how you can come alongside them, knowing that they are constantly trying to fit in with their peers rather than stand out in any way. Talk to kids about how choosing Jesus requires courage, but it doesn't necessarily have to be an isolating experience away from their friends. What can they do to share what a new life with Jesus looks like with their social circles?
- **Jesus makes all things new.** He doesn't just change one part of our lives, but he can change all of it! When we hand our lives over to Jesus, he helps us live differently.
- Remembering what Jesus has done can be hard, but these stone affirmations can help. Holding them in your hand can remind you that God is growing the new you. You can show kindness to others. You can use your gifts to help others. You can live and love like Jesus did.
- God rolled away the stone to show us **Jesus makes all things new.** Whenever we need a reminder of the good things God is doing, we can roll our stones over to see the "new me" God is growing!

MEMORY VERSE | 2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank you for what you've done for us. You rose from the grave and made a way for everyone to have a relationship with God. Because of you, we can have a new life. You make all things new, including us! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **What did they find when they arrived at the tomb?** *The stone was rolled away, and Jesus was missing.*
- **Why was the tomb empty?** *Because Jesus rose again!*
- **What did the women do after this experience?** *They ran to the disciples to tell them what happened.*
- **Read Revelation 22:3–5. What are some things this passage says will be changed because of what God has done?** *There will be a new garden and healing. There will be no more night. People will get to live with God.*

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **When are some times we need something new? What are some things Jesus might make new?**
- **Who can you share the story of Jesus with this week?**
- **How can you show others what a new life with Jesus looks like?**

ACTIVITY | Spread The News!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need coffee filters, paper plates, pipe cleaners, markers, a hair dryer or fan, and spray bottles filled with water. Place each filter on a paper plate. Have kids color circles around the edges and inside the coffee filters using markers. Then, lightly spray the coffee filters with the water. You only need to spray a small amount of water to get the colors to spread around the filter. Place the filters under the hair dryer or fan to dry quickly. Follow [this tutorial](#) to turn their art into a butterfly or [this tutorial](#) to make flowers. (Or maybe one of each!)*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens make a rubber band-powered butterfly like [this](#) instead.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Have kids make a paper plate butterfly like [this](#) instead. Precut the paper plates, then set out the supplies for them to decorate their butterfly with.*
- When we let Jesus into our lives, he gives us new life. This new life spreads through our whole bodies and then out into the world. When Jesus makes us new, he's giving us a chance to help others know Jesus can make them new, too!
- Spread the news that **Jesus makes all things new.** Jesus is alive!