

**WEEK 4**  
**LESSON GUIDE**

**FULL BLOOM**

**BIG IDEA**

Jesus connects  
us to God.

**BIBLE**

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples:**  
John 20:19–31

**ABOUT THIS WEEK**

Inside a garden, all of the flowers, plants, bugs, and animals are connected together in a special way. This week, we'll hear about how Jesus showed his scars to his disciples and taught them about how the Holy Spirit would keep them connected. We can have a whole new life that's close to God because

**Jesus connects us to God.**

**WELCOME TIME**

**ACTIVITY | Springtime Sequence**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids learn the motions below for a fun and quick "Follow the Leader" game. Do the motions with the kids, slowly at first, then see if kids can keep up the faster you go. Feel free to switch up the order for an added challenge.
- **What are some things we see in springtime? I can think of three things:**
  - Worms like to come out and wiggle around, especially after a rainy day. **Let's put our arms by our side and wiggle our bodies like a worm!**
  - Flowers bloom in the spring and show off their beautiful petals. **Let's open our hands and spread our fingers around our faces like flowers!**
  - Adorable hummingbirds flit around super fast. **Let's jump and flap our hands by our shoulders as fast as we can!**
- In a garden, everything is connected together—every plant, flower, bird, and insect.
  - For example, when worms dig around in the ground, they help make the soil a good place for flowers to grow.
  - Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds.
  - Hummingbirds help more flowers to grow by spreading seeds. They also eat the worms to survive.
- See? Everything's connected? Today's Bible story is about how Jesus connects all of us in a very special way.

**ACTIVITY | Connect The Dots**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you may choose to lay out a long piece of butcher paper or go outside and use sidewalk chalk. Draw circles using dot markers (or chalk) all throughout the designated canvas. Allow kids to use washable markers (or chalk) to connect as many dots as they want. They don't have to form one long line, but kids should connect any two dots they'd like, however close or far apart they are.
- Great job connecting all those dots! In order for anything to be connected to each other, something has to

be the connector in the middle.

- In this activity, two dots were connected by a line. In today's Bible story, we'll find out who Jesus connects all of us to.

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:19–31)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. To match the theme, set up a mini garden of real or artificial potted plants in your teaching area.
- Imagine you are in a garden. There are a bunch of different plants and flowers growing side by side.
  - **Let's name some of the things you might see growing in the garden.**
  - All these plants, flowers, and trees look and smell different from each other, but they are growing in the same garden. They are connected because they grow in the same place.
- In today's Bible story, we find out that Jesus is the one who helps us all grow and be connected to God.
  - After Jesus died, his friends, the disciples, were scared. They thought bad things could happen to them, too. So they hid away in a room and locked the door.
  - But Jesus came back to life! He came through the locked door to show them they no longer needed to be afraid.
  - They were probably even more scared at first, but Jesus talked with them and helped them understand it was him.
- Then, Jesus told them about this great gift God would give to them—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit from God would always be with them to help them stay connected to God, even when Jesus wasn't around.
  - But not all the disciples heard this great news. Thomas wasn't there to see Jesus after he came back to life. He wanted to see with his own eyes that Jesus was really alive.
  - So Jesus visited his friends again, and this time, Thomas was there. Jesus said they believed he was alive because they saw and felt him. One day, people would believe even though they couldn't see for themselves.
- Jesus was talking about us! Even though we weren't there when Jesus rose again, we believe and know that Jesus is alive. Because of Jesus, God's Spirit is always with us, and we can always be connected to God.

### BIG IDEA | Jesus connects us to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For the Big Idea reveal each week, write each word of the Big Idea on flower cutouts (*like these* or make your own out of colored paper). Hide these words, along with a few blank flowers, in a bin filled with dirt, sand, or uncooked beans and topped with plastic flowers and bugs. Give kids plastic shovels to dig through the "soil" to uncover the flowers. Once they find a flower that has a word, have them bring it to you to read. Once all the words are found, practice the Big Idea together using the hand motions below.
- Let's see what Big Idea we dug up today!
  - **Jesus** (Right pointer finger on left palm to left pointer finger on right palm.)
  - **connects us** (Connect both hands like they are giving each other a handshake.)
  - **to God.** (Point up.)

### VIDEO | Full Bloom, Episode 4

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

**ACTIVITY | Knock Knock!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare a large cardboard or foam board to represent a door. Prop up the board at the front, and have all the kids bury their faces in their arms and close their eyes. Invite one kid to come to the front and hide behind the "door." Then have the kid say, "Knock knock!" Everyone else has to say the name of the kid hiding behind the door. "Swing" the door open (or just drop it) to reveal who it is. Have everyone cover their eyes and pick a new kid to hide behind the door. Continue until everyone has had a turn.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of a game, read some lift-the-flap books (like [this one](#)) with toddlers. Talk about how the flaps open and close, just like the door where the disciples were. Tell them that Jesus didn't even need to open the door to come inside.
- Jesus didn't even need to knock—he came straight into the room the disciples were hiding in. He showed up so they could know he was alive, and he loved them. Then he came back so that Thomas could see him, too. Jesus made sure nobody was left out and everyone could hear the good news.
- The good news is that Jesus is alive! Jesus died and rose again to save us from the sin that separates us from God. **Jesus connects us to God.**

**PRAYER**

- Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for loving us and giving us Jesus so we can be connected to you. Amen.

**SHARING TIME****SNACK | Cereal Bracelets**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each of your preschoolers a small Dixie cup filled with o-shaped cereal like Froot Loops or Cheerios. Pass out pipe cleaners that they can string their cereal on. Help them twist the ends together to form a [bracelet](#). You can have them bite the cereal off their bracelet or give them a separate cup of cereal that they can eat.
- **What is connecting all the cereal together?**
- Just like this pipe cleaner keeps all the cereal on the bracelet, **Jesus connects us to God.**

**ACTIVITY | Circle Time**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids seated in a circle. Prepare a bucket with artificial flowers for each kid (you can have extra). Go around the circle and have each kid take one flower. Have them put their flower in the air if they know the answer to one of the questions you ask. Once all the questions have been reviewed, place the bucket in the middle of the circle and have kids return the flowers.
- **Why were Jesus' friends hiding in a locked room?** They were scared. They thought the same thing that happened to Jesus would happen to them.
- **Who was missing when Jesus first came to visit?** Thomas.
- **Did Thomas get to see Jesus?** Yes, Jesus came back so Thomas could see him, too.
- **What is the good news? Who can you tell?** Jesus is alive! Everyone!
- Let's say the Big Idea together: **Jesus connects us to God.**

**ACTIVITY | Connect The Daisies**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the [printable](#) on cardstock paper for this craft and give each kid one sheet. Use the full-color version to save time and precut the flowers in advance. Otherwise, pass out the line drawing version and have the kids color each flower. Then help kids cut them out. Provide one-inch strips of dark and light green construction paper, and help kids glue the ends together and loop them through to make a [paper chain](#)

[necklace](#). Once completed, they can glue their daisies throughout their chain however they'd like. See worked [example here](#).

- This daisy chain reminds us that we are connected to each other because we are all in God's family. Aren't you glad Jesus connects us to God?

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words and Scripture reference to the tune of "It's A Small World." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Fingerprint Flowers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need some different colored washable ink pads, white cardstock paper, crayons, and wet wipes. Have kids stamp their fingers or thumbs in different colored ink to create flowers on their paper ([like this](#)). They can use crayons to add stems, leaves, and other details to the garden. Clean off hands using wipes before sending kids to the next activity.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** After you get the toddler's thumbprints on the page, add the stems and leaves for them. Then, you can offer them some flower stickers to add to their paper among their fingerprint flowers.

### ACTIVITY | Gardening Sensory Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the sensory box from Week 1 containing artificial flowers, plastic shovels, garden gloves, and plastic bugs buried in dirt, coffee beans or grounds, dry beans, or sand. If you'd like to change it up this week, provide [small pots](#) for kids to move items from the "garden" to their own pot. Since this is the last week, you can allow kids to take these "potted plants" home.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember to keep in communication with each parent or caregiver regarding diapering or potty training needs, as changes happen quickly at this age. Ask families for their preference for changing diapers or taking kids to the bathroom. Regularly prompt toddlers to use the potty and give one final prompt about ten minutes before pickup.