



## Welcome

Welcome to THE GARDEN, Garden Guide (you) & Garden Buddies!

### Welcome Activity:

**Materials: Legos**

**All For the Glory Lego Build** - Invite your Buddies to create with Legos and see how high they can build their structures  
Invite your Garden Buddies to build and create until everyone arrives.

# The Garden Hand Clap

Welcome your group with your custom clap and get them excited about today's Growing in THE GARDEN adventure.

- Get your Buddies' attention with a custom call-and-response hand clap. Tell your Buddies that after the handclap, they stop, look at you, and wait for instruction. All eyes and ears are on the guide.
- This handclap can be used to get attention at any time throughout Group Time



## Hand Clap Options:

### 1. Chant and clap

The Guide claps: 1-2-3-4-5 & the Buddies respond: All-eyes-on-our-guide

### 2. The Copy Clap

Come up with a handclap where the Buddies copy you:

Ex: Guide claps 3 times. Buddies clap 3 times.

### 3. Use the rhythm from shave-and-haircut-two-bits

Example: Shave-and-a-haircut (Garden Guide ) 2-bits (Garden Buddies)



Practice your clap a few times to get your Buddies used to it.



## Lenny & Lucy's Joke Corner



Share some funny (punny) jokes with your Buddies to up the joy quotient as you start class.

What did the mommy bunny say to her baby? Some bunny loves you!

What do you call a rabbit who is a comedian? A funny bunny.

What is Smoky's favorite thing to read? Poet-tree.



## Watch Party



Share THE GARDEN Episode "The Tree of Life"

Remind your buddies that today's activities will be based on what they learn from the lesson.

Watch THE GARDEN with your Buddies

Encourage them to stand and sing along with Lenny and Lucy

If you want to help your Buddies learn the words, replay the song with the words at the end of the lesson.



# Story Time

Share your Garden Guide story with the group – Your story helps your Buddies connect the lesson with real-life situations.

- When was the first time you heard the Resurrection Story?
- What does it mean to you? How did it change your life?



**Share His Story – Jesus died and rose from the grave for you!**

Have you ever heard the Resurrection Story or the Easter Story before?

Listen to what it says in Matthew 28:1-10. (ICB) says:

The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. He was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb were very frightened of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. And go quickly and tell his followers.

Say to them: 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."

The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what had happened. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings."

The women came up to Jesus, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go on to Galilee. They will see me there."

Can you imagine what it was like for the women at the tomb? They were so sad that Jesus had died on the cross.

Do you know why Jesus died? Let Buddies respond.

He knew we couldn't save ourselves. Humans were a mess, broken-hearted, mean to each other, selfish, and sinful. Jesus couldn't stand to see us hurting ourselves and each other. He had to die so our sins could be forgiven.

But the women that morning didn't understand that yet. Their hearts were broken. They thought they would never see Jesus again..

What happened instead? Let Buddies respond.

It was a miracle. Jesus had come back to life!!!

What do think you would have done if you saw Jesus had risen from the dead? Let Buddies respond.

Jesus' gave His life for us to usher in something new - just like Smokey did for the Bunny family.

When Jesus rose from the dead on Resurrection Day, He ushered in a new way of life for us. We can be free from our sin, anger, and hopelessness!

We aren't separated from God anymore. Jesus paid the price for our sin. When we believe in Jesus and ask Him into our hearts, we can have peace, joy, and hope. - the new life that Jesus created us for!

Let's give an Easter cheer and thank Jesus for all He did for us!

I am going to say, "He is risen!"

When I do, you shout back, "He is risen indeed!"



# Discussion

Engage with your Garden Buddies by asking questions about the lesson and the truth that God wants us to learn.

Get into a circle or gather around tables

Group questions can be asked to Garden Group (Entire Table) or Garden Buddy (Students pair up in groups of 2 and share answers with each other.)



## Questions:

What was your favorite part of today's episode?

Had you heard the Easter story before?

How was today's story with Smoky a little bit like the Easter story?

Why did Smoky need to give up the wood from his tree for the bunny family?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to give His life for you?

Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be the boss of your life?

Would any of you like to do that right now?



## Scripture

Let's get into the Bible and memorize this scripture together!  
Get excited about God's truth! Create a group chant with hand signs to help you remember today's scripture verse.

- Invite your Buddies to stand up and shake out their wiggles before you begin memorizing today's scripture.
- Create a chant using hand signs to help them memorize today's scripture:



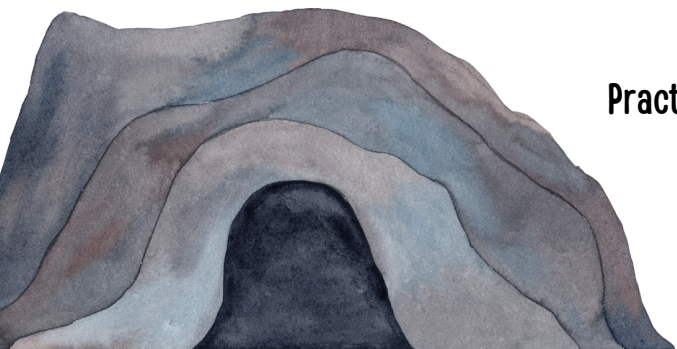
Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection (Put your arms out in the shape of a cross.)  
and the life. (Cross your hands over your heart.)

He who believes in me (Put both pointer fingers to your temples.)  
will have life even if he dies." (Do jazz hands over your head.)

John 11:25 (Clap out the rhythm of words.)

Practice several times inviting different students to lead the group





# Prayer



Pray with your Garden Buddy or Garden Group. God loves hearing what is going on in your life.

Have a group prayer where students share needs or pair up as Garden Buddies and pray for each other.



- Ask Jesus to show you how to live for Him.
- Ask Jesus to forgive you for the things you have done wrong.
- Pray for the needs of family and friends.

Remind your Buddies that Jesus is the One Who loves us most of all. He wants us to share our needs with Him.

Thank Jesus for all He has done in your life and all the ways that He has blessed you!

End Prayer Time with Praise. Have Buddies shout out things that they are thankful for. Start them out with some examples:

- I am thankful for friends.
- I am thankful for my family.
- I am thankful for Resurrection Day and that Jesus loves me so much!





# Activity

Drill down into today's lesson and scripture with this fun activity.

## Resurrection Day 3-D Poster

**Materials:** Heavy white construction paper, markers or crayons, scissors for cutting, colored felt (green, yellow, orange, black, gray, pink), plastic green grass, different colored fabric swatches, colored construction paper, glue, popsicle sticks.

- Give each of your Buddies a large piece of heavy white paper. (11x14 or bigger.)
- Have them write - He is risen! - in bold, block letters on the top or bottom of their mural.
- Invite them to recreate a Resurrection Day scene with the empty tomb on their poster markers or crayons.
- Once their drawing is complete Invite them to glue colored felt, plastic green grass, fabric swatches, colored construction paper, glue, popsicle sticks, etc. to make their mural 3-D.





# Challenge

## Celebration Freeze Dance Party



- Easter is a celebration!
- Invite your Buddies to celebrate the good news of Resurrection day with a freeze dance party.
- Pick your favorite upbeat worship music.
- When the music is playing, the Buddies dance.
- As soon as you stop the music, the Buddies have to freeze.
- If they move before the music comes back on, they are out until the next round..

**Materials:** Worship music, phone, blue tooth speaker.





# Snack Time

Offer your Buddies a tasty snack of goldfish crackers, graham crackers, or animal crackers, or go all out with making this great Garden snack:

## The Garden Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns have been a Easter tradition for almost 1000 years. The cross on the bun symbolizes the cross Jesus gave His life on.

**Materials:** paper plates, napkins, plastic sandwich baggies, tub of vanilla frosting, spoon, food coloring, Hawaiian rolls, cinnamon/sugar mix in a shaker.

- Give each Buddy a plastic sandwich bag with a spoonful of vanilla frosting in it.
- Let them their favorite color of food coloring.
- Add a small drop of food coloring into their baggie.
- Have them close their baggie and mix the color in by squishing it around.
- Let them make their own pastry bags by snipping the corner of a plastic baggie with scissors.
- Give each Buddy a Hawaiian roll.
- Have them squeeze the frosting out of the small hole in their plastic baggie, and make a cross on the top of the roll.
- Let your Buddies sprinkle a cinnamon/sugar mix on top of their frosting.

