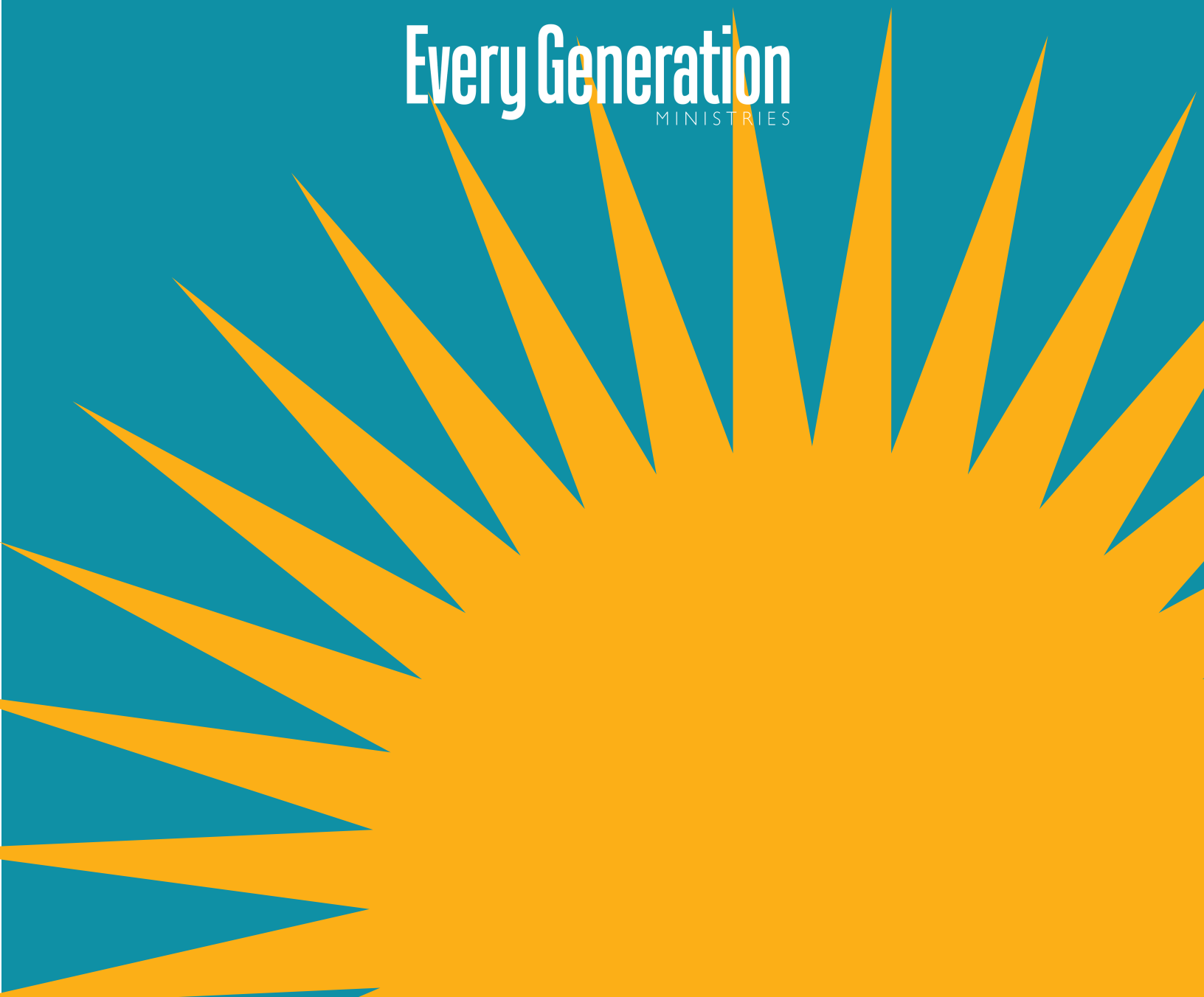


# Jesus Christ Is Alive

**An Easter Bible Study for Kids by**

**Every Generation**  
MINISTRIES



Every Generation Ministries helps churches in 15 countries minister to children. This lesson is an example of the life-changing resources our national ministries offer in Argentina, Belarus, Chile, DR Congo, Egypt, Hungary, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a suggested donation of any amount to support global children's ministry. Make a donation at [egmworld.org/give](https://egmworld.org/give)

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## Lesson Aim

I can praise Jesus because He is alive.

## Basic Idea

In this encounter with His followers, Jesus proves Himself as being alive. Their response was one of joy and amazement. Both of these emotions, when experienced as a result of an encounter with God, turn to worship.

## Scripture

John 20:19-31

## Devotional

Every Generation Ministries believes that transformation in the life of your child begins with transformation in your life. Before you teach this lesson to your children, take a moment to reflect on this lesson aim in your own life. Read this devotional and ask yourself if you really believe that, "I can praise Jesus because He is alive."

The ultimate victory has come: Jesus is risen; He is risen indeed! Halleluiah! Christ's agony and death are now turned into victory-our ultimate triumph! Do you fully realize what Jesus did for you? Christ took this punishment for us; our fears (as in scared to death, not fear as in reverence to Him) have been borne on the cross, while the fear and awe of our Lord and Savior helps us see what He did for us (Prov. 3:5)! Every time we sin, we incur greater guilt, and we deserve punishment (Gen. 3:1-24; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 2:1-11; 3:10-26; 5:12-19; Titus 1:15; James 1:12-15; 1 John 1:8-10).

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But, the incredible miracle here is that we are set free by His work on the cross, by His death and resurrection (Rom. 5:10; 6:22). We have salvation by Jesus' sacrificial death (John 19:30). How now will you live your life?

Why did Thomas doubt? Perhaps the magnitude of Jesus' resurrection was beyond comprehension; without seeing it for themselves, as Thomas asked for and received, many refused to believe. Others truly believed by faith and worshipped Him. Although we do not have physical sight of Jesus' hands and feet, we do have the Spirit who reveals the truth to us. Jesus did not fit the expectations of the people, the religious leaders, or even the disciples. A total change in worldview had to occur before He could be fully accepted. We have to be careful we do not jump to conclusions with little more information than our feelings and a "sound bite." Know this: our opponents will see our hypocrisy and lack of fruit and faith (real or not) -over-compensation for a misguided theology out of the rubble of our pride or lack of explanation. (R. J. Krejcir Ph.D. Into Thy Word Ministries, 2011)

## Bible Background

John reports two appearances to the disciples in Jerusalem. The first was on resurrection Sunday itself (vv. 19-20). They were frightened and had locked themselves in. But locked doors were no bar to the risen Lord, and into their fear he spoke peace (cf. 14:27). Like Mary, their mood changed instantly to joy. Then followed a solemn tripartite commissioning. Jesus first passed on to them a task like his (v. 21). He had been sent into the world by the Father; now in the same way he was sending them. They were to be apostles of the one Apostle. To this commission there is only one appropriate response:

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labor to pursue;

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Thee, only Thee, resolved to know  
In all I think or speak or do.  
(Charles Wesley)

He then formally bestowed on them the promised Holy Spirit (cf. 1:33; 4:14; 7:37-39; 14:15-17, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:5-15). Finally, he linked their ministry to that of the Spirit-Counselor. When the Counselor convicted of sin, for instance (cf. 16:8-9), it would be through believers who were open to him (cf. 15:26-27) rather than directly to the world, which was not (cf. 14:17).

Thomas was not present the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples, and he doubted their account (vv. 24-25). But he was convinced when the Lord appeared in the same way a week later (vv. 26-27), and he made a profound confession of faith in Jesus (v. 28). (Asbury Bible Commentary)

## Lesson Aim Note

The Lesson Aim is mentioned many times throughout the course of this lesson. To make it noticeable, it is **bold**. It is critical to repeat and explain it numerous times. The goal is for the children to not only learn the Lesson Aim but to understand it well enough to be able to apply it to their daily lives.

## Supplies Needed

This is a comprehensive list of all supplies you will need to complete this lesson.

- Bags or covers that the children cannot see through
  - Various objects in three forms. For example: a picture of a flower, a fake flower and a real flower or a picture of a pet, a stuffed animal version and a real pet
  - Picture Cards (Cross, Sealed Tomb, Stone Rolled Away, Two Angels, Risen Jesus) - These can be found at the end of the lesson
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- Paper Plates (1 per child)
- Pen (1 per child)
- A happy face with a sad face on the back (1 Per Child)

## Relationship

Every Generation Ministries believes that a relationship that reflects the love of God is a crucial element of transformational ministry. The life of Christ, particularly His love, flows through our relationship with our children (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). Relational activities can be fun, sincere, humorous... The purpose is to learn something about each other and to grow in relationship.

### Hard or Easy:

Make a list of hard things to do and easy things to do for your specific kids or use the suggestions below. Write them on separate cards. One at a time, have each family member choose a card, read what it says and say if he or she thinks it is hard or easy. Then have everyone stand up if they think it is easy or sit down if they think it is hard. Explain that there are no right or wrong answers. It is important that children decide for themselves if they think the item is easy or hard.

### Examples:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| -Eat a cookie                          | -Stand on your head             |
| -Talk to someone in a foreign language | -Touch your tongue to your nose |
| -Jump up and down ten times            | -Do a cartwheel                 |
| -Eat a caterpillar                     | -Count by fives                 |
| -Meet a new person                     | -Write a book                   |
| -Sing a solo                           | -Catch a butterfly              |
| -Fold a paper boat                     | -Drink chocolate milk           |
| -Tell someone Jesus loves them         | -Bake a cake                    |

## Experience

Every Generation Ministries believes that experience is a key element of learning. Transformation is not just a cognitive exercise. We learn by integrating God's Word into the everyday "experiences" of life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

### Supplies Needed:

- Bags or covers that the children cannot see through
- Various objects in three forms. For example: a picture of a flower, a fake flower and a real flower or a picture of a pet, a stuffed animal version and a real pet (one that can be safely brought in and out of the classroom)

Place all objects in the bag or cover. One at a time, reveal the objects in the following order: picture, fake, real. Ask the children to pass each object around to smell and feel it. Ask them what the object is each time.

### Connecting Questions:

1. What objects did you see today?
2. What was the difference in each one?
3. How did you know which one was real?
4. What are some other ways we know when something is real?

### Connecting Statement:

Today we are going to hear about a man in the Bible who wanted to know if something was real.

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## Truth

Every Generation Ministries believes that the Word of God needs to be “impressed” on our children. It is the Bible Truth that we are teaching and is the core of the lesson (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

**Parent Note:** It is important that the children understand that the story you are about to teach is from God’s Word, the Bible. We want them to understand that the stories are all true and they help us to understand who God is and how He wants us to live. We recommend having a Bible in hand.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Picture cards (Cross, Sealed Tomb, Stone Rolled Away, Two Angels, Risen Jesus) - These can be found at the end of the lesson
- Paper plates (1 per child)
- Pen (1 per child)
- A happy face with a sad face on the back (1 per child)

(Give each child a face.)

**Parent Says:** Today we are going to hear about some sad things. Show me your sad faces. We are also going to hear about some happy things. Show me your happy faces.

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When you hear about something happy, I want you to show me the happy side. When you hear about something sad, I want you to show me the sad side. Let's practice.

(Say "sad" and wait for children. Then say "happy" and wait for children.)

Great! We are ready.

Open your Bibles to John 24:24.

(Show children the cross picture.)

Who can tell me about this card?

(Wait for children to tell you that Jesus died on the cross.)

Was that happy or sad?

(Wait for children.)

(Show children the tomb picture.)

Who remembers what this is?

(Wait for children to tell you that this is where they put Jesus' body when He died.)

Was that happy or sad?

(Wait for children.)

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(Show children the empty tomb picture with the grave clothes.)

Who remembers this part of the story?

(Wait for children to remember that Jesus did not stay dead, but He came to life again.)

Was that happy or sad?

(Wait for children.)

(Show children the picture of two angels.)

Who remembers what happened next?

(Wait for children to remember that when Mary Magdalene visited the tomb, the angels asked her why she was crying.)

Was that happy or sad?

(Wait for children.)

(Show children the picture of the Risen Jesus.)

Who remembers what happened next?

(Wait for children to remember that Jesus Himself spoke to Mary by name.)

Was that happy or sad?

(Wait for children.)

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Now, today we are going to hear about a man named Thomas. Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. Thomas had been with Jesus while He was teaching and helping people. Thomas had seen Jesus do amazing things! Jesus had made dead people come back to life. He had healed blind men and sick people. When Jesus died, Thomas was sad.

(Wait for children to show you their sad face cards.)

Jesus rose from the dead. He had come to a place where a lot of the disciples were. They were all so happy to see Him again.

(Wait for children to show you their happy face cards.)

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came to them. He still did not believe that Jesus was alive. I think that Thomas would have been very sad because He did not believe that Jesus was alive.

(Wait for children to show you their sad face cards.)

One day Thomas was with His friends. He still did not believe that Jesus was alive. John 24:25 says, "But he said to them, 'unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.'" How do you think he felt?

(Wait for children to show you their sad face cards.)

You are right. I think that Thomas would have been sad.

Soon, though, Jesus was with them! While the disciples were together with Thomas, Jesus suddenly appeared to them! Jesus talked to Thomas.

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John 20:26-27 says, "A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Then Thomas believed in Jesus. Thomas called out, "My Lord and My God!" How do you think Thomas felt now?

(Wait for children to show you their happy face cards.)

Yes, I think Thomas was happy that now He believed in Jesus. He had seen Him with his own eyes and touched Him with his own hands.

Jesus then told the disciples, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus knew that many people, including you and I, would believe in Jesus even though we have never seen Him yet.

Thomas believed that Jesus is alive. **You and I can praise Jesus too, because He is alive!**

## Discussion

Every Generation Ministries makes a big deal out of "talk about them," believing that it is crucial to talk about the Bible Truth above and connect it to the real lives of children. Talk about how to connect God's Word to your child's real life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

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1. What were some of the sad things that you heard in the story?
2. What turned Thomas' sadness into happiness?
3. What was the happiest thing you heard about in the story?
4. What can you do to show that you are happy that Jesus is alive?
5. In the coming week, what are some of the ways you can praise God that Jesus is alive?

## Response

Every Generation Ministries believes that responding to God from a transformed heart is the ultimate goal of our time here on earth. Children are encouraged to respond to God's Word in thought and action, immediately and on into the future (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

### Respond Now:

Pantomiming actions and reactions to the news that Jesus is alive.

**Parent Says:** Thomas saw Jesus alive and that made him happy. We weren't there to see what Thomas did when he was happy, but I am sure he smiled, maybe jumped up and down, shouted "Jesus is alive!" or went out to tell someone else about the news. Let's all take the next few minutes and show what you would do when you hear the news, "Jesus is alive."

Let children pantomime what they would do and have everyone guess what it is. If you have extra time, sing a few praise songs together.

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## Keep Responding:

**Parent Says:** This next week, think of three people you want to share the good news that Jesus is alive. Write each name on a piece of paper. When you talk to each person during the week, write down how they reacted to your news by recording a happy face, a straight face, a mad face or a sad face.

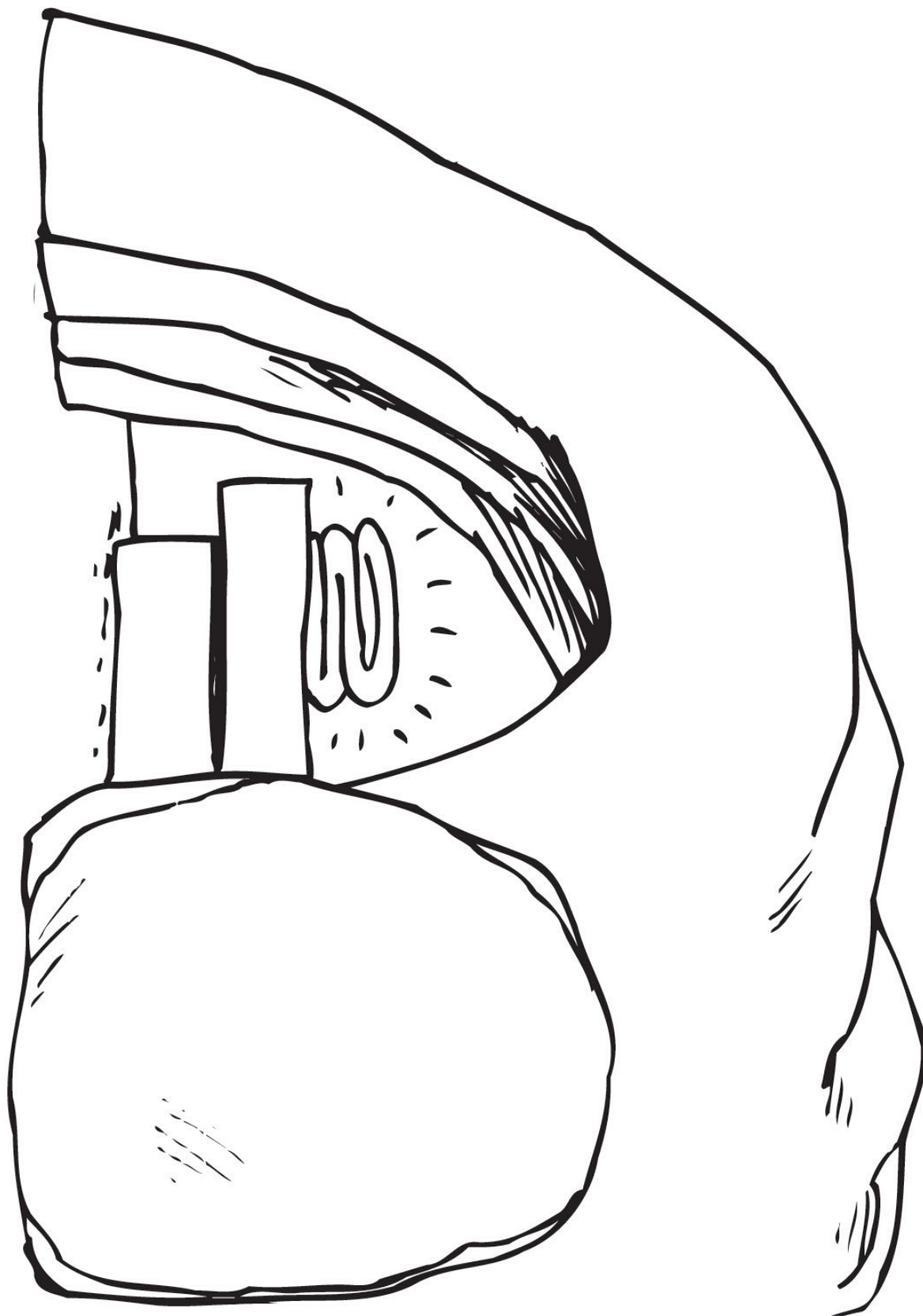
Share around your table how each person reacted to your good news about Jesus Christ.

## Truth: Picture Cards









I can praise Jesus because  
He is alive.



I can praise Jesus because  
He is alive.

