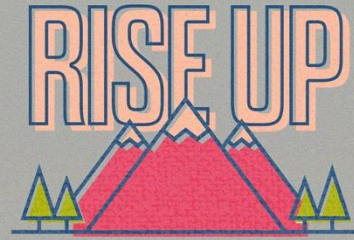




WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY AT HOME



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus connects us to each other.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Appears to the Disciples: John 20:19-31;
(I John 1:1-4)

MUSIC | Summit Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing some worship songs with your child(ren). Invite your family to sing and dance along to fun worship songs to celebrate Jesus, such as "[Wanna Be Like Jesus](#)."

ACTIVITY | Adventure Doubt It or Dab It

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the questions and ask the kids to respond by saying they doubt it — giving two thumbs down — or dab it — if you don't know how to dab, here's a [picture](#).
- **Has anyone ever told you something that you didn't quite believe?**
- Here are some things that you may or may not believe about mountain climbing. If you believe it, dab it! If you don't, show me you doubt it with two, big thumbs down!
- **Did you know. . .**
 - **Someone once climbed Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, wearing a tank top. (False.)**
 - **A man in a wheelchair climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the third highest mountain in the world, twice. (True.)**
 - **In 2005, two people got married on top of Mount Everest. (True.)**
 - **It's more dangerous to ride your bike without a helmet than it is to climb K2 Mountain, the second highest mountain in the world. (False.)**
 - **On top of the highest mountains in the world, the temperature does not get below negative ten degrees Fahrenheit. (False.)**
 - **The youngest person to climb Mount Everest was thirteen years old. (True.)**



- **It costs more than \$50,000 to climb the highest mountains in the world.** *(True.)*
- **Since Mount Kilimanjaro is in Africa, there is no snow on it.** *(False.)*
- **One of the worst foods you can eat when you're climbing a mountain is a candy bar.** *(False.)*
- I bet some of these true facts were kind of hard to believe! Today's Bible story is going to talk about how one of Jesus' friends found it hard to believe he was alive again.

VIDEO | Rise Up, Jesus Appears to His Disciples

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's teaching video with Pastor Robin!*

REVIEW SCRIPTURE | John 20:19-31

- After Jesus came back to life, the disciples who hadn't seen Jesus yet were a little skeptical. They were together eating, praying, and just spending time together. Let's find out what happened!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 20:19-31. Retell the story using adult or kid volunteers to play the roles. You will need people to play the parts of Jesus, Thomas, and four additional disciples. Set up your stage like a living room with pillows for everyone to sit on. You could even project an image of a night sky with stars and play cricket sounds to show this took place in the evening.*
 - *(Disciples are pacing back in forth.)*
 - **Disciple 1:** Hey, be very quiet! We don't want anyone hearing us.
 - **Disciple 2:** Did you hear something? What was that?
 - **Jesus:** *(Jesus appears in the center.)* My friends! Peace be with you!
 - **Disciples 1 and 2:** Ahh! *(One of the disciples whimpers and curls up in the fetal position on the floor.)*
 - **Jesus:** *(Jesus holds out hands.)* Hey, hey. Don't be afraid. It's me, Jesus. See?
 - *(Disciples get excited when they see that it is Jesus and begin to touch Jesus' hands.)*
 - **Disciple 3:** It's really hard to believe, but it really is Jesus!
 - **Jesus:** Just like God sent me, I'm going to send you! *(Jesus begins to pray over the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. Then, Jesus leaves.)*
 - **Disciple 4:** Guys, did that just happen? Did we really just see Jesus and touch Jesus' hands and side? We gotta tell everyone that Jesus is alive!
 - **Thomas:** *(Enters the room.)* Hey, guys!
 - **Disciple 4:** Thomas! You won't believe what happened! We have seen Jesus!
 - **Thomas:** *(Laughs out loud in disbelief.)* Yeah, right! I won't believe it until I see proof for myself!
 - *(Show a slide or have someone say, "Eight Days Later . . .")*
 - **Jesus:** Thomas.
 - **Thomas:** Whoa! Who is that?
 - **Disciple 4:** *(Smirks.)* I hate to say I told you so, but I told you so!
 - **Thomas:** Jesus? What? You're alive? But that's not possible!



- **Jesus:** Thomas, with God, all things are possible. You don't have to be afraid. You can touch the places where my wounds were and believe.
- **Thomas:** My Lord! My God! (*Begins to cry.*)
- **Jesus:** Thomas, now that you have seen the proof, you believe. There will be many who don't get the chance to see me and touch these wounds. They are blessed for believing even though they haven't been able to see me.
- (*Characters walk off stage. Encourage kids to give actors a hearty round of applause!*)
- Jesus' appearance helped calm the disciples' fears. They were convinced and believed that the Jesus who died was now Jesus who lives! They were brought together to see Jesus so they could be united and tell everyone about it!

BONUS SCRIPTURE | I John 1:1-4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read I John 1:1-4 or ask four kids to read a verse out loud.
- John, the writer of this book, was one of Jesus' disciples.
- He wrote about what he saw and heard about Jesus. He wanted everyone who read these verses to be connected with Jesus in the same way the disciples were after Jesus rose again.
- Let's imagine you were one of the disciples Jesus appeared to. **How would you share your story to others?**

DISCUSSION

- **When Jesus came into the room, what did Jesus say to the disciples?**
- **What did Thomas say to the other disciples when they told him they saw Jesus alive?**
- **For Thomas to believe, what did Jesus show Thomas?**
- **Read I John 1:3. What do you think it means to have fellowship with God?**
- **Fellowship is one way to say we are connecting with others. What are some ways we connect with others in general?**
- **Who are the people you are connected with when you believe in Jesus?**
- **What is one thing you can do to connect more people to your community of people who know and love God?**

ACTIVITY | Followers' Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut enough two- to three-inch wide strips of paper for each kid and leader. Tell each person to write their name on one side of their paper and an action Jesus would do on the other. Glue or staple each strip of paper together to make a chain. Make one, long chain with every kid and leader's name attached.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Take the chain-making to the next level by building larger versions of the "[gum wrapper chain](#)" using 1-inch strips of paper (view tutorial [here](#)).



RISE UP | WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY AT HOME LESSON

- **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have leaders cut the paper for anyone who may not be able to grasp the scissors. You could also pre-cut the strips in advance.*
- **What do you see when you look at the chain?**
- I see actions of Jesus on each link! We are called to be like Jesus in the world!
- Let's hang this up to remind us each week that we should look like Jesus in the world.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always helping us to build our faith and confidence in you. Thank you for connecting us all to help us in our faith. When things aren't easy to believe, you give us each other as a reminder that you are still here with us. Thank you for helping us rise up together. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE | Memory in Motion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the groups practice the verse with the motions that they came up with last week. If any groups would like, they can demonstrate their motions for the whole group.*