

Jesus is Alive!

Description:

A true-life account presented in reader's theater style, plus a baking activity, illustrating the transforming power of God's Word in a person's own language

Aims:

- Children will hear that Jesus died and rose again to take the penalty for their sins.
- Children will understand that reading in one's own language is the best way to understand the message.
- Children will consider what they could do to help in the task of Bible translation.
- Children will make an empty-tomb breakfast roll with which to share Nard's story and the account of the resurrection of Jesus with their family and friends.

Audience:

Grades K–6 with adult readers for younger ages

Minimum Time Requirements:

25–30 minutes

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Teachers and parents may read this verse and discuss it with students during baking time.)



Materials:

- Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Map or globe
- Three scripts: one for Nard, one for Dick, and one for the narrator
- Small booklet to represent the book of Mark in Isnag (that won't be damaged by throwing it down)
- Ingredients for empty-tomb breakfast rolls on page 5
- Muffin tin or baking sheet
- Two small bowls: one for butter and one for cinnamon and sugar
- Wax paper or clean surface to roll out dough
- Optional rolling pin
- Oven
- Napkins or paper towels for serving rolls

If you have any questions or problems related to this lesson, please contact Wycliffe's Children's Communications team at kids@wycliffe.org.

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More curricula to engage children in Bible translation are available at www.wycliffe.org/kids.

Pre-class Preparation:

- Collect supplies listed in the “Materials” section.
- Print out three scripts. Highlight the respective lines for each reader.
- Fold a booklet to represent the book of Mark in Isnaq.

Class Time:

Begin by calling up two students for the “Jesus is Alive!” reader’s theater, with the teacher/parent acting as the narrator. End with the empty-tomb baking activity and review questions.

Materials:

- Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Three scripts with speaker’s portions highlighted
- Map or globe
- Booklet for Dick to hand to Nard.

Jesus is Alive!

(Reader's Theater)

Narrator holds up map/globe and asks: Who can locate the Philippines? Can you come up and show us on this map/globe?

After the volunteer points to the correct location, the narrator thanks the volunteer and asks him/her to sit back down. Then the narrator says: A young boy named Nard Pugyao [POOG-yow] lived in the mountains of the northern Philippines. He lived in Dibagat [Dee-BAH-got] village and spoke the Isnag [IS-snug] language. He often worked in the rice fields. Dick Roe moved to the Dibagat village to learn the Isnag language and assist the Isnags in translating the New Testament into Isnag. Dick asked Nard to help him learn Isnag. Dick and Nard became good friends.

Narrator motions toward Nard and says: Before he and Dick became friends, Nard thought of himself as a trouble-maker. He often skipped school, and he even flunked first grade! But helping Dick made Nard want to learn to read. When he could finally read, it was time for Dick to leave the Philippines for a while. Let's peek into a scene between Dick and Nard.

Dick hands booklet to Nard and says: I'm leaving the Philippines for a while, Nard. I have a gift for you—this newly-translated book of the Bible in your language—Isnag [IS-snug]. It's the book of Mark. Would you read it while I'm gone? When I come back we can talk about it. Good-bye for now!

Nard sits down to read and says: Wow, I understand this so much better in Isnag than English. It sounds right, and beautiful, like when my mother speaks. Jesus does such kind things. He makes blind people see, heals sick people, and raises people from the dead. It is almost like I can see it. Jesus has power over everything—storms, demons, and sickness!

Nard looks up and says with shock and anger: What? Now they are telling lies about Jesus! The crowd is shouting to crucify Him. This makes me angry!

Nard reads on, and says with even more anger: No, no—they *killed* Jesus!

Nard stands up, shakes his fist at the sky, and shouts angrily: I don't want anything to do with such a weak God! You did not even save Your own Son. How can You protect me from the evil spirits that my family fears?

Narrator: Nard throws down the book Dick gave him. He walks back and forth several times with an angry look on his face. Then Nard's face looks less angry. He picks up the book, sits back down, and opens his book.



Nard looks to the sky and asks God: What? You had Jesus die *for me*, God?

Nard reads more, and then says: Jesus died. They took him down from the cross and put him in a tomb!

Nard smiles while he reads further, and then says: Oh, wait! Jesus rose from the dead, just like He said He would. He *does* have more power than anyone or anything! He came to die in my place. Please forgive me, God!

Narrator: Several months later Dick returns, smiling.

Dick says to Nard: Nard, you look different. Did you read the book of Mark?

Nard says to Dick: Yes, I read it many times. And I accepted Jesus' death to forgive my sins. I am a new man! Now I want to serve Him, but how? I need money to finish school. I have prayed, asking that if God is listening to my prayers, He will send the money for school.

Dick says to Nard: That is exciting, my friend. I need someone to come with me to the big city to teach me your language. Will you come? I will help you go to school.

Nard says to Dick: Now I know God heard my prayer! Yes, I will go and help you!

Narrator thanks the volunteers, collects their scripts, and asks them to sit back down before continuing: Nard attended high school and then college in America to learn how to be a pilot. When he returned to the Philippines with Wycliffe Bible Translators, God gave him a great privilege. He flew the plane, delivering the first five hundred copies of the Isnag New Testament to his home village of Dibagat. Reading and obeying God's Word in his own language transformed Nard from a trouble-maker, who often skipped school, to a man who wanted to serve God with his whole life.

Do you think God might want *you* to serve Him by doing a job like Nard's—flying Christian workers? Or might He want you to assist translation teams like Dick Roe did? Almost two thousand language groups still need God's Word in their own language. And boys and girls in villages all over the world still wait! What will you do, since you know that people still wait for the Scriptures in their own language?



Review Questions:

1. Why did Nard feel angry about the way the crowd treated Jesus?
(Possible answers: Nard admired Jesus' great power to heal people, raise the dead, and quiet storms. Nard thought they should have treated Jesus better. He thought God should have used His power to stop the crowd.)
2. What did Nard read that made him angry enough to throw the book of Mark down on the ground and walk away? (Possible answers: They told lies about Jesus, beat Him, and killed Him. Nard did not want a weak God who did not even protect His Son.)
3. When Nard came back and read the rest of the account, what did Jesus do that made a huge difference in Nard's attitude? (Possible answers: Jesus rose from the dead. He did not stay in the tomb. Jesus proved His power over death. Nard understood that Jesus has more power than any of the evil spirits he had known and feared. Rising from the dead made all the difference!)
4. Why had Nard never understood these stories about Jesus until he read them in Isnag? (Possible answers: He didn't understand the stories when he read them in a language that he didn't know very well. Isnag is what his family spoke at home, so he understood it best.)

Empty-Tomb Roll Baking Project (makes eight)

Ingredients:

- 1 8-ounce package of refrigerated crescent rolls, homemade or store-bought bread dough, or uncooked frozen bread dough rolls from the store (Allow frozen bread dough to defrost so the children can easily work with it.)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 8 regular-sized marshmallows
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Instructions:

Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Put melted butter in another small bowl. Separate crescent rolls into eight triangles. If using your own bread dough from scratch or bread dough from the store, roll golf-ball sized pieces into circles about six inches in diameter. Children can pat them into circles if you don't have a rolling pin. Dip each marshmallow in melted butter and then roll it in the cinnamon and sugar. Place the cinnamon-sugar marshmallow on a triangle or circle of dough.

Materials:

- Muffin tin or baking sheet
- Two small bowls: one for butter and one for cinnamon and sugar
- Wax paper or clean surface to roll out dough
- Optional rolling pin
- Oven
- Napkins or paper towels for serving rolls

Pinch the dough carefully around each marshmallow. It is very important to seal all the edges so that hot marshmallow will not escape while baking. Roll the completed balls in the remaining butter and then in the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Place them in greased muffin tins for a uniform size. Or you may place them on a baking sheet if you don't have muffin tins. You may refrigerate them overnight and bake them early on Easter morning, bake them the night before, or do it all right before you eat them warm out of the oven.

Optional: If you are doing this with a Sunday school class, make some ahead for your class to eat as a snack. Then send home the ones they made with the recipe and baking instructions.

Bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 13–15 minutes until browned. Let them cool for 5–10 minutes before eating to avoid burns. These taste especially yummy when eaten warm, like an inside-out cinnamon roll. (For bakers outside of the United States, bake at 190 degrees Celsius, or Gas Mark 5. For fan-forced ovens, set oven temperature at 170 degrees Celsius.)

Discussion points to use while making and then eating Empty-Tomb Rolls:

1. How is the pure, white marshmallow like Jesus? (*Possible answers: Jesus never did anything wrong. He never sinned.*)
2. The cinnamon and sugar stick to the marshmallow. How is that like what Jesus did for you and me? (*Possible answers: He took all of our sin onto Himself when He died on the cross. He took the penalty for our sins.*)
3. When you wrap the cinnamon-sugar marshmallow all up in the bread dough, what part of the Easter event could that show? (*Possible answers: They wrapped Jesus in burial cloth. They put Jesus in a tomb or a grave.*)
4. When you bite into the empty-tomb roll, what does it remind you of? (*Possible answers: The tomb was empty when people looked for Him. Jesus came back to life after having been dead. He didn't stay in the tomb. What Jesus did for us is sweet. Jesus is alive!*)
5. Open your Bible and read 2 Corinthians 5:17. In our reader's theater, "Jesus is Alive!" who said he was a new man? (Answer: Nard)

Retell the story:

Ask children to retell the story of Nard first understanding about Jesus' death and resurrection while they eat their rolls. They can also explain what each part of the baking project represents.

Materials:

- Baked and cooled Empty-Tomb Rolls
- Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 5:17