Date: 4/4/15

Title: He’s Alive!!!

Theme: Although He died on a cross, Jesus is alive forevermore.

Object: Three crosses with three candles, the center one a trick candle that relights.

Text: Luke 24:2-6a

Who knows what makes this weekend special?

Yes, it’s Easter! And on Easter we remember how Jesus died and rose again.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus was crucified on the cross on Friday, He was buried in the tomb on Sabbath, and He came back to life again on Sunday morning.

When Jesus came back to life, it was called a “resurrection.”

So instead of calling Sunday “Easter,” I like to call it Resurrection Day.

So today I want to remember with you what the Bible says happened to Jesus when He died, was buried, and came back to life in the resurrection.

The Bible says there were 3 crosses on Calvary, so I have three crosses here today.

Let’s think about the three men who were crucified on those three crosses.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified between two thieves.

Jesus, who had never done anything wrong, was crucified between two men who had done all kinds of things wrong.

Let’s let this candle represent the first thief. And because he’s alive, I’m going to light this candle.

There. He’s alive and hanging on his cross.

This thief didn’t believe in Jesus. He didn’t believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He didn’t believe that Jesus could forgive his sins. He didn’t believe that Jesus could come back from the dead.

This thief died. [Take out candle and blow out.] He was buried. He is dead today. He has no hope.

Let’s let this candle represent the second thief. Of course, he was alive, so we’ll light him up too. [Light]

At first he made fun of Jesus, but he soon saw that Jesus was no ordinary man.

Before he died, this thief admitted that he was a sinner.

 He believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and would rise from the dead.

And he trusted Jesus as his Savior.

The second thief died [blow out candle] and was buried.

But he died with hope because Jesus promised him that someday he would be in heaven with Jesus.

Both of the thieves died and they are still dead today.

But you know there was something different about the man on the center cross. [Light trick candle]

He was no ordinary man. He was God’s Son in human flesh.

He was put to death, not for His own sins, but for ours.

He paid the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross for them.

Because He died for our sins, we can be forgiven and live forever with Jesus.

All we have to do is tell Him we’re sorry for our sins and ask Him to forgive us.

And if we trust Him and love Him, He will forgive us when we ask.

But like the other men on the cross, Jesus died too. [Blow out trick candle.]

But now I want you to watch very closely.

Although He died and was buried in a tomb, on Sunday morning [wait for candle to light] He came back to life.

This is the difference: [hold up lit candle and extinguished candle]

Jesus is alive! He is not in the grave somewhere. He is in heaven right now. He is risen.

And because He lives, when He comes back, He can give us eternal life too.

Here’s the thief that believed. When Jesus comes back, Jesus will give him life again.

Not only the thief. But everyone who love Jesus and has been forgiven will get eternal life.

How many would like Jesus to light them up when He returns?