

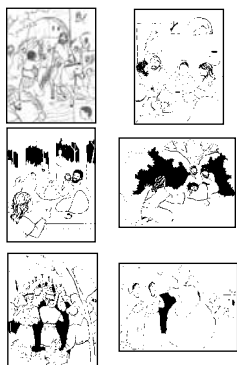
**BREATH OF HOPE**

(Second Sunday of Easter)

Purpose

**To explore ways we can experience God's Spirit.**

Preparation



- Read John 20:19-31 and biblical background for May 1.
- Prepare the worship table with a yellow or white cloth, a Bible, a candle, Unit VI logo and the offering basket. Place an Easter basket filled with signs of new life (e.g. seeds, budding branches, stuffed chick or lamb, empty eggshell, spring flowers, etc.) on the table. Decorate room.
- Bring "Lori." (If Lori is new to you, read about Lori in the *Unit Overview*.)
- Bring set of 6 teaching pictures "Hosanna!" (#44) "A Celebration!" (#45) "Stay Awake!" (#46) "Not Me!" (#47) "Who Was Jesus?" (#48) and "Alive Again!" (#49) from Unit V.
- Bring *Seasons of the Spirit* CD (vol.9) and CD player.
- Colour and create the 2 simple figures following directions on the resource sheet "Benjamin and Haviva Story Figures." They are also used later in this unit. Bring a small stone.
- Prepare a simple wall hanging and glue a paper circle in the center (See resource sheet "Celebratory Easter Wall Hanging. "). Cut petal shapes, one petal for each child and extras for visitors. Print each child's name and teacher's name on a petal. Have petals hidden around the room. Mount at children's eye level.
- *Option A:* Bring strips of poster board 18" x 5". Print the word "Rejoice" on each strip. Bring crayons and/or Easter/new life stickers, strips of coloured ribbon or crepe paper streamers, tape, stapler, hole punch and string.
- *Option B:* Make copies of the activity sheet "New Life at Easter." Bring crayons, a variety of seeds (e.g. sunflower, marigold, lentils, etc.) and white glue.
- Check the birthday list.
- Pray for openness to God's Spirit as you celebrate this joyous Season of Easter.

Opening

*(Gather around the worship table)*

Invite a child to **light the candle** as you say, "We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."

**Welcome** each child by name. Decide who will be Lori's friend today. Take a moment to talk about what they did to celebrate Easter Day last Sunday. Did you know that Easter is not over? Easter is not just a one day celebration but a special season in our church that lasts for 8 Sundays. It is a time to be joyful and sing and say lots of Alleluias. We have a special Easter greeting that we are going to say to each other each week. *(Teach the following greeting:)*

**Easter Greeting****Teacher:** Alleluia, Christ is risen!**Children:** Christ is risen, indeed!**All:** Alleluia!**Sing:** "Alleluia!" #8 *Seasons of the Spirit* CD (vol. 9)

(Or use song with same title from Teacher's Resource Sheet)

**Attendance, Birthdays, Offering****Prayer:** Thank you God,

For the good news of Easter

That Jesus is with us again

To show us your way.

Amen.

**Easter Basket:** Invite a child to take an item out of the basket. Talk about how it shows us new life and reminds us of the new life that God gave to Jesus on Easter day. Have the child place the item on the worship table. Repeat until all the items are there.



Introducing the Theme

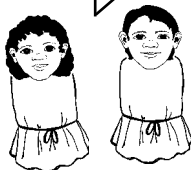
**Reviewing the Easter Story**

*(Set out the 6 teaching pictures that tell the Easter story.)* Ask someone to find the picture that shows the day the people had a parade to welcome Jesus to their city when they all shouted "Hosanna." Now find the picture that shows Jesus and his disciples celebrating a special Passover meal together. Can you find one that shows Jesus praying—talking to God about what is going to happen to him? Can you find frightened Peter telling the young girl that he doesn't even know Jesus? Find the picture that shows what the leaders did to Jesus.



That was a very sad day for everyone. But then something amazing happened! What happened? Who can find that picture? The 2 Marys were so happy and went to tell the disciples what they had had seen—that Jesus was alive in a new way and with them again! But the disciples didn't believe what the women said. Our story today is about what happened next.

Exploring  
the Theme



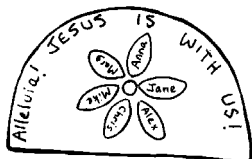
*(Place Benjamin and Haviva if front of the children. Have the candle and small stone nearby.)* This is Benjamin and his sister Haviva. For the next few weeks we will be hearing stories about what happened after Jesus rose on Easter morning. Benjamin and Haviva will sometimes help us. Today, we will hear a story about a time when they had a surprise visitor.

**Story: Touched by the Spirit** *(See Beginner Story Resource Sheet)*

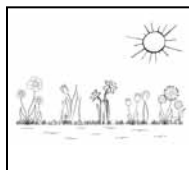
**Celebratory Easter Wall Hanging**

Flowers are a sign of new life that remind us of Jesus and the Easter story. *(Invite the children to find the paper petals around the room. As the petals are found, place them on the floor in a circle. Have children find their own name and then attach their petal with glue stick to the outside of the circle to make a flower.)* This beautiful flower reminds us that Jesus is alive in a new way. And flowers help us celebrate our Happy Easter feelings.

**Sing:** "Filled with Easter Joy" *(See Teacher's Resource Sheet)*



Integrating  
the Theme



**Option A: "Rejoice" Windsock**

Show children how the windsock works. Hand out prepared poster board strips. Invite the children to decorate them with crayons and or stickers. Invite them to choose the color of streamers they want to add and help them tape the ribbon or streamers to the bottom edge of the strip. Staple strip into a circle. Punch holes and add string. Talk about how the wind gives action to the ribbons like God's spirit helps us to act in loving ways.

**Option B: "New Life at Easter" Picture**

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet to color. Set out a variety of seeds. Spread white glue on the bottom of the picture and "plant" seeds in the ground to create a reminder of the new life God gives the world. Talk about the "new life" that is starting to grow in your area.

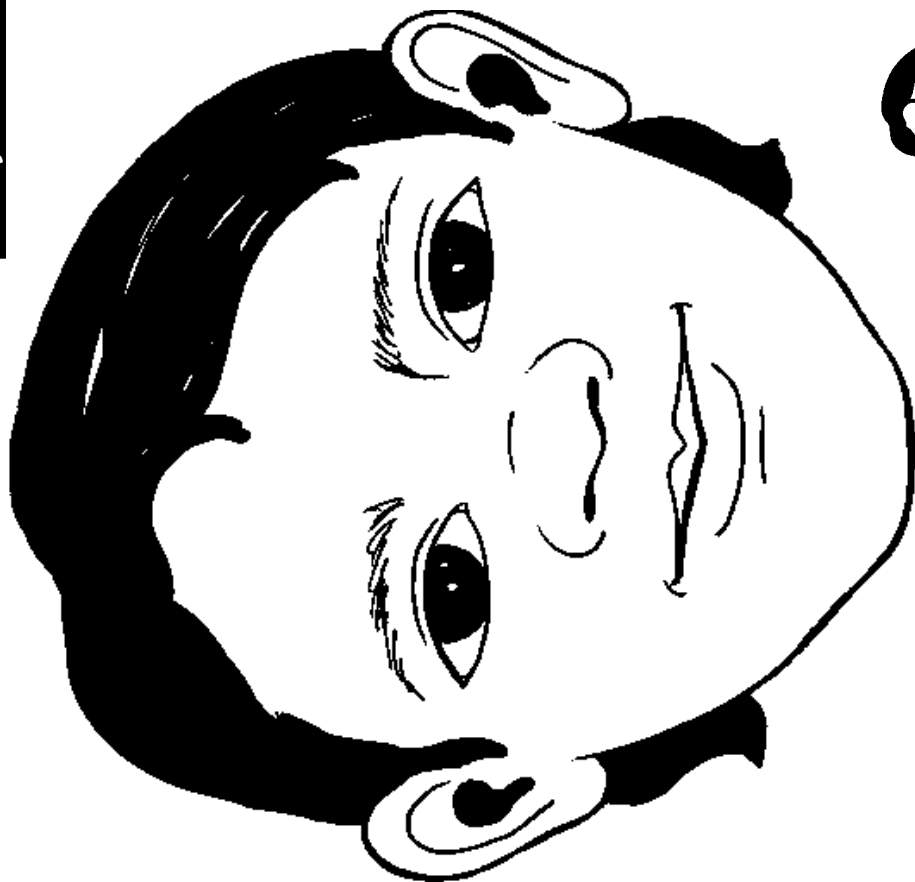
Closing

*(Look together at the logo)* Notice the joyful people filled with God's Spirit.

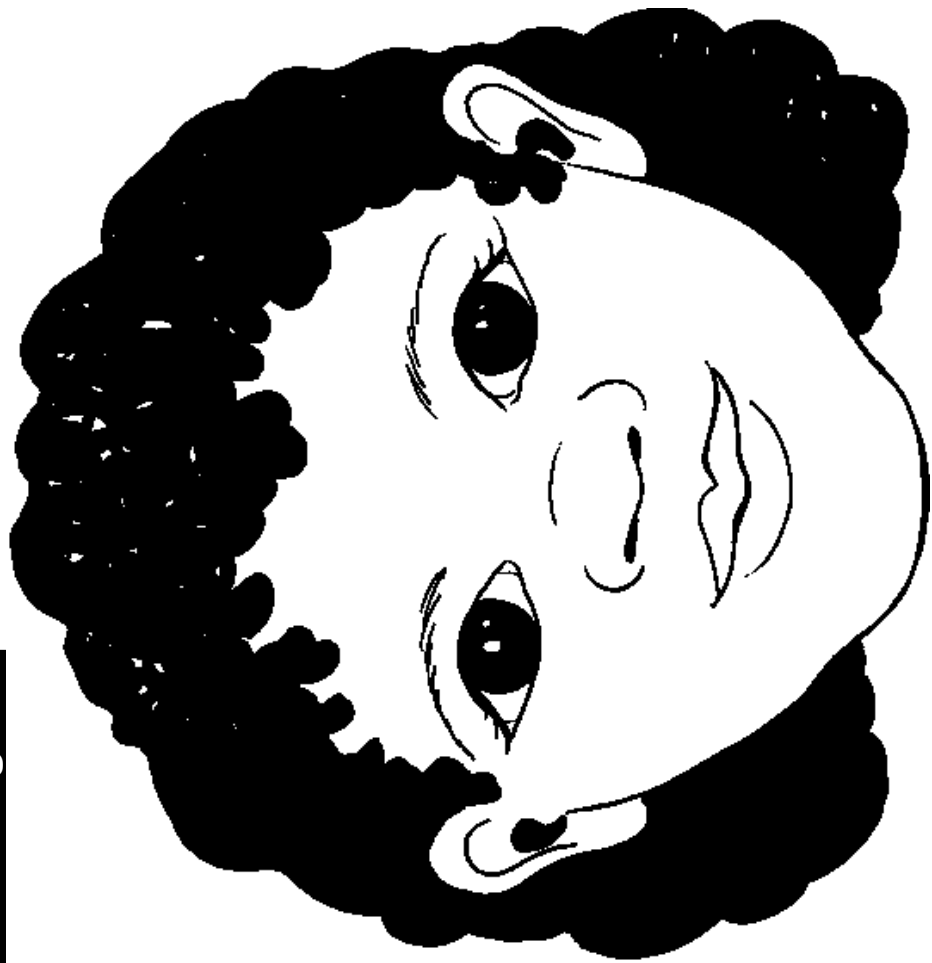
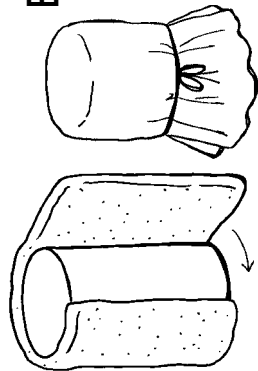
**Sing:** "We're Filled with Easter Joy"

NB. Benjamin and Haviva Puppets are needed again in week 4.

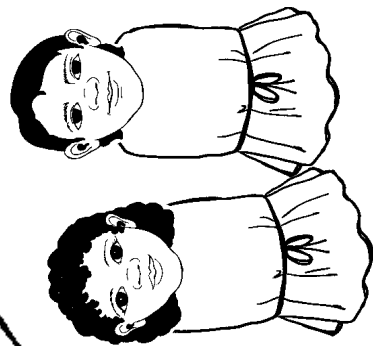
# Benjamin and Haviva Figures



Benjamin



Haviva

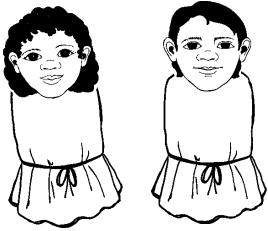


### Instructions

- Use 2 empty juice cans (48 oz./1.36L). Make sure there are no sharp edges. Wash and dry.
- If desired, cover can with a piece of quilt fiberfill 7 x 13 in. (18 x 33cm). Glue with a glue gun.
- Cut 2 different colored circles of fabric 18 in. (46cm) in diameter.
- Cover each can with a cloth circle. Tie around each can with a piece of twine.
- Color and cut the 2 faces on this sheet. Mount on heavier card to strengthen them and then glue each face, as shown, to a can with a glue gun.
- Save these figures to use in other lessons in Unit VI.

## Story: Touched by the Spirit

It felt cold that night in the room. Benjamin shivered. The adults were sad and afraid. They were talking quietly and some were crying. They even locked the door because they were afraid some people might come and hurt them, like they had done to Jesus.



Someone lit a candle and they watched the flickering flame (*point to candle*). Why did the soldiers have to take Jesus away? Why did Jesus have to die? What was going to happen now? (*Lift up Benjamin*) Benjamin heard the people asking each other these questions. He didn't even feel like playing with his sister Haviva. He reached into a little sack he had tied around his waist and took out a small stone. He rubbed it between his fingers (*pass around a small stone*).

Haviva saw him with the stone and said, "Benjamin, what's that?" (*Pick up Haviva*)

"Remember when we ran to Jesus' tomb after Mary Magdalene told us the big stone was rolled away? All I saw was the empty tomb. I picked up this little stone that day.

They were looking at the stone and rolling it around in their hands when suddenly they heard the voice they thought they'd never hear again. It was Jesus! Right there in the room with them even though the door was locked! Benjamin recognized his voice.



Jesus walked around and said, "Peace be with you" to each person in the room. (*Say that to each child.*) Then he breathed on them (*blow gently*) and said, "Receive the God's Spirit." And then he was gone! Benjamin felt as if Jesus had hugged him, but he hadn't even touched him. Now the room didn't feel so cold anymore.

Everyone in the room started talking at once. Benjamin was disappointed that Uncle Thomas wasn't here. He missed seeing Jesus.

When Thomas did arrive everyone was still talking about Jesus. Benjamin ran up to him and said, "Uncle Thomas, Uncle Thomas. Jesus was here! You missed him. He was right here in this room!" (*Have Benjamin jump up and down.*)

Thomas laughed. "How could you see Jesus? He's dead. I saw him die on the cross. Unless I see him and touch him, I won't believe." Thomas saw the excitement on everyone's face. He wanted to believe, but he couldn't.

All week the people talked about Jesus appearing in the room. When Thomas heard them, he felt sad. "I wish I had been there too. Why was I late?"

And then, Thomas did see Jesus! Jesus came back to the same locked room where everyone was gathered! He said, "Peace be with you" and then he turned to Thomas and said, "Put your hand on my hand. It's really me!" Uncle Thomas did what Jesus asked. And then Jesus was gone again!

When Benjamin and Haviva went to bed that night they were still full of wonder and excitement (*lay them down*). They could hardly sleep. Where was Jesus now? When would they see him again? As they snuggled into bed they had a warm and loving feeling like being wrapped up in a hug. Was this God's Spirit? And as they drifted slowly off to sleep they smiled and prayed, "Thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus. Even though we don't see Jesus right now, we know he is with us, Amen." (*Put Benjamin and Haviva away.*)

## Celebratory Easter Wall Hanging

We suggest you create an Easter Wall Hanging to build on to each week to show the ongoing joyful spirit of the Easter season. If possible, also give your classroom a party atmosphere—the Season of Easter is a 50-day celebration! Here are some suggestions to add to your own ideas:

- hang yellow and white streamers from the ceiling to make a canopy of color.
- hang bunches of brightly colored balloons. These could have Easter symbols drawn on them with permanent marker (e.g. crosses, flowers, happy faces, etc.).
- play joyful music before class and during their creative activity time.
- set out fresh or silk flower arrangements.
- bring Spring into the room by planting a tray of grass. The children will enjoy watering it and watching it grow each week.

### To make a tray of grass:

Fill a shallow pan or drainage saucer with potting soil. Sprinkle alfalfa seeds, wheat berries or grass seed over the entire surface and lightly spray with water until soil is damp (not soggy). Cover with plastic wrap, place in indirect sunlight, and keep soil moist until seeds germinate (about 4-5 days). Remove plastic wrap and place tray in a sunny window.

### Week 2: May 1, 2011

- Cut out a half-circle shape from standard size poster board (bright yellow if possible). Dimensions should be about 28 in. (70cm) across x 22 in. (55cm) high.
- Glue on a large circle to represent the center of a flower.
- Cut petal shapes, one petal for each child and extra for visitors.
- Print each child's name and teacher's name on a petal.
- Hide the petals around the room before class.
- Print "Alleluia! Jesus is with us!" in bright colors, along the top. (*see illustration*)

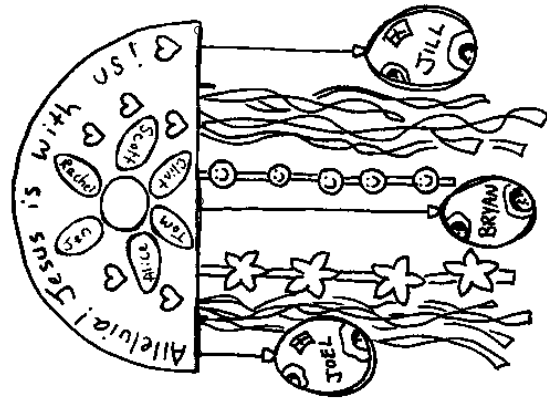
### Week 3 • May 8, 2011

- Make a copy of activity sheet "Recognizing Jesus" and cut out a set of faces. Bring 3 inflated balloons, yarn or string and a permanent marker. Hole punch 3 holes as shown.
- During class, glue the faces onto the balloons with a glue stick. Print the names of the children with permanent marker. Tie the balloons through the holes.

### Week 4 • May 15, 2011

- Cut yellow and white streamers into lengths about 2 ft. (60cm) long so that each child has at least 3 streamers.
- During class, tape or staple the streamers in 2 clusters onto the wall hanging, as shown.

## Instructions for Celebratory Easter Wall Hanging



### Week 5 • May 22, 2011

- Cut out a flower (*see pattern*) for each child from bright paper and place them in a basket. Bring wide ribbon.
- During class, tape or staple the flowers to the ribbon. Attach the ribbon to the wall hanging as shown.

### Week 6 • May 29, 2011

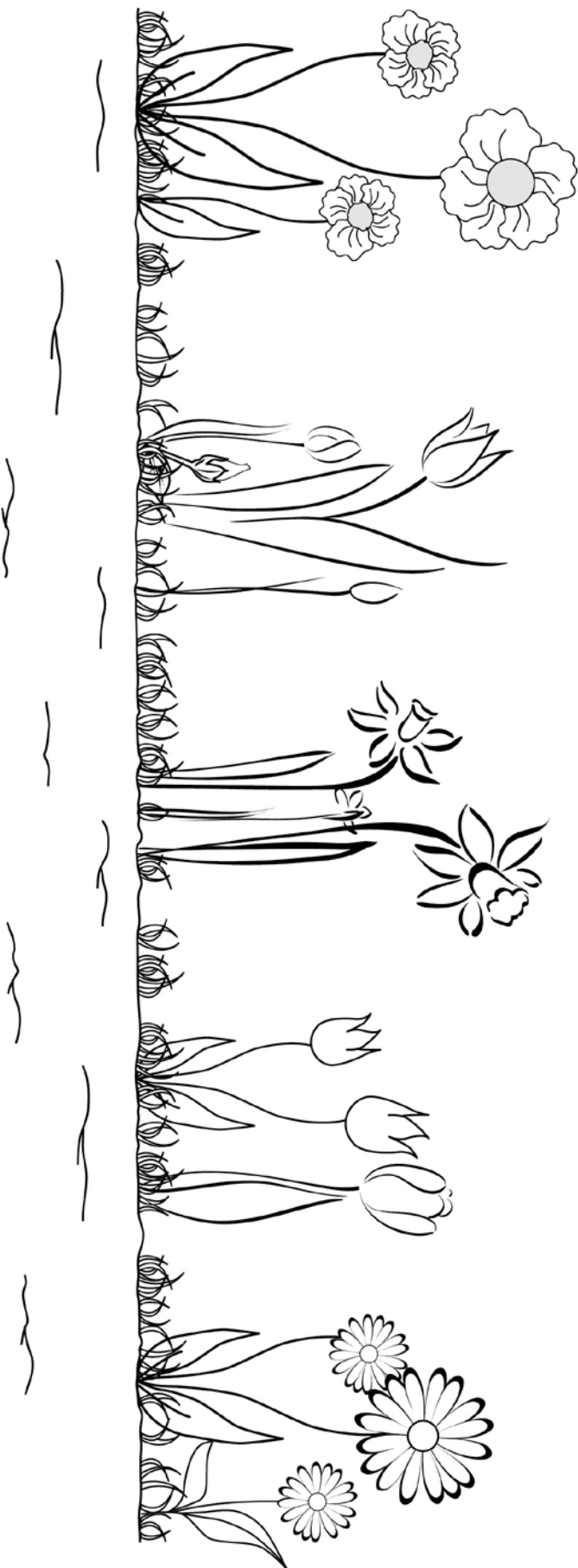
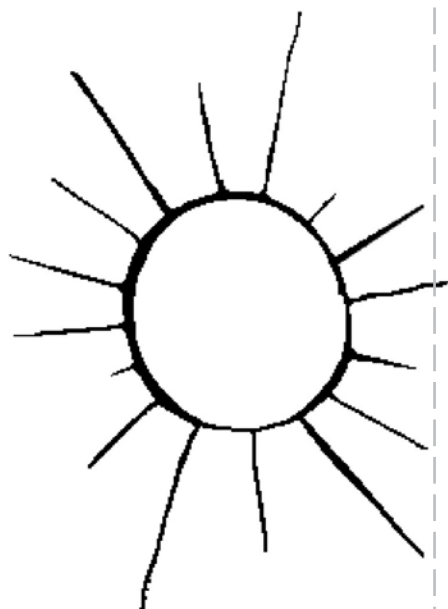
- Cut out a small heart for each child. Print their name on it and place them in a basket. Bring glue sticks.
- During class, glue the hearts onto the poster board as shown.

### Week 7 • June 5, 2011

- Cut out a small circle for each child from bright paper. Draw a simple happy face on each one. Bring wide ribbon. Hide the happy faces around your classroom ahead of time.
- During class, staple or tape the happy faces to wide ribbon. Attach the ribbon to the wall hanging as shown.

# New Life at Easter

God gave Jesus new life, and gives new life to all creation.





**Opening Song: Alleluia**

(tune: Frère Jacques)

Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Praise God! Praise God!  
Je-sus is risen, Je-sus is risen,  
He's with us again! He's with us again!



Happy Easter, Happy Easter,  
Praise God! Praise God!  
We're an Easter people, We're an Easter people,  
Alleluia Praise God!

**Song: We're Filled With  
Easter Joy**

(tune: The Bear Went Over the Mountain)

We're filled with Easter Joy (3x)  
Alle - lu - ia!

Alle - lu - ia, Praise God! (3x)  
We're filled with Easter Joy.

