



WEEK
FIVE
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:26-28:10

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Run on Three
Roll That Stone
Full and Empty

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Never Better"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Our Friend
My Easter Book
Roll Away
Easter Surprise

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's
natural desire to move
to help them learn



1. RUN ON THREE

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Count to three and shout, "Run!"

Encourage children to run around. Count to three again and shout, "Freeze!"
Encourage children to freeze. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come join me over here. We're going to play a fun running game."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to count to three and either shout: 'Run!' or 'Freeze!' If I say 'run,' run around our activity area. If I say 'freeze,' freeze right where you are. Ready? One, two, three, RUN! (Pause.) One, two, three, FREEZE! Great job, friends. (Repeat as desired.) Wow, that was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to hear a Bible Story about when Jesus had to wait three days before He did something super-exciting!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by counting to three, then doing different simple actions such as clapping, jumping, shouting, "Hooray!"

BIBLE STORY

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EASTER

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MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 15:15, NIV

KEY QUESTION

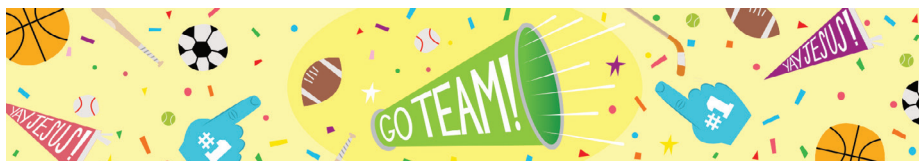
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15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. ROLL THAT STONE

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic bins, masking tape, and ball pit balls

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape the plastic bins in a row to the long side of a classroom table, making sure they're secure.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Let the children take turns rolling a ball across the table to fall into the bin. Once they roll the ball, encourage them to retrieve it to hand it to another friend so everyone has a turn.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand on this side of the table with me. I have a fun new ball game for us to play today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see the bins on the other side of the table? Roll the ball across the table so it falls into the bin like this. (*Demonstrate.*) [Child's name], come roll the ball! Hooray! Go around the table, grab the ball, and give it to another friend. [Child's name], your turn to roll the ball. (*Continue with each child.*) That was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: (*Pick up a ball.*) "These are like stones. In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a BIG stone that was rolled away."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to roll a big rock—taller and bigger than they are—all the way to your designated area.

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. FULL AND EMPTY

WHAT YOU NEED: Shallow, plastic bin; small paper cups; foam hearts; and pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Put the foam hearts and pom-poms in the bin and place bin on the table. Set the cups nearby.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to fill their cups with hearts and pom-poms. Ask children how they can make their cups empty again. Encourage children to dump their cups back into the bin. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come join me at the table! I have a bin full of pom-poms and hearts to play with today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, take a cup and fill it up! (Pause.) Look, your cups are full! What should we do to make them empty again? (Pause.) Yes! Let's dump these hearts and pom-poms back in the bin and make our cups empty. (Pause.) Fill your cups again." (Repeat as desired, ending with an empty cup.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Your cups are empty now. In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about something that was empty for a very important reason. Come with me!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to fill different-sized containers with different items and then dumping them to make them empty.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's
natural desire to move
to help them learn



1. OUR FRIEND

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page, Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent, empty cube tissue box, craft sticks, and permanent marker; Option: strips of paper in place of craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child. Write each child's name on a craft stick and place in the empty tissue box. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to sit on the floor with you in a circle. Say the Memory Verse with the children. Pull a stick/paper from the box, read the name, and give that child a sticker.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse one more time with the motions, and review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me! Let's say our Memory Verse and do the motions together. Ready? 'I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,' (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's sit on the floor in a circle together. Let's say our verse together. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Again! 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Great job! Inside this box is a craft stick/piece of paper with each of your names on it. I'm going to pull out one at a time, and when I say your name, come get a sticker. (*Reach in and pull one stick/paper out.*) Jesus wants to be [child's name] friend forever! Come get your sticker! (*Continue with each child.*) Wonderful job, friends."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our Memory Verse reminds us that Jesus loves us so much and He wants to be our friend forever. Let's do the motions as we say our verse one more time. 'I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,' (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. MY EASTER BOOK

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "My Easter Book" Activity Page, and cardstock; Optional: crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "My Easter Book" on cardstock, one per child. Fold each child's paper.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:26-28:10

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Look at the pictures and do the story motions together while you read the story sentences on each page.

Option: If using the black and white version, encourage children to color the pictures.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to hold their book up and say the Bottom Line together.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! We're going to make Easter storybooks to take home!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look at the pictures before we make our book. (Point to picture.) Jesus is eating a special dinner with His friends, the disciples. Let's pretend we're eating with Jesus and His disciples, like this. (Pretend to eat.)

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

(Point to picture.) "Oh no! Angry people are taking Jesus away. They hurt Jesus so bad that He died. Let's make a sad face, because Jesus dying is very sad. Make a sad face with me. (Point to picture.) A friend of Jesus rolled a stone in front of where Jesus was buried. Let's pretend we are rolling a stone. (Pretend to roll a stone with your hands.) Good job! (Point to picture.) Look at this last picture! On the third day, Jesus came back! Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! Let's make a happy face. (Make a happy face.) Jesus coming back is very happy!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Okay everyone, hold up your Easter books and tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Yay, Jesus! Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
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an activity that uses a preschooler's
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3. ROLL AWAY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute, and playground ball

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather around the parachute.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children hold an edge of the parachute. Place the ball on the parachute and ask children to roll the ball around the parachute by gently moving the parachute up and down.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come on over here, friends! Everyone, stand around the parachute."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, everyone, lift up the parachute and lower it. Great job. Now I'm going to put this ball on the parachute. Can we move the ball? Can we make the ball roll? Yes, let's slowly roll the ball. Can you roll the ball this way? Can you roll the ball that way? Great job, everyone! You got that ball to roll all over the parachute!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Do you remember that in our story the stone was rolled away from the tomb? The stone was rolled away, and Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



4. EASTER SURPRISE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Easter Surprise" and "Easter Surprise Strips" Activity Pages, cardstock, crayons, scissors, craft knife, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Easter Surprise" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Copy "Easter Surprise Strips" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Use the craft knife to cut slits on the dotted cut lines on either side of the tomb on each child's "Easter Surprise."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color their paper and the pictures on their strip. Insert the strip on each child's paper and demonstrate how to pull the end to make the different pictures appear in the opening of the tomb.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Happy Easter, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today! Come, let's make a special craft to help us celebrate Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "On your paper is the tomb where Jesus' friends took Him. Use the crayons to color it. (Pause.) Great! Now, each of you has a strip of paper. It has three pictures on it. There is a big stone, a picture of the tomb empty, and a heart. Use the crayons to color your picture strip. (Pause.) I'll add your picture strip to your big picture. Watch what happens when I pull this end! (Demonstrate.) Now you do it! Pull gently on the end and watch the pictures change. (Pause.) Alright, let's use these to review our Bible Story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The true story of Easter begins with God's love for us. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son Jesus to be our friend forever. We learned that Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were having dinner when Jesus told them He had to go away, but He promised He would come back. When Jesus was praying in a garden, some angry people came and took Him away. They hurt Him and He died. All of Jesus' friends were so sad. They put Jesus' body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it. Pull your strip until you see the big stone. (Pause.) Three sad days went by. When some of Jesus' friends went to the tomb, the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. Pull your strip until you see the empty tomb. (Pause.) Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Pull your strip until you see the heart. (Pause.) Jesus is alive! Jesus came to be our friend forever. That's what we celebrate on Easter! Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:26-28:10

MEMORY VERSE

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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible Story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. RUN ON THREE

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. ROLL THAT STONE

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic bins, two or three per Small Group
- Masking tape
- Ball pit balls, six per Small Group

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the plastic bins in a row along the long side of a table.

3. FULL AND EMPTY

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shallow, plastic bin
- Small paper cups
- Foam hearts and Pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill the bin with the foam hearts and pom-poms and set on the table.
- Set the cups next to the bin.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. OUR FRIEND

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent
- Empty cube tissue box
- Craft sticks
- Permanent marker
- *Optional: strips of paper in place of craft sticks*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.
- Write each child's name on a craft stick and place in the empty tissue box.
- Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together.



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GETTING READY

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2. MY EASTER BOOK

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "My Easter Book" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Option: crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "My Easter Book" on cardstock, one per child.
- Fold each child's paper.
- Option: If using the black and white version, encourage children to color the pictures.

- Write each child's name on their paper.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

3. ROLL AWAY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Parachute
- Playground ball

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_GoTeam

4. EASTER SURPRISE

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Easter Surprise" Activity Page
- "Easter Surprise Strips" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Easter Surprise" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Easter Surprise Strips" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Use the craft knife to cut slits on the dotted cut lines on either side of the tomb on each child's "Easter Surprise."