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## MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

Easter  
**MATTHEW 26:23-30,  
27:1-2, 28:1; JOHN 23:1-14**

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## BIBLE WORDS

"I have called you friends."  
**JOHN 15:15, NIV**

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## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be  
your friend forever.

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## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

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The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

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## STORY TIME:

- Tell It

## CRAFT TIME:

- Easter Lift the Flap
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MARCH 2024  
**TODDLERS**  
WEEK ONE

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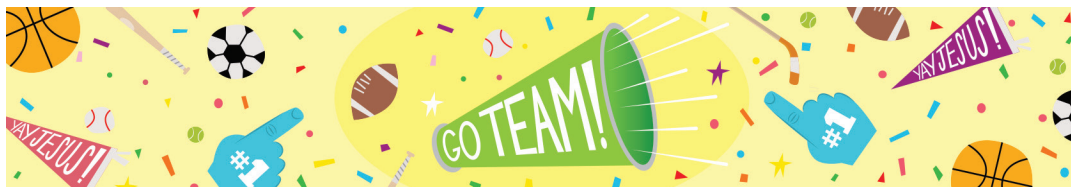
## STORY TIME

*Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Preschool Bible

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) is about the story of Easter. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! Yay, Jesus!

"Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that He had to go away, but He promised He would come back. Jesus went away, and on the third day (*hold up three fingers*), Jesus came back—just like He said He would. Hooray! Jesus is alive and **Jesus wants to be your friend forever**. On Easter, we celebrate because Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever!"



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## CRAFT TIME

*Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, self-inking heart stamp, clear tape, and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Easter Lift the Flap" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to stamp a heart inside the tomb. Help children tape the stone over the tomb opening so they can lift the flap to see the heart.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "This is a picture of the tomb from our Bible Story. Let's add a heart stamp right here inside the tomb. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now let's add the stone. Where did the heart go? Lift the flap. *(Pause.)* There it is! Jesus went away, and on the third day *(hold up three fingers)*, Jesus came back—just like He said He would. Hooray! Jesus is alive and **Jesus wants to be your friend forever.**"