MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

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

BIBLE WORDS

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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.

STORY TIME:

Show It

CRAFT TIME:

Number One Medal

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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 and "Story Pictures" Activity Pages copied on cardstock

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 Easter! Easter is a super-special day because we celebrate Jesus is alive! (Hold up a picture of Jesus.)

"One night, Jesus had dinner with His friends, the disciples. (Hold up a picture of Jesus eating with the disciples.) Jesus told them that He had to go away, but promised He would come back. (Hold up the picture of the tomb with the stone rolled in front.) Jesus went away, and on the third day, (hold up three fingers) He came back-just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! (Hold up the picture of Jesus.) Hooray! Jesus wants to be your 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: "Number One Medal" Activity Page, cardstock, coffee lids, dot markers, scissors, glue sticks, ribbon, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Number One Medal" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on the back of their lid. Cut ribbon in 30-inch lengths, one per child. Thread ribbon through the hole in each child's coffee lid and tie in a knot.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their cutout, then glue it to the coffee lid. Clean hands and encourage children to wear the medals as they leave.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make a medal for you to wear. Let's make it bright and colorful! Dot the markers on your paper. (*Pause.*) Wow! Nice job! Now help me glue it on. (*Pause.*) Hooray! Jesus is number one!

"Jesus went away and came back—just like He said He would. Hooray! Jesus is alive! Jesus wants to be your friend forever."