



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:

- Draw It

CRAFT TIME:

- Easter Cups
-



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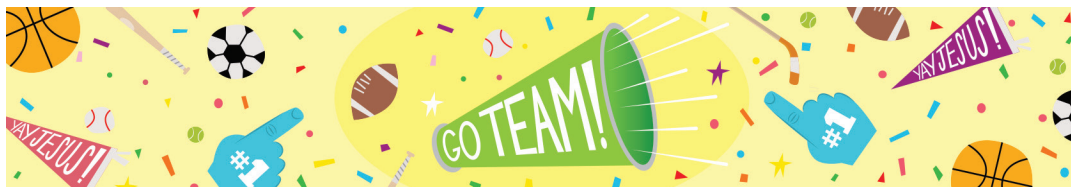
STORY TIME

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, butcher paper, and markers in a variety of colors

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! (*Draw a simple stick man of Jesus.*)

"One night, Jesus had dinner with His friends, the disciples. (*Draw a table with food and twelve people at the table.*) Jesus told His friends He had to go away, but promised He would come back. (*Draw a simple semi-circle tomb with the stone rolled in front.*) Jesus went away and on the third day (*write the numbers 1-3*), He came back—just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! (*Draw a simple stick man of Jesus.*) Hooray! (*Draw lots of hearts.*) **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: "Easter Cups" Activity Page; copy paper; clear, plastic punch cups; scissors; glue sticks; baby wipes; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Easter Cups" on copy paper and cut, one set per child. Write each child's name on the bottom of their cups.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help children glue the pictures to each cup. Stack cups and demonstrate how to twist the cups to roll the stone away. Clean hands.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Help me glue these pictures to your cups. Rub glue on the back of the picture of the tomb and we'll press it on one of these cups. (Pause.) Put this cup inside your other cup and we'll glue the stone on this cup. (Pause.) Now watch what happens. (Twist the cups to roll the stone away.) Great job! Jesus went away and came back—just like He promised. Jesus is alive! **Jesus wants to be your friend forever.** Yay, Jesus!"