



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

## Easter

## MATTHEW 26:23-30.

**27:1-2, 28:1; JOHN 23:1-14**

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

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Jesus wants to be  
your friend forever.

Jesus wants to be  
your friend forever.

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

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.

- Act It

- Act It

- Jesus and Me

- Jesus and Me



MARCH 2024  
**TODDLERS**  
WEEK FOUR

## 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.

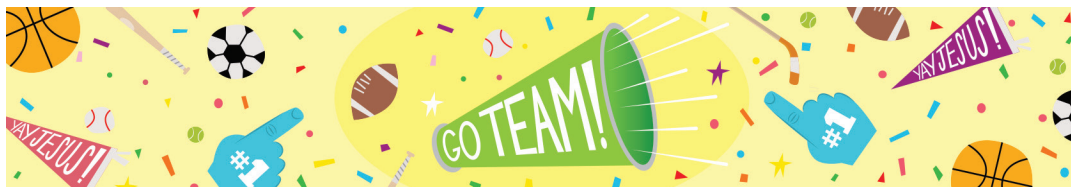
## STORY TIME

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 Little People® figure man

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you! I need your help telling our Bible Story today. 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 Jesus wants to be our friend forever! Yay, Jesus! Everyone, show me how you celebrate. (*Suggest ways to celebrate and encourage everyone to do a movement or two.*)

"Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that He had to go away, but He promised He would come back. Jesus went away (*walk the Little People® figure behind your back or tuck him in your lap*), and on the third day . . . count with me! One, (*hold up one finger at a time*), two, three! (*Bring the Little People® figure back*) 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! Everyone, celebrate with me. Yay, Jesus!"



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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:** "Jesus and Me" Activity Page, cardstock, self-inking smiley face stamps, dot markers, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus and Me" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to decorate their picture with the smiley face stamp and markers. Clean hands as needed.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends let's make a special picture with you and Jesus because **Jesus wants to be your friend forever.** Stamp a smiley face on the gingerbread person and decorate your paper. (Pause.) Super-duper job! (Clean hands.)

"In our story, Jesus told the disciples He had to go away. Three sad days went by, and Jesus came back—just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! And **Jesus wants to be your friend forever.**"