# TODDLERS WEEK FIVE

## 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:**

Game It

## **CRAFT TIME:**

• Easter Story Book

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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! 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. Happy Easter! We celebrate today and every day 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. Everyone put your hands up over your eyes. One, two, three, peekaboo, I see you! Jesus went away, and on the third day (hold up three fingers), He came back—just like He said He would. Let's try that again. Cover your eyes. One, two, three, peekaboo! 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 Story Book" Activity Page, cardstock, dot markers, self-inking heart and smiley face stamps, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Easter Story Book" on paper, one per child. Write each child's name on the front page of their book.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to decorate their book with markers and stamps. Clean hands as needed. Fold the book where indicated.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "This book is the Easter story we've been learning about. Use the markers and stamps to decorate your paper. (*Pause.*) Superduper! Now I'm going to fold the paper... and, look! I made you your very own Easter Story book! Yay, Jesus!"