



WEEK  
**FIVE**  
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Alive  
Easter  
Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why does Easter matter?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that  
he gave his one and only Son.  
Anyone who believes in him will  
not die but will have eternal life."  
John 3:16, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Easter—Celebrating that  
Jesus is alive

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### SMALL GROUP

15  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

35  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and  
Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, pray for patience as you gather with your excited kids today. Pray that you would be able to help them understand the significance of what we celebrate today.

## 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "Easter Charades"

Activity Page, plastic Easter eggs, and Easter basket

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Alive  
Easter  
Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why does Easter matter?

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and wish them a "Happy Easter" as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the Easter basket filled with Easter eggs.
- Instruct one kid to choose an Easter egg out of the basket, open it, and silently read what is written on the paper inside.
- Direct the kid to act out what's on the paper without using any noises.
- Instruct the rest of the group to guess what the kid is acting out.
- Direct the kid who guesses correctly to choose an egg and take a turn acting.
- Continue playing as time allows or until you've worked through all of the Easter eggs.

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning  
through following guidelines and  
working as a group



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic Easter eggs, gift bags, and timer

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct teams to group together on opposite sides of your space.
- Place a prepared gift bag of Easter eggs next to each team.
- Direct the teams to select one kid to stand still during the activity.
- Instruct that kid to stand with their legs together and their arms out at their sides to form the shape of a cross.
- When you say, "Go!" direct each team to work together to place as many Easter eggs as possible on the kid standing like a cross.
  - Kids can balance eggs on arms, hands, and shoulders or hold them between ankles.
- Instruct the teams that they have two minutes to place as many eggs on the "cross" as possible.
- Set a timer for two minutes and start it when you say, "Go!"
- As soon as the two minutes are up, instruct all the kids step away from their cross.
- Count how many eggs are on each cross.
- The team with the most eggs is the winning team.

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### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Today we're going to talk about the cross. [Transition] In Large Group, we'll hear about all that Jesus took on when He was on cross and why it's such an important part of why we celebrate Easter."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal understanding  
and application



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Dry-erase board, dry-erase marker,  
brightly colored sticky notes, and pens or markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the group to sit where they can see the dry-erase board.
- Draw a large cross on the dry-erase board.
- Pass the stack of sticky notes around.
- Instruct each kid to take two sticky notes.
- Give each kid a pen or marker.
- Ask: "Can anyone recap what we've been talking about all month for anyone who hasn't been here?"
- Prompt kids to mention the following if needed:
  - Connected: Switch on the power of peace.
  - Peace: Proving that you care more about someone than winning an argument.
  - Memory verse (Weeks 1-3): *If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.* Romans 12:18 (NIRV)
  - Memory verse (Weeks 4-5): *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.* John 3:16 (NIRV)
- Ask: "What are some ways you can work on making peace with other people?"
- Instruct the kids to write down their answer on one of their sticky notes.
- Direct the kids to stick their note along the horizontal part of the cross on the dry-erase board.
- Ask:
  - What is the significance of Easter?
  - Help kids recap that Jesus is our promised Savior and He died and rose again so we could have a relationship with God that will last forever.
- Ask: "What does Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection mean to you when it comes to your connection with God?"
  - If kids are stumped, give suggestions like: "I can trust God." or "God keeps the promises made to me."
- Instruct the kids to write a summary of their answer on their other sticky note and stick it anywhere along the vertical part of the cross.
- Ask:
  - Why do you think we put the first sticky note on the horizontal part of the cross and the second sticky note on the vertical part of the cross? (*The horizontal portion symbolizes our connection with each other. The vertical portion of the cross symbolizes our connection with God.*)
- Why is it important to have peace with people and also be at peace with God?
- Talk with the group about how God sent Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. During Jesus' time on Earth, He would tell people to love God and love others. One way we can do this is by making peace with God and others! We can show others that Jesus is alive by how we choose to show love and peace.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Easter—Celebrating that  
Jesus is alive**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Catapult Questions" Activity Page, "Catapult Questions Answer Key" Activity Page, buckets, Peeps® candy (or plastic Easter eggs), and spoons

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the buckets in a line.
- Fold the "Catapult Questions" Activity Page cards as you drop them evenly into buckets.
- Ask kids to stand in a line several feet away from the line of buckets.
- Put a Peeps candy in a spoon.
  - If you prefer a non-food option, use a plastic Easter egg instead.
- Give the first kid in line the spoon with the Peeps candy (or egg).
- Instruct the kids to take turns using the spoon as a catapult to propel the Peeps candy (or egg) toward the buckets to try to land in one of the buckets.
- If the Peeps candy (or egg) does not make it into a bucket, direct the kid who catapulted it to go to the end of the line.
- If the Peeps candy (or egg) makes it into a bucket, direct the kid to choose a piece of paper out of the bucket it landed in and read the question out loud.
- Direct the kid to answer the question.
- If the kid does not know the answer, give the rest of the group a chance to answer.
- Repeat until every kid has had a chance to try the catapult or until all the questions have been answered.
- *Optional: Once the game is over, give every kid a fresh Peep to eat.*
- Invite the group to sit down.
- Say: "What happened on Easter is truly the greatest event that ever took place in the history of the world! Whether or not we have chosen to put our faith in Jesus because of what He did for us, Easter is the most important thing we can celebrate all year long because **Jesus is alive** and died for us!"
- **[Make It Personal]** *(Share your own story about when you made the decision to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Describe the difference it has made in your own life. Provide a safe space for kids to be able to ask questions. Be open and sensitive to any kids who may want to choose to trust Jesus as their Savior. Include parents in this conversation.)*

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## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to  
share with others and build  
on their understanding



## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- How does believing Jesus is alive change the way you live your life?
- How can Jesus help you through hard things?
- Why does Easter matter?
- How will God make everything right again?

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## 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, Easter baskets, prepared plastic eggs, and gift bags

### WHAT YOU DO:

Make sure each kid has a Bible.

Together, look up John 3:16, following the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from John. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verses 16 in chapter 3.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Easter—Celebrating that Jesus is alive

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to keep one of the Bibles open for reference and set aside the others.
- Direct the teams to form two lines, one on each side of your group space.
- Instruct each team to select one kid to be their basket holder.
- Direct each team's basket holder to move to the other side of your group space so they are standing directly across from their teams.
- Give each team's basket holder one of the Easter baskets.
- Hand each of the prepared gift bags of Easter eggs to the first person in line on each team.
- When you say, "Happy Easter!" instruct the first kid in line on each team to look through their bag of eggs to find the egg that has the first word of John 3:16 on it.
  - They can refer to the open Bible as needed.
- Once they find that egg, direct them to say the word out loud and then toss it to their teammate who is holding the basket.
- Instruct the basket holder to catch the egg in the basket.
  - If the egg does not make it into the basket, direct the teammate who tossed the egg to retrieve the egg and try again.
  - Instruct the kid to keep tossing the egg until they make it into the basket.
- Once the egg makes it into the basket, direct the teammate who tossed it to go to the end of their team's line.
- Instruct the next kid in line to search through the bag for the second word of John 3:16.
- Repeat until all the words have been found, said out loud, and successfully tossed into their basket.
- The first team to complete the entire verse is the winning team!
- Once the game ends, invite the entire group to say the verse out loud together.
- Ask: "What does this verse have to do with what we are celebrating on Easter?"



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## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Dry-erase board, dry-erase marker,  
"PEACE Prayer" Activity Page, and pencils

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to gather in your group space.
- Ask kids if they ever feel distracted or unsure what to say when they try to pray.
- Explain it can sometimes help to have a guideline for prayer time.
- On the dry-erase board, write:
  - P
  - E
  - A
  - C
  - E
- Next to the P, write: *Praise*.
  - Say: "We have an opportunity to start our prayer time by giving God praise for things. This may mean thanking God for things or reflecting on how amazing God is."
- Next to the E, write: *Examine*.
  - Say: "This is a great time to focus on anything that you may be navigating or struggling with. When you examine yourself, it can be a deep dive into what's really going on in your mind and your heart. God is here with us through all of that, so we can always talk to God about it."
- Next to the A, write: *Ask for help*.
  - Say: "God wants us to ask for help! And no ask is too big or small. We may want to ask God to help us with that big math test coming up, or we may want to ask God for wisdom in how to handle a difficult situation."
- Next to the C, write: *Confess*.
  - Say: "It's so important that we admit when we've messed up. Even though God already knows everything about us, when we choose to confess our sin and talk to God about it, it gives us an opportunity to turn away from it. We are more likely not to keep making the same mistakes when we have accountability with God."
- Next to the E, write: *Everyone else*.
  - Say: "We all know people who need prayer! In this final portion of prayer time, we can talk to God about all the things that may be happening with the people in our lives."
- Invite kids to spread out in your group space.
- Give each kid a copy of the "PEACE Prayer" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to write down things on the page that they would want to pray about in each of the categories.
- When the kids are finished writing things down, invite them to pray silently about what they wrote.
- After everyone has finished, gather everyone together again.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

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## BASIC TRUTH

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**(5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER, CONTINUED)**

- Close your group time in prayer.
- Encourage kids to take the prayer guides with them as a reminder for how they can pray at home.



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**Made to Move:** an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container
- Easter basket
- Print "Easter Charades" Activity Page on paper and cut out, one set for each Small Group
- Plastic Easter eggs, one dozen for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Fold each of the 12 strips of paper from the "Easter Charades" Activity Page and place each one inside an Easter egg.
  - Place the eggs in the Easter basket.

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**Made to Play:** an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Plastic Easter eggs, four dozen for each Small Group
- Gift bags, two for each Small Group
- Timer
- Before group time:
  - Place two dozen eggs in each gift bag.

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Reflect:** an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Dry-erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Brightly colored sticky notes, two per kid
- Pens or markers, one for each kid

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Play:** an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Catapult Questions" Activity Page on paper and cut out, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Catapult Questions Answer Key" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Buckets or baskets, three for each Small Group
- Peeps candy, one or two packages for each Small Group
  - *Optional: additional Peeps for kids to eat, one Peep per kid*
  - If you prefer a non-food option, use a plastic Easter egg to catapult instead of Peeps.
- Spoon, one for each Small Group

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Connect:** an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**Made to Move:** an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Easter baskets, two for each Small Group
- Gift bags, two for each Small Group (You can use the bags from the Opening Activity.)
- Bibles, one for each kid
- Plastic Easter eggs, five dozen for each Small Group



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- Before group time:
  - Use a permanent marker to write the words of John 3:16 on each of the eggs.
  - If you prefer not to write on the eggs, place a piece of painter's tape on the eggs and write on the tape instead.
  - Make two sets of eggs.
  - Each egg should have one/two words.
  - Place both sets of verse eggs in two different gift bags.

## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**Made to Reflect:** an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry-erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Print "PEACE Prayer" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Pencils, one for each kid

## HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource:  
**Parent Cue app.**