



GO TEAM! | WEEK 5 | MARCH 31, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Easter/5th Sunday Funday

Bible Story: Easter • Jesus is alive! • Matthew 26:26-28:10

Memory Verse: “I have called you friends.” John 15:15, NIV

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Waiting to be picked by a team in grade school is agonizing. If you’re some of the last people chosen by a team, it means while everyone else is cheering, “Go team!” you’re probably thinking something like, “They don’t want me, and I don’t want to be here.” The truth is, we don’t all have the skills to hit home runs or run really fast. And that’s okay. What’s not okay is being unwanted. Thankfully, for all of us, Jesus wants EVERYONE on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. No matter what we can do or can’t do, what we have done, what we look like, or where we live, Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...FOREVER! And that kind of Good News makes us all want to say, “GO TEAM!”

Story Focus: Jesus is alive! Jesus dies, is put in a tomb, and comes back just like He said He would, so we could be His friend forever. Yes, Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. And Jesus wants to be your friend forever...every child’s friend forever...every-person-in-the world’s friend forever.

Today is Easter AND 5th Sunday Funday! Start large group on time (9:40/11:25) so you can allow enough space and time (but not too much time!) to share the Easter Story within large group but also leave 20 minutes for small group time. They are equally important.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You’re in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
PRESCHOOL



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

("Ollie Around the Room" Activity Page – taped around the room)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. **Look around the room and try to spot all of the hidden Ollies.**

Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- What are we celebrating today? Easter
- Do you know why we celebrate Easter? Jesus is ALIVE!
- Have you gone on an egg hunt? How many eggs did you find? What was inside?
- What would you put in an Easter egg?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (Kids respond.) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (List rules while counting on fingers)

1. Be kind. We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. Be safe. We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. Have fun! We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!



“Can everybody follow those rules today? (Kids respond.) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? (Kids repeat.)
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? (Kids repeat.)
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? (Kids repeat.)

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘I (point up)
have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers)
friends,’ (hook index fingers twice)
John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.)

“Ok, Now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: NEVER BETTER, HE IS ALIVE)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Yay Jesus Flag, Prop or Picture, Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the props to the center of the room. You should have a Yay Jesus Flag and Prop/Picture for current week (cross).

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here...”

Pull out flag and prop/picture

Hold up the flag. What do I have here? (Pause for responses). YES, it’s a flag! A team flag! It has letters and words on it. I’m going to read them, and I want you to repeat them. The first part has letters, J-E-S-U-S. Now you say the letters. J-E-S-U-S. Those letters spell Jesus. The next part has words. It says Yay Jesus! Now you say it. Yay Jesus! Let’s say it altogether now. J-E-S-U-S, Yay Jesus! Jesus wants everyone to be on his team and be his friend! Isn’t that Awesome? Yay Team Jesus! There was one more item in our story box. What is this? (Pause for responses). YES, a cross! The cross reminds us of Jesus. Today we’re going to hear a very special story about Jesus and his great love for us!

Let’s watch!



WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

Wow! Was that an AMAZING story? Yes! Jesus loved us sooo much that He died for us and in 1, 2, 3 days he rose and is ALIVE! Jesus is ALIVE! That is something very special to celebrate! Happy Easter everyone!

When I ask, 'Who wants to be your friend forever?' I want you to say, [Bottom Line] 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever' Let's try that! Who wants to be your friend forever? (Jesus wants to be my friend forever.)

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.' When we choose Jesus as our friend, we are on Jesus' team and part of his family forever.

PRAY

"Let's pray together. (Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")

"God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son to us. Thanks for Easter and the chance to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Because Jesus is alive, we know He is our forever friend! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP



SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: Easter • Jesus is alive! • Matthew 26:26-28:10

Memory Verse: “I have called you friends.” John 15:15, NIV

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

When kids leave today, they will take home 3 things: the “Resurrection Eggs Take Home” sheet, Color Sheet, and a stuffed plastic egg.

RESURRECTION EGGS

(1-2 Sets of 6 “Resurrection Eggs” in Egg Carton per group, Resurrection Eggs Take Home” - ½ sheet per kid)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Have kids open the plastic eggs in order when prompted as the SGL goes through the Bible story.

After the Activity: Talk about how we can all be Jesus’ friend and follow Him.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come sit down friends. I’m going to tell the Bible story again, but I need your help! When I hand you an egg, I want you to open it and show us what is inside.

During the Activity:

Start reading the following story. When prompted, hand the corresponding egg (or two of the same number egg if you have a larger group) to a child for them to open and show the picture inside. Do not hand out the eggs until you get to that portion of the story.

“Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that He would have to go away but that He would come back.

(EGG #1) – SAY: “Let’s open this egg and see what happens next! That night, while Jesus was praying for us and for what was about to happen, some mean men took Jesus away and hurt Him so badly He died on a cross.

(EGG #2) “Jesus’ friends were so sad they put Him in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.

(EGG #3) “They waited three long, sad days. Can you all count with me? 1, 2, 3. Very good.

(EGG #4) “After 3 days, when they went back to the tomb, they found.... something!

(EGG #5) “They found that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. Jesus came



back just like He said He would.

(EGG #6) “The tomb was empty, and JESUS IS ALIVE! Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life so we could be friends with Him forever!

“When I ask, ‘Who wants to be your friend forever?’, I want you to say, [Bottom Line] ‘Jesus wants to be my friend forever!’ Who wants to be your friend forever?” (Jesus wants to be my friend forever!) Now say, ‘JESUS IS ALIVE!’”

Repeat the activity as interest allows.

****See note under “CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS”**

PARACHUTE CELEBRATION (Jesus is ALIVE!)

(Parachute, Multicolored Party Streamers and/or Pom Poms)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the parachute flat on the floor and place the pom-poms or streamers on top of it.

During the Activity: Ask children to stand around the parachute with you and pick it up. Encourage children to shake the parachute very fast to bounce the pom-poms and streamers high in the air. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus didn’t stay dead, He is ALIVE!

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, let’s play with the parachute today to celebrate Jesus is ALIVE!”

During the Activity: “Come stand around the parachute with me. On the count of three, we’ll pick it up. One, two, three! Let’s bounce it easy. Look at the streamers and pom-poms bounce. Let’s shake the parachute a little faster. (Pause.) Now let’s shake the streamers and pom-poms high and say “Jesus is ALIVE!” Ready? “Jesus is ALIVE! Jesus is ALIVE!”

After the Activity: “Today, we heard how Jesus died on a cross, but He didn’t stay dead. After 3 days, what happened? The stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. JESUS IS ALIVE! Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life so we could be friends with Him forever!. Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”



MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

'I (point up)
have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers)
friends,' (hook index fingers twice)
John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.)

PRAYER

"Let's pray together. (Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")

"God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son! Jesus is alive and that means He can be our friend forever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY - COLORING SHEET

("Coloring Page" Activity Page – 1 per kid, Crayons)

What You Do:

- Pass out half sheet color page.
- As parents are picking up, encourage kids to color the Coloring Page together.
- Continue having intentional conversations with your small group.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.

**Give each kid the "Resurrection Egg Take Home" along with a stuffed plastic egg and his/her coloring page.

