



FLY A KITE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 3-4, 2021

2s-3s Lesson

Jesus is Alive!

Bible Story: Jesus is alive! Easter • *Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7*

Memory Verse: “How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” Ephesians 3:18, 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.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

This month, we are going to be talking about something that is high and wide and deep. Do you know what it is? Yes, it's the love of Jesus. Jesus' love for each of us is so wide and long and high and deep that we can't even measure it! And, we are going to have so much fun introducing this truth to our preschoolers this month! We start the month with the best Sunday of the year—Easter! How exciting that we get to share the story of Easter with our youngest friends this month. Some of them will be hearing for the very first time that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Yes! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! We want to share the good news that Jesus is alive with our preschoolers all month long. We want them to hear over and over again that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. We want this foundational truth of Jesus' great love for them to live in each preschooler's heart.

Story Focus: Jesus is alive! We kick everything off by sharing the amazing true story about why we celebrate Easter. We will teach our preschoolers that Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son. Jesus did amazing things and showed us how to love one another. Then, angry people hurt Jesus so badly that He died. But Jesus came back—just like He said He would! Yes! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! For some children, this will be the first time they hear this incredible story.

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

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have children stand in front of you in the activity area.

During the Activity: Invite the children to count to three then do a movement. For example, “One, two, three,” jump!

Movements: jump, twist, clap hands, stomp, run in place, and jazz hands (*Hold hands palms out in front of you with fingers wide and wave.*)

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s get moving!”

During the Activity: “Let’s count to three then do a fun movement. Let’s try one together. First, we will jump. Here we go! One, two, three, JUMP! (*Do activity.*) Great job! Let’s do another one!” (*Continue and finish activity.*)

After the Activity: “Great job! Today, we’ll count to three in our Bible story. I can’t wait to find out what happens!”

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)

LARGE GROUP LEADER (LGL) enters, carrying the treasure box. Inside is a Bible and scarves for Worship.

LGL: Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

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 speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders' directions.
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*)

LGL sits with the treasure box in front of him/her.

NOTE: You can choose to put any large group props that fit inside the box and pull them out for a dramatic reveal.

LGL: Do you see this box? This is a beautiful box, isn't it? It looks special. I wonder what's inside. Do you want to see what's inside? Let's see. *LGL opens the box and pulls out a Bible. It's a Bible!* (hugging the Bible) Oh, I love the Bible! It's so special. Everybody pretend to hug your Bible. Go ahead! (pause) Very good! I wonder...what's in the Bible? The Bible is God's Big Story, and it tells us all about God! We are going to hear a true story from the Bible today. I wonder what else is in this special box? *Pull out scarves for worship time and pass them out to the children.*

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: VERY BEST FRIEND, I KNOW HE LOVES ME, WORSHIP SCARVES)

Pass out the scarves to the kids and sing the worship songs.

INTRO SKETCH

(Large Heart, Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the heart inside to the middle.

"Hey, friends, it's me, [your name]. There's something in my story box today that's going to help us learn the story. Who can raise their hand and tell me what you think it is? (*Pause for responses, praise those who followed directions and raised their hands*) Those are all great guesses. Let's open the box and see what it is. (*Pull out heart*)

"Wow! A heart! When I see a heart it makes me think of people and things that I love. It reminds me of my mom and dad, my brother and sister, my friends, my pet dog, and so many other things

that I love a lot. But you know what, the most important thing that it reminds me of is how much God loves me and you! He and His son, Jesus, love us a whole lot! In fact, Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When I ask who wants to be your friend forever, I want you to say 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!' Ready?

"Who wants to be your friend forever? *Jesus wants to be our friend forever.*

Let's watch our Bible story today."

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Yay! Jesus is alive! We are celebrating today because it's Easter and Jesus is ALIVE. He wants to be our friend forever. When I ask, 'Who wants to be your friend forever?', you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!' Ready? Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN and LGL: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

LGL: "One more time. Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN and LGL: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

WRAP UP AND BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE, BOTTOM LINE)

"Remember what our Basic Truth says, *[Basic Truth]* I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever. When we accept Jesus as our friend forever then we belong in God's family forever!"

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

(CG: MEMORY VERSE)

Let's say our memory verse together. I will say it first and then you will say it with me.

"How wide (*hold arms out wide*)
and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*)
and high (*jump*)
and deep (*crouch*)
is the love (*hug yourself*)
of Christ," (*point up*)
Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book.*)

Say it once while doing the motions and then invite the kids to do it with you.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: Jesus is alive! Easter • *Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7*

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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.

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 trying.

“How wide (*hold arms out wide*)
and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*)
and high (*jump*)
and deep (*crouch*)
is the love (*hug yourself*)
of Christ,” (*point up*)
Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book.*)

JESUS IS ALIVE KITE

(“Jesus Is Alive Kite” and “Jesus Kite Round Sticker” Activity Pages; Cardstock; Avery® #5294 Labels or Equivalent; Crayons; Stickers; Crepe Paper Streamers; Scissors; Glue Sticks)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Jesus Is Alive Kite” onto cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy “Jesus Kite Label” on label paper, one per child. Cut streamers into 12-inch lengths, two or three per child. Write child’s name on their kite.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their kites with crayons and stickers. Add the Jesus sticker to the kite then have children glue the streamers to the tail of their kite.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hello, friends! Today is Easter! It’s a very special day! Our Bible story tells about God’s love for us. God’s love for us is higher than the highest mountain—higher than a kite can fly. God’s love is bigger and wider than we can even hold. God’s love goes deeper than the deepest ocean.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a kite! Use the crayons and stickers to decorate your kite any way you want. (*Pause.*) Super-duper! Now add the sticker of Jesus to your kite. (*Pause.*) Great! Now all

we need to do is add the tails to the kite. Glue the streamers to the bottom point of the kite. *(Pause.)* Now you have a super special kite.”

After the Activity: “One night, Jesus was having dinner with his very best friends. He told them He had to go away but that He would come back. After dinner, Jesus went to the garden to pray, and some angry people came and took Him away. They hurt Jesus, and He died. Jesus’ friends were so sad. They put Jesus’ body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it.

“Three sad days went by. On the third day, when some of Jesus’ friends went to the tomb, they saw that the big stone had been rolled away. Jesus was not there. Jesus had come back, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! Be happy today because it’s Easter and Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

OPTIONAL: JESUS IS ALIVE!

(Colorful Pom Poms)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Give each child some pom poms to hold. The leader will have several pom poms in their hands as well. The leader will review the story and say, “One, two, three,” then everyone will toss their pom poms in the air as they say, “Jesus is alive!” The leader and children will pick up the pom poms and do it again. Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I’m so happy to see you today! Come stand with me.”

During the Activity: “I have some pom poms I want you to hold. *(Give each child pom poms.)* Now hold your pom poms and listen. When I count to three, we will throw our pom poms in the air and say, ‘Jesus is alive!’

“Jesus told His friends He had to go away, but He would come back. Some angry people took Jesus away and hurt Him so bad that He died. Jesus’ friends buried Him. They were so sad that their good friend Jesus was gone. But then, on the third day, Jesus came back! Here we go! One, two, three! *(Throw pom poms in the air.)* Jesus is alive! Yay! Jesus is alive! Let’s pick up the pom poms and do that again.” *(Repeat.)*

After the Activity: “Jesus is alive because He wants to be your friend forever. So, when I ask you, ‘Who wants to be your friend forever?’, you say **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus wants to be my friend forever.’** Ready? **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Yay! Jesus is alive! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**”

BOTTOM LINE SONG

Sing the following words to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie".

“Jesus is your friend.
Jesus is your friend.
He’s my friend. He’s your friend.
Let’s all shout, ‘Hooray!’
Hooray!”

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.