

Preschool | W1 April

Leader Summary

Jesus eats a special meal with His friends, the disciples. He tells them He will die but that He will come back to life. Even though Jesus is God's Son, Jesus chooses to die on a cross to rescue everyone. On the third day, an angel rolls the stone away and tells His friends, "Jesus is alive!" They run to share the good news—Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

Connect Time (20 minutes)

Welcome Time

Small Group connect

Large Group Time (25 minutes)

Count Down & Welcome

Worship

Memory Verse

Bible Story Intro

Bible Story Video

Wrap Up & Prayer

Small Group Time (25 minutes)

Activity One

Activity Two

Memory Verse with Motions

Prayer

Parent Pick Up Activity

Take Home

Resurrection Egg Activity & Parent Note



Bible Story

Easter • Matthew 26:31-32, 36, 47-50; 27:1-2, 11-66; 28:1-8

Jesus is alive.

Key Question

Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse

"I have called you friends." • John 15:15 NIV

20 min

Connect Time

15 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Small Group Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed

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

SLIDE: Theme Slide

What You Do:

Small Group 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. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

12 min

Large Group Time

4 min

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

6 min

Worship

What You Need

No supplies needed

2 min

Memory Verse

SLIDE: Countdown

"Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and 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.*)

SLIDE: Three Rules

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?"

SLIDE: Basic Truths

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.*)

"Let's continue celebrating Jesus through song and dance. Please stand up right where you are and get ready to move your body and sing as we worship Jesus!"

SONG: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" Preschool Video is available from *Amazing Music*.

"Great singing, friends! That was a fun song! We are going to do one more song together... everyone get ready to sing and dance, one more time!"

SONG: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Preschool Video is available from *Amazing Music*.

"Great singing, friends! Now, let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!"

What You Need

No supplies needed

14 min

Large Group Bible Story

2 min

Bible Story Intro**What You Need**

 Party Horn (1/service)	1
 Story Box	1
 Easter Egg	1
 Cross	1

9 min

Wonder Bible Story (Video)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

3 min

Wrap Up & Prayer**VIDEO:** Memory Verse Video*"I (point up)***have called you** *(Hands like binoculars, open and shut.)***friends."** *(Hook index fingers twice.)***John 15:15** *(open hands like a book).***SLIDE:** Memory Verse*"Can you do that with me?**Lead the children to say the Memory Verse with motions once or twice.*

"You guys all did a great job with our memory verse and with our worship songs! Now it's time to turn around (spin around)... sit down (sit down).. Shake the wiggles out (wiggle hands)... so we can hear (cup hands behind ears) what today's Bible Story is all about!"

SLIDE: Theme

"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... (LGL pulls out a party horn) Oh wow! This is fun! (Blow the party horn a couple of times.) A party horn makes me think of celebrating! Oh, look at this, (pull out cross then egg)... Hip, Hip, Hooray let's celebrate! What do you think we might be celebrating today? (Pause.) Yes, I think you are right! Easter!!

*"Let's get ready to watch our Bible Story video."***SLIDE:** Bottom Line

"Wow! The Easter Story seems sad, but it's also worth celebrating! People hurt Jesus, and He died on the cross. But, Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He came back to life after three days. He rescued us, all because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus wants to be your (point to

What You Need

No supplies needed

the kids) friend forever, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** We can celebrate Easter, Hip Hip Hooray! (throw arms in the air) because Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend forever.

SLIDE: Basic Truth

"Today's Basic Truth says: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever. God loves us so much, that he sent Jesus to rescue us! When we choose Jesus as our friend, we are part of his family forever.

Prayer

"Our story time is over, let's take a minute to talk to God because God loves you. Quiet your bodies, calm your minds, take a deep breath, hands up, hands together, hands in lap...

"Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to rescue us so we can be friends with you. You are the best, God. Thank You for giving us so much to celebrate at Easter. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LGL dismiss to Small Group

25 min

Small Group Time

8 min

Activity 1- Resurrection Eggs

What You Need

-  Resurrection Egg Set (each set has 6 eggs) 2
-  Resurrection Egg Take Home (2/page) 1

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come and have a seat. We are going to hear today's Bible story again, but I need your help! When I hand you an egg, I want you to open it and show us what's inside.

During the Activity: "Start reading the story below. When prompted, hand the corresponding egg (or two of the same number egg, if you have a large 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- (Jesus Praying) That night, while Jesus was praying for us and for what was about to happen, some mean men took Jesus away and hurt Him badly. He died on the cross.

Egg 2- (Tomb) Jesus' friends were so sad. They put Him in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.

Egg 3- (Number 3) They waited three long, sad days. Can you count with me? 1, 2, 3.... good job!

Egg 4- (The two women) After 3 days, when they went back to the tomb, they found... something. (show me your surprised face!)

Egg 5- (Stone) 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- (Heart) 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!

"Hip Hip Hooray! Jesus is alive! Jesus went away and came back just like He said He would! Hip Hip Hooray! Those Eggs helped us retell the story of Easter.

"The best part of Easter is that the tomb was empty because Jesus is alive!**[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the 4 Hopscotch cards down on the floor so the children can jump on/beside them.

During the Activity: Encourage children to take turns hopping on (or beside) the numbers, counting as they go. When they land on the picture of Jesus, everyone shouts, "Jesus is alive!"

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

8 min

Activity 2- 1, 2, 3 Hopscotch

What You Need

-  "PS Hopscotch" Activity Page 2



EveryChild tips

- For a version with less movement, set this activity up on a table. Use a toy to move from number to number and shout, "Jesus is alive!"

5 min

Memory Verse with Motions & Prayer

What You Need

👤 "Memory Verse Card"

1

4 min

Parent Pick Up Activity

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "That was fun hearing the Easter Story again, now we are going to play a hopping game! Come stand by me."

During the Activity: "We're going to play hopscotch! I want you to hop on each number and say it out loud. Ready? One ... two... three! And when you get to the last picture, it's Jesus! When you land on Jesus, we are all going to shout, 'Jesus is alive!' [Child's name], you go first! (Guide the child through the course.) One, two, three ... (Child lands on Jesus.) Everyone, shout! 'Jesus is alive!' Hip, hip, hooray!" (Continue until all children have had a turn.)

After the Activity: "All that hopping was fun! What do we shout when we see Jesus? (Pause for response.) That's right! Jesus is alive! And because He is, **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

"This month's Bible verse we are learning talks about how Jesus wants to be our friend. It says:

'I (point up) have called you (point to others) friends.' (hook index fingers twice)
John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.)

That is what Jesus said to his friends, the disciples, and it's true for us too! Jesus called us friend! Jesus called me friend and Jesus called you, and you, and you friend! Jesus wants to be your friend forever and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever** too!

Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'I (point up) have called you (point to others) friends.' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.)

"it has been so much fun learning with you all today! We have had fun celebrating because Jesus is Alive, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever!

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

"Dear God, thank You for the fun we got to have together today learning about the story of Easter. Easter is worth celebrating because Jesus is alive! God we love you, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us. Amen."

"Open up the Beginner's Bible to today's story (Easter Story, p 442-453) and read it to your small group."

What You Need

-  Beginner's Bible marked at the correct page 1
-  Happy Day Coloring Sheet 1

You can also get the Resurrection Eggs out and let the kids play with those more.

Supplies

Bible Story Intro Quantity

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Party Horn (1/service) | 1 |
| 2. | Story Box | 1 |
| 3. | Easter Egg | 1 |
| 4. | Cross | 1 |

Activity 1- Resurrection Eggs Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Resurrection Egg Set (each set has 6 eggs) | 2 |
| 2. | Resurrection Egg Take Home (2/page) | 1 |

Activity 2- 1, 2, 3 Hopscotch Quantity

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | "PS Hopscotch" Activity Page | 2 |
|----|------------------------------|---|

Memory Verse with Motions & Prayer Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | "Memory Verse Card" | 1 |
|----|---------------------|---|

Parent Pick Up Activity Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Beginner's Bible marked at the correct page | 1 |
| 2. | Happy Day Coloring Sheet | 1 |