

5th Grade | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

Leader Summary-

In Week 1, we explore the events leading up to Easter Sunday. A story that began with betrayal, arrest, and the desertion of Jesus' closest friends set the stage for Jesus to lay aside every right and give up His life for all of us. But even though the sun went dark and all hope seemed lost, God was still at work. And when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb at dawn on the third day, she found it empty! [BOTTOM LINE] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Small Group (20minutes)

Connect Time

Large Group (30minutes)

Countdown and Welcome

Large Group Game

Worship

Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review

Activity 1

Activity 2

Prayer

Home:

Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Conversation Starter

How do you celebrate Easter?

Bottom Line

You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • Philippians 4:4 NIV

5 min

Connect Time

5 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

-  Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks 1
-  Fun, upbeat music 1

What You Do:

- From doors opening to start of large group - Greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures.

Connect time is spent building relationships with some intentional connecting with kids before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or playing or just sit and listen to each other). You can 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..

5 min

Large Group

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Game

What You Need

 Floor Tape or Velcro	1
 kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
 large, plastic Easter eggs	8
 pool noodles	2

Cue countdown video and invite kids to sit down with their group leaders.

(SLIDE: Theme)

"Happy Easter, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today because this is one of the biggest celebration days ever. Today is all about joy, hope, and the best news in the whole world! Jesus is alive! We're starting a brand-new series called 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends.' And honestly, what better way to start off our month talking about joy than Easter? We are going to have a lot of fun today, so first let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) - Supplies

"Now, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today:(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

(SLIDE: Twisted Arcade)

We have 5th grade Twisted Arcade coming up you won't want to miss it. Ask your parents to sign you up, it's April 17th from 6 to 8:30 at night.

"Since today is all about celebrating, we're kicking things off with a super-fun game.

SLIDE: Roll with It Title

"And trust me ... you'll understand the name in about 10 seconds.

(Gesture to the Easter eggs.)

"These will be your official racing eggs. And nope, you're not allowed to pick them up with your hands. You're going to guide them using ... drumroll please ...

"Pool noodles!

(Hold up a pool noodle.)

"Today, we're doing an Easter egg relay like you've never seen before.

"Each team will line up behind these four giant Easter eggs at the starting line. When I say 'Go,' the first person on each team will use ONLY the pool noodle to roll one egg from the starting line to the finish line. Once you cross the finish line, run back to the start line—you can leave your egg at the finish line—hand the pool noodle to the next teammate, and then it's their turn to roll an egg. Keep going until all your team's eggs make it across the finish line. The first team to get all their eggs across the finish line wins!

"Before we start, we have a couple of very important rules. First, no kicking the eggs. Your feet are not egg launchers. Second, no using your hands—even if your egg decides to run away. If it rolls the wrong way, which it probably will, just go chase it. And finally, no whacking each other with the pool noodles. Today is Easter, not Pool Noodle Battle Day.

"All right, I'm going to need some volunteers. Who would like to play? If you'd like to play, raise your hand!

(Select eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and divide them into two teams of four. Line up each team in a single file line at the start line.)

"Alright teams, go ahead and grab your pool noodles and stand behind your Easter eggs! Perfect! These eggs look ... extremely unpredictable. Even better.

"When I say 'Go,' start rolling the Easter eggs! One ... two ... three ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Play the game. Make sure the kids are using only the pool noodles to roll the Easter eggs and not their hands or feet. Cheer for the teams and involve the audience.)

(Play the game until one of the teams rolls all their Easter eggs across the finish line.)

"And stop! We have the winning team! Great job, everyone!

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"What a party! I love that we all get to be together on Easter! Easter is the day we celebrate the best news ever: Jesus is alive. And because Jesus is alive, we can have joy that never ends.

"Let's check out our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

"Can you say that with me?"

"Great job, everyone! WOOHOO! Jesus is alive!"

11 min

Worship

3 min

Alive

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Oh Happy Day

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

Today is a super-special day because we get to celebrate that Jesus is alive. Because Jesus is alive, that means we can have joy that never ends. And one of the ways we show our joy is by worshiping, singing to God, and telling Him how much we love Him.

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

SONG: "Oh Happy Day"

"You all did such an amazing job singing those songs! I love seeing your smiles and hearing your voices."

"This month, we're learning all about joy, real joy that comes from Jesus. And today is Easter—the perfect day to talk about joy, because we're celebrating that Jesus is alive! When Jesus rose from the dead, He gave us a joy that doesn't disappear when things are hard. Jesus defeated death and conquered sin because He loves us! Our Memory Verse reminds us that joy is something we can choose every single day because we belong to Him.

"Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: *"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIV)"*

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

LEADER: "Be joyful!"

KIDS AND LEADER: "Be joyful!"

LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

KIDS AND LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

LEADER: "You all did such an amazing job learning the verse. When you go to school, when you're playing at home, and when you're with your friends, Jesus is alive, and His joy goes with you. Let this verse be a reminder all week long: you can always choose joy because Jesus is alive, and He loves you so much."

Now let's listen to our story.

Basic Truth Slide: Leave on the screen when kids go back to their small groups.

"Now that we've heard this amazing Easter story, let's talk about what it means for us today.

"What Jesus' friends didn't know that day, but that we know now, is that when Jesus gave His life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He paid for sin because sin separates us from God. With our sin paid for, we can be close to God!

"You can be friends with the God of the universe because of what Jesus did on Easter!

You just have to receive that gift.

"If we receive that gift we can have a friendship is better than any

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

friendship. Jesus is alive, even today, and as your friend, He goes with you through every single thing you face.

"You are loved, so loved, by God.

"We're going to pray but here is the basic truth slide, look over them, which truth goes with our story. Take a look, we will keep this slide on the screen, when you go to small group, the first thing you talk about is what basic truth do you see in the story."

"Happy Easter, everybody! Jesus loves you!

So, if you would like to make that decision right now, you can. I'm going to say a prayer and all you have to do is repeat after me. Ok? Let's all close our eyes....

"God, you are perfect and holy. We know that our sin keeps us from you and there's nothing we can do to save ourselves. We are sorry for doing things that make you sad. We want to love you and follow you with our whole heart. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. We trust you. Amen."

SLIDE: Basic Truth Slide

Small Group Time

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review

What You Need

 Basic Truth Slide printout 1

5 min

Easter Activity 1

5 min

The Reason for Easter

What You Need

 Stapler 0

 one Black, Red, White, Green, and Yellow 3×3inch square 1

 Avery address labels 5160 2

5 min

Easter Activity 2

5 min

Washed Clean

Spend 5 minutes at the start of small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements and discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why

Ask your group if anyone prayed the prayer with the large group leader for the first time. Encourage them to tell there parents.

What You Do:

- Lay out colored squares and labels.
- Say: "We're going to use these color squares to help us remember the true story of Easter."
- Hold up one color at a time, and instruct the kids to hold up the same color as you and repeat after you.
- Hold up black and say: "Black reminds us of our sins that kept us from being close to God." (*Let the kids repeat.*)
- Hold up red and say: "Red reminds us of Jesus' blood on the cross. Jesus paid for our sins!" (*Let the kids repeat.*)
- Hold up white and say: "White reminds us that Jesus cleanses us from sin." (*Let the kids repeat.*)
- Hold up green and say: "Green reminds us we can grow our friendship with God every day." (*Let the kids repeat.*)
- Hold up yellow and say: "Yellow reminds us of our friendship with God that will last forever." (*Let the kids repeat.*)
- Staple the squares together to make a book

What You Say:

"All of these colors help us remember the amazing truth of Easter—Jesus died for our sins, He made a way for us to be friends with God forever! And then He rose again! That is the best news ever!"

What You Do:

- Divided kids into two groups and give each group a piece of paper and a washable marker. **(K-1 adaption: work as a group and leaders write what kids say)**

What You Need

 Dissolving paper	2
 Washable markers	1
 Water Bottle	1

- Instruct them to write words or draw a pictures that represents sin that separates us from God. (Sin is anytime we choose to go our own way instead of God's.) (e.g., "Lying," "Selfishness," "Envy.")
- Direct them to fold the paper.
- Explain that Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for all of these things.
- One by one, encourage the kids to drop their paper into the water bottle. (*Shake gently*)
- Watch as the paper dissolves and disappears completely.

What You Say:

"Look at that. Your papers are gone! Not just what you wrote but the paper too—it's ALL gone! Completely gone. That's what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took all our sin—all our bad choices, all of the times we chose to go our way instead of God's way—and He washed them away. He broke the curse of sin so we could be close to God again. Because He's alive, we're forgiven and free! That's the biggest reason for joy. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**"

10 min

Easter Activity 3

5 min

Pray**What You Need**

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather group together and pray.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that He died for our sins so we can be your friends and thank you that He rose to life again. Help us grow closer to you every day. We are so excited to be friends with you forever! We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Have kids stay in there groups until Parents come.

What You Say:

"Here are a couple of activity sheets you can choose from to do while we wait for your parents to come."

5 min

Easter Extra**What You Need**

 Easter activity sheets	1
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Supplies

Welcome Time	Quantity
1. Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks	1
2. Fun, upbeat music	1

Game	Quantity
1. Floor Tape or Velcro	1
2. kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
3. large, plastic Easter eggs	8
4. pool noodles	2

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review	Quantity
1. Basic Truth Slide printout	1

The Reason for Easter	Quantity
1. Stapler	0
2. one Black, Red, White, Green, and Yellow 3×3inch square	1
3. Avery address labels 5160	2

Washed Clean	Quantity
1. Dissolving paper	2
2. Washable markers	1
3. Water Bottle	1

Easter Extra	Quantity
1. Easter activity sheets	1