

2s | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

Today's 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

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1, 2, 3!

Egg Roll

Exploring Rocks

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Eggs

Out of the Tomb

Easter Lift the Flap

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



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

5 min

Roll The Stone | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Cardboard tube with a large circumference 1
-  Plastic eggs 1
-  Basket 1
-  Optional: Pool noodle and utility knife in place of cardboard tube. 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Child-sized slide 1



EveryChild Tips

- Use a child-sized slide for children who have difficulty with fine motor control.
- Children can sit on the floor at the end of the chute to catch the eggs, making it a fun cooperative game.

Note: Use the utility knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set up the chute by propping one end on a table or chair so that it slopes downward. Place the plastic eggs in a basket nearby.

During the Activity: Show children how to place an egg at the top of the chute and let it roll down. Encourage them to take turns rolling the eggs.
After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and play with me! Look at these colorful eggs. We are going to make them roll!"

During the Activity: "Watch this! I'm going to put the egg at the top ... and let it go! (Roll an egg down the chute.) Whee! It rolled all the way down. Now it's your turn. Let's count to three and then roll your egg. Ready? One, two, three, go! (Help the child roll their egg.) Yay! You did it! Let's do it again!" (Continue, letting each child have several turns.)

After the Activity: "Rolling eggs is so fun! Today, we are going to hear about a big stone that rolled away. It's a super happy story that makes us say, 'Hip Hip Hooray, Jesus is alive!'"





20 min

Groups

5 min

Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF Several
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Cardstock Several
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: VELCRO® dots Several
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: Scissors 1



EveryChild Tips

- Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.
- Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me! Let's learn our brand-new Memory Verse. It's what Jesus told His friends. It goes like this: 'I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends,' (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15." (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: "Now, let's learn the motions! The first part says, 'I.' Everyone, point up. (*Point up.*) Great! The next part says, 'have called you.' Now, point to others. (*Point to others.*) Good job! And the last part says, 'friends.' Let's hook our pointer fingers together, like this. (*Hook index fingers twice.*) Awesome! Let's put it all together. Ready? 'I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends.' (*Hook index fingers twice.*) John 15:15 (*open hands like a book*). Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "Wow! Jesus calls us His friends. That's because **[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!**"

5 min

Bible Story Eggs | Made to Move

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

👤	Story Egg Pictures" Activity Page	1
👤	Copy paper	1
📦	Large plastic Easter eggs	1
👤	Scissors	1
👤	Purple washable paint	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Story Egg Pictures" on copy paper and cut one set per Small Group. Place one of the four story pictures inside different eggs. Hide these four eggs along with the remaining empty eggs around the room in easy-to-find places.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to look for the eggs. As they find an egg, help them open it. If it has a picture, gather everyone to talk about that part of the story. (Jesus in a heart: Jesus loved us so much He knew He had to die to rescue us. Cross: Jesus died on the cross. Tomb with stone in front: Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb and closed the opening with a big stone. Tomb with stone rolled away: Jesus is alive!) If it's empty, celebrate and say, "Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!"

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's go look for eggs! There are eggs hiding all around our room. Let's find them!"

During the Activity: "Look! [Child's name] found an egg! Let's see what's inside. (Help child open it.) There's nothing in this egg, it's empty just like the tomb! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Let's find another one! (Continue looking.) Oh, this one has a picture! Come gather around and let's look at the story picture. (Pause.) It's a cross. That's the sad part of our story, when Jesus died on a cross. But we know it has a happy ending! Let's keep looking for more story pictures!(Pause.) [Child's name] found an egg with a picture. Gather round and let's look and see what it is. Oh, this is the tomb where His friends put Jesus' body when He died then rolled a big stone in front. But we know it has a happy ending! Let's keep looking for more story pictures!(Pause.) [Child's name] you found an empty one, everyone shout Hip, Hip, Hooray! (With children.) Hip, Hip, Hooray! Let's keep looking! (Continue until all picture eggs are found.) We found all the pictures that tell our story. Let's put them in order now. (Put in the pictures in this order.) The first picture is of Jesus in a heart. Hearts make us think of love and that is why Jesus is in the heart. Jesus loves us so much that He knew He would have to rescue us. The next picture is of the cross. Mean people hurt Jesus and put Him on a cross to die. That is so sad. The next picture is the tomb with the stone rolled in front. Jesus' friends took His body and put it in a tomb and rolled a great big stone to close the entrance. And this last picture. It's the tomb and the stone has been rolled away. And hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Jesus went away and came back just like He said He would! Hip, Hip, Hooray! That was the best because it told us the story of Easter! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!"

After the Activity: "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!"**

5 min

Out of the Tomb | Made to Move

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Painter's tape

1



EveryChild Tips

- Allow children to work with a leader to pull or flip the hoops.
- Omit the yarn/ribbon and ask children to just flip the hoop over.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the painter's tape to make a large circle or square shape on the floor to represent the tomb.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to practice jumping in and out of the "tomb." Give them the instructions, "Jump IN the tomb!" and "Now, jump OUT of the tomb!"

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come play a jumping game with me! See this big shape on the floor? Let's pretend it's the tomb from our story."







During the Activity: "Jesus' friends put His body IN the tomb. Can you jump IN the tomb? (*Let children jump in.*) But after three days, Jesus wasn't in the tomb anymore! He came OUT of the tomb! Can you jump OUT of the tomb? (*Let children jump out.*) Yay! Let's do it again! IN the tomb! (*Jump in.*) OUT of the tomb! (*Jump out.*) Jesus is alive! Hip, hip, hooray!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. Jesus is alive! And that's amazing because **[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!**

5 min

Easter Lift the Flap | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page	1
	"Empty Tomb Flap" Activity Page	1
	Crayons	Several
	Washi or clear tape	Several
	Scissors	Several
	Permanent marker	1



EveryChild Tips

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and make a special picture with me to help us remember our happy Easter story!"

During the Activity: "First, let's color our picture of the women at the tomb. (Pause.) Great! Now, color this picture. It has Jesus on one side and the stone on the other. (Help fold each child's cutout.) Turn your picture to the stone side and lay it over the tomb. (Pause.) And we'll tape it along this side. (Tape along the tab. The tab should run along the right-hand side of the page.) Look! The stone is covering the tomb. But the angel rolled the stone away! Lift the flap! The tomb is empty! Look! Over there! It's Jesus! Jesus is alive! Hip, hip, hooray!"

After the Activity: "You can take this home and show everyone the happy surprise. The tomb is 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 Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit at the table with me and let's make some amazing awards!"

During the Activity: "The words on your award say **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Use the markers and stamps to decorate your award. (Pause.) Wow! These look great! Let's add some yarn so you can wear your amazing awards and remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** (Thread the yarn through the hole in each child's award and knot the ends. Place it around the child's neck.) In today's true story from the Bible, we heard how Jesus did something amazing! Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were at a wedding, and so was Mary, the mother of Jesus. There was special food, and a special drink called wine. Mary saw that the wine was out, so she went to Jesus and asked Him for help. Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with water. Then Jesus turned the water into wine! Amazing!"

After the Activity: "Jesus did something that no one else can do because Jesus is God's Son. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

Getting Ready | 2's Small Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

Social

Providing time for fun interaction

15 minutes

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

1. 1, 2, 3!

Made to Move

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

2. Roll the Stone

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Cardboard tube with a large circumference
- Plastic eggs
- Basket
- *Optional: Pool noodle and utility knife in place of cardboard tube.*

Optional EveryChild Supplies

- *Child-sized slide*

What You Do:

- Set up the chute by propping one end on a table or chair so that it slopes downward.
- Place the plastic eggs in a basket nearby.

3. Exploring Rocks

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Smooth, large, preschool-safe rocks (one for each child)
- Toy magnifying glasses (one for each child)

What You Do:

- Place the rocks and magnifying glasses on a mat on the floor or on a low table.

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

25 minutes

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

Optional Inclusive Supplies:

- "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
- Cardstock
- VELCRO® dots
- Scissors

2. Bible Story Eggs

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- "Story Egg Pictures" Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Large plastic Easter eggs, one per child
- Scissors

What You Do:

- Copy "Story Egg Pictures" on copy paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Place one of the four story pictures inside different eggs.
- Hide these four eggs, along with the remaining empty eggs, around the room in easy-to-find places.

3. Out of the Tomb

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Painter's tape

What You Do:

- Use the painter's tape to make a large circle or square shape on the floor to represent the tomb.

4. Easter Lift the flap

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create

What You Need:

- "Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page, one per child
- "Empty Tomb Flap" Activity Page
- Crayons
- Washi or clear tape
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

- Copy "Easter Lift the Flap" on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy "Empty Tomb Flap" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HipHipHooray

Supplies

Roll The Stone Made to Play	Quantity
1. Cardboard tube with a large circumference	1
2. Plastic eggs	1
3. Basket	1
4. Optional: Pool noodle and utility knife in place of cardboard tube.	1
5. Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Child-sized slide	1

Exploring Rocks Made to Explore	Quantity
1. Smooth, large, preschool-safe rocks	Several
2. Toy magnifying glasses	1

Memory Verse with Motions Made to Move	Quantity
1. Optional EveryChild Supplies: "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF	Several
2. Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Cardstock	Several
3. Optional EveryChild Supplies: VELCRO® dots	Several
4. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Scissors	1

Bible Story Eggs Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. Story Egg Pictures" Activity Page	1
2. Copy paper	1
3. Large plastic Easter eggs	1
4. Scissors	1
5. Purple washable paint	1

Out of the Tomb Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. Painter's tape	1

Easter Lift the Flap Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. "Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page	1
2. "Empty Tomb Flap" Activity Page	1
3. Crayons	Several
4. Washi or clear tape	Several
5. Scissors	Several
6. Permanent marker	1