

3-5's | 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

Roll Away the Stone Relay

Find Jesus

In the 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

He Is Not Here!

Easter Bingo!

1, 2, 3 Hopscotch

Jesus Is Alive!

Journal and Prayer

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

Find Jesus | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Party hats | 3 |
|  Toy Jesus figure | 1 |
|  Optional: "Find Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors in place of the small Jesus figurine. | 1 |



EveryChild Tips

- Move the hats very slowly so all children can track the movement.
- For children who cannot point, ask them to look at the hat they choose, and you can confirm their choice verbally.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather children around a table. *Optional:* Copy "Find Jesus" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.

During the Activity: Place three party hats upside down on the table. Show the children the Jesus figurine and then hide it under one of the hats. Mix the hats around and ask the children to guess which hat Jesus is under. Let a child point to a hat, then lift it to see if they are right. Celebrate together when Jesus is found.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and play a fun game with me! We're going to play a looking game with these party hats. It's a very special game because we are going to look for Jesus!"

During the Activity: "I have three party hats. (*Show hats.*) And I have our friend, Jesus! (*Show figurine.*) I'm going to hide Jesus under one of these hats. Watch carefully! (*Hide Jesus and shuffle the hats.*) Okay, where is Jesus? Who has a guess? [Child's name], which hat do you think Jesus is under? (*Let child point.*) Let's see ... (*Lift hat.*) You found Him! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is here! Let's play again!" (*Repeat, allowing different children to guess.*)

After the Activity: "You are all such great finders! In our story today, some of Jesus' friends went to find Him, but He was gone! But don't worry, it's a happy story! Let's go find out what happened."





30 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

He Is Not Here! | Made to Play

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"He Is Not Here Tomb" Activity Page	1
	"He Is Not Here Tomb People" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Small cardboard box	1
	Glue sticks	1
	Scissors	1
	Clear tape	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "He is Not Here Tomb" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Copy "He is Not Here People" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Glue the picture of the tomb to the outside of your box. Fold each person's picture and tape the ends to secure.

During the Activity: Gather the children and use the box and figures to retell the Easter story. Let the children help you place Jesus in the tomb and then remove him. Let them move the women figures to the tomb to discover it's empty.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come sit with me! We're going to play with these story pieces to help us remember our amazing Bible story."






During the Activity: "After Jesus died, His friends were very sad. They put His body in a tomb, like this box. (*Place the Jesus figure inside the box.*) But three days later, some of Jesus' friends, these women (hold up women figures), went to the tomb. But when they got there, the big stone was rolled away and ... Jesus was gone! He wasn't there! An angel told them, 'He is not here! He is alive!' Jesus is alive! Can everyone say, 'Jesus is alive!?' (*Pause.*) Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! It was the best surprise ever! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever**, and that's why He came back."

After the Activity: "This is the best story! Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is alive! And 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

Easter Bingo! | Made to Think *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Easter Bingo" Activity Page	1
	"Bingo Calling Cards" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Pom-poms, foam shapes, or other small markers	Several
	Scissors	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Easter Bingo" on cardstock and cut one out per child. Copy "Bingo Calling Cards" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Give each child a bingo card and a small handful of markers (pom-poms or foam shapes).

During the Activity: Hold up one Bingo calling card at a time. Name the picture and have the children look for the matching picture on their card. If they have it, they can cover it with a marker. Continue until a child gets a line covered and shouts "Bingo!" or "Jesus is alive!"

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game of Easter Bingo to help us remember our happy story about Jesus! Everyone gets a special card. When you see a picture on your card that matches the one I hold up, you can cover it with a pom-pom!"

During the Activity: "Okay, let's start! The first picture is ... the cross. (Hold up card.) Does anyone have the cross? If you do, cover it up! (Pause.) Next up is... the empty tomb! (Hold up card.) Look for the empty tomb! (Continue until someone gets a bingo.) Yay, you got it! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!"








After the Activity: "Playing bingo was so fun! All of those pictures help us remember the amazing true story of Easter. The best part of the story is that Jesus is alive, and **[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

Jesus Is Alive! | Made to Create

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Jesus is Alive" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	clear plastic cups per child	2
	Crayons	Several
	Scissors	1
	Glue sticks	Several
	Permanent marker	1

Before the Activity: Copy "Jesus is Alive" on copy paper and cut, one set per child. Write each child's name on the bottom of their set of cups.

During the Activity: Give each child a set of cups. Ask children to color both of their pictures. Encourage each child to rub glue on the back of their picture of Jesus next to the tomb and stick it to one side of their cup. Place that cup inside their second cup. Ask children to rub glue on the back of the picture of the stone and glue it on the cup covering the tomb on the inside cup. Demonstrate how to twist the cups to roll the stone away.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come make a special Easter craft with me that shows the super happy surprise of our Easter story!"

During the Activity: "Look at these pictures, they're pictures of the stone and the tomb. Color your pictures then we'll add them to your cups. *(Pause.)* Rub some glue on the back of the picture of Jesus next to the tomb. Now stick it to the side of your cup like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Super! Now put that cup inside your other cup. *(Demonstrate.)* Rub some glue on the back of that great big stone. *(Pause.)* Stick that on your cup to cover the tomb like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Great job! But we aren't finished yet. In our Bible Story today, we heard that Jesus died on a cross and His friends put His body in a tomb. *(Twist the cups so only the tomb shows.)* Then the big stone was rolled in front to cover the tomb. *(Twist the cups so the stone covers the tomb and Jesus.)* But on the third day, the stone was rolled away *(Twist the cup again to show the empty tomb and Jesus next to it)* and the tomb was ... EMPTY! Jesus was gone! Jesus is alive! Jesus came back just like He said he would! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Let's do it again. The tomb was closed with a big stone ... but then it was rolled away! Jesus is alive!"

After the Activity: "You can take this home to tell everyone the good news! Jesus is alive, and **[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

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

👤	"Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder	1
👤	Cardstock	1
👤	Bible	1
👤	Journal	1
👤	Fun-shaped pen	1
👤	Scissors	1

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: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage the children to do a happy dance to celebrate that Jesus is alive as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and the Memory Verse Hand Motions, then ask the children to help you make a list of things that make the children want to shout "Hooray!"

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today, we are going to do a happy dance to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Let's dance all the way to our Small Group spot. (*Dance with children to your Small Group spot.*) Whew! We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus died on the cross and was put in a tomb with a big stone rolled in front. On the third day, can you count to three with me? 1, 2, 3. His friends went to the tomb, but Jesus was not inside the tomb. Jesus came back alive, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend forever! Easter is when we celebrate that Jesus died and came back to life so He could be our friend forever and ever! **[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.**

"The 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.)* Did you hear that? 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.)*

"Yay!*(Clap.)* I'm so happy that Jesus came back just like He said He would. Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk

to God. *(Open journal.)* In our Bible Story, Jesus came back alive. That makes me want to say, Hip Hip Hooray! When I say your name, tell me something that makes you want to say 'Hooray' and I will write it in our journal." *(Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

After the Activity: "Let's pray. Dear God, thank You for all the things that make us say Hooray, like *(read the list)*. But thank You most of all for the happiest and best news ever—that Jesus is ALIVE! Jesus is alive and we know Jesus wants to be our friend forever, and that makes us shout, 'Hip, hip, hooray!' We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Getting Ready | 3-5'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. Roll Away the Stone Relay

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Large playground ball or hula hoop
- Painter's tape

What You Do:

- Create a start and finish line with the tape in an open area.

2. Find Jesus

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Three party hats
- Small toy Jesus figure
- *Optional: "Find Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors in place of the small Jesus figurine*

What You Do:

- *Optional: Copy "Find Jesus" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.*

3. In the Rocks

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Large, shallow bin
- Smooth river rocks or other preschool-safe rocks
- Toy Jesus figure
- *Optional: "In the Rocks" Activity Page, cardstock, laminate pouch, and scissors in place of the toy Jesus figure.*

Optional EveryChild Supplies:

- Spoons or small shovels
- Smaller bin with rocks

What You Do:

- Fill the bin with the rocks. Hide the Jesus figurine among the rocks.
- *Optional: Copy "In the Rocks" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Laminate and cut.*

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 EveryChild Supplies:

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

2. He Is Not Here!**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "He Is Not Here Tomb" Activity Page
- "He Is Not Here Tomb People" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Small cardboard box for each Small Group
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Clear tape

What You Do:

- Copy "He is Not Here Tomb" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.
- Copy "He is Not Here People" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group.
- Glue the picture of the tomb to the outside of your box.
- Fold each people picture and tape ends to secure.

3. Easter Bingo!**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Think

What You Need:

- "Easter Bingo" Activity Page, one per child
- "Bingo Calling Cards" Activity Page
- Cardstock

- Pom-poms, foam shapes, or other small markers
- Scissors

What You Do:

- Copy "Easter Bingo" on cardstock and cut, one cut out per child.
- Copy "Bingo Calling Cards" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Give each child a bingo card and a small handful of markers (pom-poms or foam shapes).

4. 1,2,3 Hopscotch**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Move***What You Need:**

- "1,2,3 Hopscotch" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape

What You Do:

- Copy "1,2,3 Hopscotch" on cardstock, two sets per Small Group.
- Arrange and tape the pages to the floor in a simple hopscotch pattern (1, 2, 3, Jesus).

5. Jesus is Alive!**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Create***What You Need:**

- "Jesus is Alive" Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Two clear plastic cups per child
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

- Copy "Jesus is Alive" on copy paper and cut one set per child.
- Write each child's name on the bottom of their set of cups.

6. Journal and Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity***Made to Reflect***What You Need:**

- "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- Cardstock
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen
- Scissors

What You Do:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.

- Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15.
- *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month.*

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 Away the Stone Relay | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Large playground ball or hula hoop	1
2. Painter's tape	1

Find Jesus | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Party hats	3
2. Toy Jesus figure	1
3. Optional: "Find Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors in place of the small Jesus figurine.	1

In the Rocks | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Large, shallow bin	1
2. Smooth river rocks or other preschool-safe rocks	Several
3. Toy Jesus figure	1
4. Optional: "In the Rocks" Activity Page, cardstock, laminate pouch, and scissors in place of the toy Jesus figure.	1
5. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Spoons or small shovels	Several
6. Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Smaller bin with rocks	1

Easter Bingo! | Made to Think *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. "Easter Bingo" Activity Page	1
2. "Bingo Calling Cards" Activity Page	1
3. Cardstock	1
4. Pom-poms, foam shapes, or other small markers	Several
5. Scissors	1

1, 2, 3 Hopscotch | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. "1,2,3 Hopscotch" Activity Page	2
2. Cardstock	1
3. Painter's tape	1

Jesus Is Alive! | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. "Jesus is Alive" Activity Page	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. clear plastic cups per child	2
4. Crayons	Several
5. Scissors	1
6. Glue sticks	Several
7. Permanent marker	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 |

He Is Not Here! | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies **Quantity**

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | "He Is Not Here Tomb" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. | "He Is Not Here Tomb People"
Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. | Cardstock | 1 |
| 4. | Small cardboard box | 1 |
| 5. | Glue sticks | 1 |
| 6. | Scissors | 1 |
| 7. | Clear tape | Several |

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect **Quantity**

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder | 1 |
| 2. | Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. | Bible | 1 |
| 4. | Journal | 1 |
| 5. | Fun-shaped pen | 1 |
| 6. | Scissors | 1 |