



EASTER – MARCH 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Palm Sunday | Matthew 21:1-11*

Bottom Line: *Jesus came to be our Savior*

Memory Verse: *“God so loved the world that He gave his one + only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.” – John 3:16 NIrV*

Virtue: *Easter – Celebrating that Jesus is alive*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God’s heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God’s image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That’s why we’re taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive. As we celebrate Easter this year, we want kids to know why we make such a big deal about this special day. Jesus isn’t just some person that said and did some cool things a long time ago. We believe that Jesus is God’s Son . . . and through Him, we can have life forever with God. That’s only possible because Jesus is alive! We pray that kids will understand what Jesus has done for them and choose to put their trust in Him.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Plastic eggs; plastic straws; floor tape

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive and welcome them to Small Group
- Use the floor tape to create a starting line + a finish line in your SG space
- Instruct the kids to line up behind the starting line
- Give each kid a plastic egg + a straw
 - If you have a big group, divide the group into two teams
- Direct the first kid in line to put their plastic egg on the floor, and use their straw/breath to get the egg to the finish line
- Once the kid reaches the finish line, direct them to pick up their egg + head back to the rest of the group
- Once the first kid has arrived, instruct the next kid in line to do the same thing
- Continue until all kids have had a chance to go through the relay

What You Say:

“That was such a fun game! Everyone did an incredible job rolling the Easter eggs from one side of the room to the other. *[Transition]* **Rolling eggs remind me of a true, exciting story we’re going to hear about today. It reminds me of something else that was rolled away. And what was inside—or was NOT inside—changed everything. Let’s go!”**

LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We finish March by celebrating Jesus’ resurrection as described in **Luke 24:1-12, 36-49**. God went to great lengths to make peace with us. All of God’s promises came true, and everything that Jesus said and did led up to this moment. When Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross and then came back to life, He made it possible for us to have peace with God forever! THAT is something to celebrate

SMALL GROUP

Growing in God

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building + designing

What You Need: “Growing in God” Activity Page; plastic cups; decorative items; individual seed packets

What You Do:

- Give each kid a plastic cup
- Set out the decorative items
- Instruct the kids to decorate their plastic cups
 - Be sure they add their names to the bottom of the cups!
- Invite the kids to pick out an individual packet of seeds
- Give each kid a page of the “Growing in God” Activity Page
- Read through the poem together
- Set aside the supplies for them to take home
- Encourage kids to plant their seeds once they get home

What You Say:

“Did you know that each of these seeds contain life inside of them? It’s true! Once you plant your seed in dirt, just add a little water, and put it in a sunny spot in your home. Then, in a week or so, you should start to see your seed grow and life burst forth! And when you do, think of Jesus.

*“When your seed gets buried and springs up with life, remember that Jesus died for us and was raised back to life too! Just like these seeds, **Jesus is alive**—and when we remember that, we can trust God with our lives.”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a tight circle
- Open the Bible to John 3:16 and pass it to a kid
- Invite the kid to read the verse out loud to the group
- Use the second half of the Memory Verse as a prayer guide

What You Say:

“Let’s focus on the second half of this verse.

*“**Anyone who believes in him:** When we choose to believe and follow Jesus, we make Him the focus of our life. And when we do that, we can trust Him with anything!*

*“**will not die but will have eternal life.:** All of us have sinned. Jesus died on the cross to make a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. “We celebrate Jesus today and every day because **Jesus is alive!** Let’s pray together.*

“God, thank You so much for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that we can have a relationship with You that will last forever because Jesus died and was raised back to life. Help us to remember Jesus can help us through the hard things. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share their plant pots, seeds, and “Growing in God” card with them. Encourage kids to share how the seeds will be planted (just like Jesus was buried) and will grow with new life (just like Jesus rose again!).