



## EASTER – MARCH 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Easter | Luke 24:1-12, 36-49*

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus is alive*

**Memory Verse:** *“God so loved the world that He gave his one + only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will 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.

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## EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Opening Small Group Activity

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

**What You Need:** “Easter Hidden Picture” Activity Page; “Eastern Hidden Picture: Answer Key” Activity Page; coloring pencils

### What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive and welcome them to Small Group
- Give each kid a page from the “Easter Hidden Picture” Activity Page and a writing utensil
- Instruct the kids to find the hidden pictures
- As the kids are working, ask some questions about their Easter family traditions:
  - What does your family like to do to celebrate Easter?
  - Do you have a special meal? What kind of things do you eat?
  - Will you see other family members? Who will you see?
  - What’s your favorite Easter tradition?
- If the kids get stuck, use the “Easter Hidden Picture: Answer Key” Activity Page for help

### What You Say:

“Great job! You figured out where all the hidden pictures were. *[Transition]* **In our Bible Story today, we’ll find out about a time when Jesus seemed to be missing, and His friends were SO sad. Let’s go find out what happened.”**

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**9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 | LARGE GROUP**

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**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

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**9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 | SMALL GROUP**

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**Jesus is Alive!**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play + reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Easter Story Retelling” Activity Page; “Jesus is Alive Megaphone Template” Activity Page; markers or crayons; stickers; sequins, tape; scissors

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Jesus is Alive Megaphone Template” Activity Page and a pair of scissors
- Instruct the kids to cut out their megaphone
- Set out the markers, crayons, stickers, sequins and other decorative items
- Invite the kids to color and decorate their megaphones with the supplies provided
  - Make sure kids are decorating the side of the megaphone with the text
- As they finish, direct the kids to write their names on the back of their megaphones, then help them tape the edges together

- Invite the kids to stand and use their megaphones as you receive the Bible story by reading from the “Easter Story Retelling” Activity Page
- Invite the children to sit in a circle for the discussion below
  - Collect their megaphones + set aside until the Pray/Dismiss activity

**What You Say:**

*“Wow! A lot of things happened in this true story we heard today. So many things happened in the days leading up to Easter. But out of ALL those events, one stands out above the rest! When the women came to take care of Jesus’ body, Jesus wasn’t there! Why? (Pause for responses.) Yes! Jesus wasn’t there because He is risen! **Jesus is alive.**”*

*It was hard for Jesus’ friends to believe at first that He was alive—but Jesus proved it to them. Jesus did what He said He would do. He came back to life to make a way for everyone who believes or trusts in Him to have a relationship with God forever. And because **Jesus is alive**, we can know that God is working to make all things right in the end. What a good, loving, and powerful God! I’m so thankful to celebrate Easter with you because **Jesus is alive.**”*

***[Make It Personal]** (When did you first celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive? When did you learn what Easter is really all about? Tell the kids about how you found out this good news and how it changed your whole life.)*

**Egg Hunt Memory Verse**

**[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain + taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bibles; “John 3:16 Verse Word Cards” Activity Page; Plastic Easter Eggs

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to get into pairs

- Give each pair of kids a Bible
- Together, look up John 3:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips below
  - **Finding Verses w/ Kinders:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word John at the top of the page as you say “John” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 16; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
  - **Finding Verses w/ 1<sup>st</sup> Graders:** *Guide the kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that John starts with the letters J-O. When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 3*
- Read the verse aloud to the group
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes
- Hide the eggs around your SG area
- Once hidden, invite the kids to open their eyes
- Instruct the kids to find one egg + bring it back to the group
- If there are still eggs that are hidden, call on a couple of kids to retrieve them
- Encourage the kids to open the eggs + work together to put the words of the Memory Verse (or numbers) in order
- Once the verse is put together, read the verse as a group

**What You Say:**

*“I LOVE our Memory Verse. This one verse tells us all about Jesus and why He came to save us! God loved us so much and sent Jesus for us! Jesus is God’s Son.*

*Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and came back to life.*

*God wants a relationship with us that will last forever, but sin keeps that from happening. Sin is the word the Bible uses to describe things we do that are not what God wants us to do. God gave us Jesus. Jesus died on the cross. But three days later, what happened? (Pause for responses.) Jesus came back! He rose again. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have a relationship with God that lasts forever. As you celebrate Easter today with your family, remember the **EMPTY** tomb because **Jesus is alive.**”*

### **Pray + Dismiss**

#### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Megaphones made during the first activity; Empty Tomb Garden Page

#### **What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a tight circle
- Place the Empty Tomb Garden in the middle of the circle
- Give each kid their megaphone
- Lead the kids in the prayer, pointing to each kid as they repeat **Jesus is alive** and hold up their megaphones

#### **What You Say:**

*“When I point to you as we pray, I want you to say: ‘**Jesus is alive!**’ Let’s pray.*

*“God, thank You for Easter because Easter means that (point to each kid around the circle) **Jesus is alive.** Help us to believe and put our trust in Jesus and follow Him each day. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their megaphones to celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive.***