



Series: Easter 2026

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive and He's the hero of my story.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16



Small Group
Connection Time and
Opening Activity



Large Group Intro,
Game, Worship, and
Video Message



Small Group
Discussion Time and
Closing Activity

CONNECTION TIME

15 min.

Pre-Connection Time:

- As we prepare for the Easter rush, please pray for the kids heading our way! Pray for the regulars and the newcomers alike, that the joy of today would lead to a deeper understanding of God's love, and that our time together would be filled with faith, fun, and celebration.

During Connection Time:

- Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your environments
- Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these:
 - **What is one thing that makes you feel super happy or full of joy?**
 - **Would you rather have a basket full of chocolate or a basket full of LEGOs?**
 - **If you could paint an egg any way you wanted, what kind of patterns or stickers would you put on it?**
 - **Easter is a "Big Deal" day! What is the best news you've heard all week?**
 - **If you were going to throw a huge party for Jesus, what kind of snacks would you serve?**

After Connection Time:

- Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using these guidelines:
 - **Respect Self**
 - **Respect Others**
 - **Respect Property**
 - **Respect Leader**
- Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 min.

Small Group Goal:

- Introduce the idea that the "Hero" might seem gone, but the story isn't over.

What You Need:

- 3 Party Hats
- 1 Ping Pong Ball

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle and show them the ball. Tell them, "This is our Hero".
- Place the "Hero" under one hat and slowly slide the hats around to mix them up.
- Ask a volunteer to guess which hat the Hero is under.
- **The Twist:** On the final round, "palming" the ball or quickly removing it so it is under none of the hats.
- When they guess and the hat is empty, explain that today we are talking about a time when everyone thought the Hero was gone for good.
- **Pro-Tip:** If the kids are too fast, move the hats more quickly or add a fourth party hat to increase the "difficulty level".

What You Say:

"You guys are great at tracking the Hero! But on that first Easter morning, Jesus' friends went to look for Him and found... nothing. The 'Before' looked like a total disaster, like a shattered phone screen or a 'Game Over' message. They thought the story was finished, but they were actually standing right in the middle of the greatest Comeback ever. Let's head to Large Group to see how the story turns from 'Before' to 'After!'"

LARGE GROUP

40 min.

Large Group Goal:

- This Easter, we celebrate the biggest, loudest, most party-worthy day of the year as we witness the ultimate "Before and After". While the story took a dark turn with Jesus' arrest and the cross, we discover through the "map" of John 3:16 that God's love was the fuel for the greatest rescue mission in history. The heavy stone of death couldn't hold Him, and the empty tomb is proof that Jesus doesn't just save people from a 2,000-year-old story...He walks into our "messes" and saves YOU! **[BOTTOM LINE] Jesus is alive, and He's the Hero of my story!**

Large Group Scripture:

- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." - John 3.16

BIBLE NAVIGATION

6 min.

Small Group Goal:

- Locate the "Secret Map" (John 3:16) and apply it to their own "Before" moments.

What You Need:

- Bibles (one for every 2-3 kids)

What You Do:

- Help kids navigate to the "New Testament" section of their Bibles.
- Find the book of John.
- Look for the big number 3 (Chapter) and the little number 16 (Verse) .
- Read the verse together out loud.
- Application Breakdown:
 - **God LOVED:** Have everyone put their hands over their hearts.
 - **He GAVE:** Have everyone hold out their hands like they are receiving a gift.
 - **WHOEVER:** Have them point to the person on their left and say, "That means you!"
 - **BELIEVES:** Have everyone stand up and "trust" their chairs by sitting back down firmly.
 - **ETERNAL LIFE:** Have everyone jump up and cheer "He is Alive!"
- **Pro-Tip:** Use the "Table of Contents" to help them find the page number for John rather than just flipping randomly .

What You Say:

"John 3:16 is the secret map for your life. It says God loved the whole world...including the messy rooms and the times you feel lonely at lunch. He didn't just say 'I love you'; He gave His Son to be your Hero. When you believe in Him, you're putting your whole life in His hands. Because the tomb is empty, Jesus is your Forever Friend who walks into the 'Before' with you and gives you a brand-new 'After!'"

PRAYER ACTIVITY

6 min.

Small Group Goal:

- Give kids a moment to invite the "Living Hero" into a specific part of their week.

What You Need:

- N/A

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to close their eyes and think about one thing this week that feels like a "Before"
 - For example, something that feels a little hard, heavy, or "broken" (like being nervous for a test or feeling left out).

PRAYER ACTIVITY (CONT.)

6 min.

What You Do:

- Explain that because Jesus is alive, He is standing right there in that moment with them.
- Lead a "Call and Response" prayer where you say a line and they shout the Bottom Line.
- **Pro-Tip:** If your group is high-energy, let them stomp their feet or clap during the "He is alive!" parts to keep the "Easter Celebration" vibe alive.

What You Say:

"Close your eyes for a second. Think about that one hard thing. (Short pause). Now, remember that Jesus isn't stuck in a 2,000-year-old story; He is alive right now!

Leader: When you're nervous at school...

Kids: Jesus is alive, and He's the Hero of my story!

Leader: When you feel left out...

Kids: Jesus is alive, and He's the Hero of my story!

Leader: When you feel like you've messed up...

Kids: Jesus is alive, and He's the Hero of my story!

Prayer: "Jesus, thank You for the Ultimate Comeback. Thank You for being the Rescuer who never walks away from our mess. Help us to live this week knowing You are our Forever Friend. We love You! Amen."