



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:
 - **When it comes to Easter Egg Hunts, are you a "Speed Demon" (run as fast as possible to get every egg) or a "Strategic Searcher" (look in the tricky hidden spots)?**
 - **What is one thing that used to feel "impossible" to you that you eventually figured out how to do?**
 - **Easter is about the best news ever. What is some really good news you've received recently in your own life?**
 - **If you had to describe the meaning of Easter using only three words, which ones would you choose?**

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 of the “Before + After” concept that will be expanded on during Large Group

What You Need:

- N/A

What You Do:

- Have the group stand in a circle with plenty of space between them.
- Explain that you are the “Game Master” and they are the Heroes.
- **The “Before” Cue:** When you shout “GAME OVER”, the kids must immediately drop into a “zero health” pose (crouched down, head low, looking defeated).
- **The “After” Cue:** When you shout “MAJOR TURNAROUND,” they must jump up as fast as possible into a powerful “Hero Pose”.
- **The Challenge:** Call out the cues faster and faster. If someone reacts to the wrong cue, they have to do five jumping jacks to “respawn” and then they are back in.

What You Say:

“In video games, a ‘Major Turnaround’ happens when it looks like you’ve totally lost (the screen is flashing red and you have zero health) but then you pull off a massive comeback. You guys have great reflexes, but today we’re talking about the greatest ‘Before and After’ in history. Jesus’ friends thought the game was over, but they were actually standing in the middle of a rescue mission. Let’s head to Large Group and see how our Hero pulled off the ultimate Major Turnaround!”

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

APPLY & LIVE

8 min.

Small Group Goal:

- Create a rugged "Survival Map" for John 3:16 using color-coded beads.

What You Need:

- Yarn
- Five beads: Red, Dark Brown, Clear, Grey, and Yellow

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of yarn and five beads.
- Explain that this is a "Survival Map" for their life based on John 3:16:
 - **Red (Love):** God so loved the world—even the "messy" parts of YOU.
 - **Dark Brown (Gave):** Jesus gave His life on the cross to pay the price for our sin.
 - **Clear (Whoever):** This is the "Whoever" bead. It's like a mirror; it means the rescue is for YOU.
 - **Grey (The Stone):** The heavy stone that couldn't keep the Hero inside.
 - **Yellow (Eternal Life):** Life with God as your friend today, tomorrow, and forever.
- Help them tie the yarn around their wrist.
- **Pro-Tip:** For older kids, teach them a simple knot to secure the beads so it feels more like gear they can actually wear this week.

What You Say:

"This bracelet is your 'Survival Map.' Whenever you feel like you've messed up, or you're carrying a 'heavy stone' of worry about school or friends, look at these beads. They remind you that Jesus is a Living Hero. He doesn't walk away from your mess; He walks into it with you. Because the tomb is empty, He is your Forever Friend!

PRAYER ACTIVITY

4 min.

Small Group Goal:

- Personalize the "Living Hero" concept for their week

What You Need:

- N/A

What You Do:

- Gather in a "huddle" and ask:
 - Today, we learned that Jesus is a 'Living Hero'. Where do you need Him to walk into your 'mess' this week?
 - John 3:16 says 'Whoever believes in Him.' What does it look like to 'put your whole weight' on Jesus like you're sitting in a chair?
- **Closing:** Lead a "Call and Response" where the kids finish with the Bottom Line.

PRAYER ACTIVITY (CONT.)

4 min.

What You Say:

“Because the tomb is empty, Jesus is alive and He’s the Hero of your story!

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

Group: Jesus is alive, and He’s the Hero of my story!

Leader: When you feel like you’ve failed...

Group: Jesus is alive, and He’s the Hero of my story!

Prayer: “Jesus, thank You for the Major Turnaround. Thank You for loving us enough to go on a rescue mission. Help us live this week knowing You are our Forever Friend. Amen.”