

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

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bag

Before Lesson Activities

Roll Away the Stone Relay

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

Playdoh Mat (NOT Walkertown)

- playdoh

Lesson Activities- Pick 1 or both application activities up to the kids that come today

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review- He Is Not Here!

- Glue picture on box
- Put the people together so they can stand up

Application Activity- Easter Bingo!

Application Activity- 1, 2, 3 Hopscotch

- Floor tape

Craft- Jesus Is Alive!

- Gluesticks
- Crayons
- Permanent marker

Journal and Prayer

Bible Story Summary

Easter

Jesus eats a special meal with His friends, the disciples. He tells them He will die but that He will come back to life. Even though Jesus is God's Son, Jesus chooses to die on a cross to rescue everyone. On the third day, an angel rolls the stone away and tells His friends, "Jesus is alive!" They run to share the good news—Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

Social Activities

1. Roll Away the Stone Relay

What You Need:

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

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a start and finish line in an open area of your room with tape.

During the Activity: Divide the children into two teams. Have the first child in each line roll the "stone" (ball or hula hoop) across the room to the finish line and then roll it back to the next person in their line. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello, friends! I'm so happy you're here! Happy Easter! Come stand with me. We're going to play a game with this big, round stone! (*Hold up ball or hoop.*)"

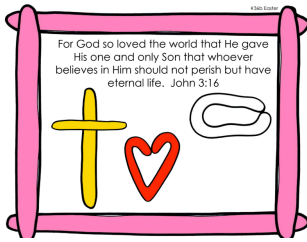
During the Activity: "In our story today, we will hear about a big stone that was rolled in front of a tomb. Let's play a game and pretend to roll that stone! We'll make two teams. When I say, 'Go,' the first person in each line will roll the stone all the way to that wall and then roll it back to the next person. Ready, set, go! (*Cheer for the children as they play.*) You are doing a great job rolling that big stone! Way to go, teams!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! That big stone reminds me of our Bible story today. It's a special story that makes me want to shout, 'Hip, hip, hooray!' Let's go hear about the stone in our story."

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- If rolling is difficult, allow children to push the ball with their feet or carry the hula hoop.
- Play as one large group instead of two teams to reduce pressure and focus on the fun of the movement.

2. Playdoh Mat



Made to Play

Talk About:

- Jesus was celebrated by the people.
- The priests were mad that Jesus said He was God's Son.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- Jesus rose, or came back to life, after 3 days.
- He rose to heaven on a cloud.
- Talk about when you started believing in Jesus.
- Ask the child about miracles in their life.
- Talk about the Bible verse - Jesus saves us.

Would you Rather:

- Welcome Jesus with palm leaves or confetti?
- Be a disciple or a guard?
- See an angel or Jesus?

Lesson Activities

1. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

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!**”

2. Bible Story Review- He Is Not Here!



What You Need:

- “He Is Not Here Tomb” Activity Page
- “He Is Not Here Tomb People” Activity Page
- Small cardboard box for each Small Group
- Glue sticks
- Clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: 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.

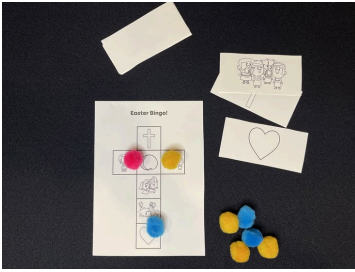
What You Say:

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.**”

3. Easter Bingo!



What You Need:

- “Easter Bingo” Activity Page
- “Bingo Calling Cards” Activity Page
- Pom-poms

What You Do:

Before the Activity: 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!**”

4. Application Activity- 1, 2, 3 Hopscotch

What You Need:

- “1,2,3 Hopscotch” Activity Page
- Painter’s tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Arrange and tape the pages to the floor in a simple hopscotch pattern (1, 2, 3, Jesus).

During the Activity: Encourage children to take turns hopping on the numbers, counting as they go. When they land on the picture of Jesus, everyone shouts, “Jesus is alive!”

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s play a hopping game! Come stand by me.”

During the Activity: “We’re going to play hopscotch! I want you to hop on each number and say it out loud. Ready? One ... two... three! And when you get to the last picture, it’s Jesus! When you land on Jesus, we are all going to shout, ‘Jesus is alive!’ [Child’s name], you go first! (*Guide the child through the course.*) One, two, three ... (*Child lands on Jesus.*) Everyone, shout! ‘Jesus is alive!’ Hip, hip, hooray!” (*Continue until all children have had a turn.*)

After the Activity: “All that hopping was fun! What do we shout when we see Jesus? (*Pause for response.*) That’s right! Jesus is alive! And because He is, **[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!**”

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- For a version with less movement, set this activity up on a table. Use a toy to move from number to number and shout, “Jesus is alive!”

5. Craft- Jesus Is Alive!



What You Need:

- “Jesus is Alive” Activity Page
- Two clear plastic cups per child
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: 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!**”

6. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: 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.”