

# 2026-4-rBackyard Younger | W1

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 Bags

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review- Bible Story Eggs

Application Activity- Out of the Tomb

- floor tape

Craft-Easter Lift the Flap

- clear tape
- crayons



## 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

# Groups

## Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

### 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!**"

## Bible Story Review- Bible Story Eggs

### What You Need

-  Story Egg Pictures" Activity Page 1
-  Large plastic Easter eggs 20

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Place one of the four story pictures inside different eggs. Hide these four eggs along with the remaining empty eggs around the room in easy-to-find places.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to look for the eggs. As they find an egg, help them open it. If it has a picture, gather everyone to talk about that part of the story. (Jesus in a heart: Jesus loved us so much He knew He had to die to rescue us. Cross: Jesus died on the cross. Tomb with stone in front: Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb and closed the opening with a big stone. Tomb with stone rolled away: Jesus is alive!) If it's empty, celebrate and say, "Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!"

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

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Let's go look for eggs! There are eggs hiding all around our room. Let's find them!"

*During the Activity:* "Look! [Child's name] found an egg! Let's see what's inside. (*Help child open it.*) There's nothing in this egg, it's empty just like the tomb! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Let's find another one! (*Continue looking.*) Oh, this one has a picture! Come gather around and let's look at the story picture. (*Pause.*) It's a cross. That's the sad part of our story, when Jesus died on a cross. But we know it has a happy ending! Let's keep looking for more story pictures! (*Pause.*) [Child's name] found an egg with a picture. Gather round and let's look and see what it is. Oh, this is the tomb where His friends put Jesus' body when He died then rolled a big stone in front. But we know it has a happy ending! Let's keep looking for more story pictures! (*Pause.*) [Child's name] you found an empty one, everyone shout Hip, Hip, Hooray! (*With children.*) Hip, Hip, Hooray! Let's keep looking! (*Continue until all picture eggs are found.*) We found all the pictures that tell our story. Let's put them in order now. (*Put in the pictures in this order.*) The first picture is of Jesus in a heart. Hearts make us think of love and that is why Jesus is in the heart. Jesus loves us so much that He knew He would have to rescue us. The next picture is of the cross. Mean people hurt Jesus and put Him on a cross to die. That is so sad. The next picture is the tomb with the stone rolled in front. Jesus' friends took His body and put it in a tomb and rolled a great big stone to close the entrance. And this last picture. It's the tomb and the stone has been rolled away. And hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Jesus went away and came back just like He said He would! Hip, Hip, Hooray! That was the best because it told us the story of Easter! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!"

*After the Activity:* "The best part of Easter is that the tomb was empty 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!"**

## Application Activity- Out of the Tomb

### What You Need

 Painter's tape

1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Use the painter's tape to make a large circle or square shape on the floor to represent the tomb.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to practice jumping in and out of the "tomb." Give them the instructions, "Jump IN the tomb!" and "Now, jump OUT of the tomb!"

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

### What You Say:






*Before the Activity:* "Come play a jumping game with me! See this big shape on the floor? Let's pretend it's the tomb from our story."

*During the Activity:* "Jesus' friends put His body IN the tomb. Can you jump IN the tomb? (*Let children jump in.*) But after three days, Jesus wasn't in the tomb anymore! He came OUT of the tomb! Can you jump OUT of the tomb? (*Let children jump out.*) Yay! Let's do it again! IN the tomb! (*Jump in.*) OUT of the tomb! (*Jump out.*) Jesus is alive! Hip, hip, hooray!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

*After the Activity:* "Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. Jesus is alive! And that's amazing 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!**"

## Craft- Easter Lift the Flap

### What You Need

	"Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page	20
	"Empty Tomb Flap" Activity Page	20
	Crayons	Several
	clear tape	Several
	Permanent marker	1



### EveryChild Tips

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Come and make a special picture with me to help us remember our happy Easter story!"

*During the Activity:* "First, let's color our picture of the women at the tomb. (Pause.) Great! Now, color this picture. It has Jesus on one side and the stone on the other. (Help fold each child's cutout.) Turn your picture to the stone side and lay it over the tomb. (Pause.) And we'll tape it along this side. (Tape along the tab. The tab should run along the right-hand side of the page.) Look! The stone is covering the tomb. But the angel rolled the stone away! Lift the flap! The tomb is empty! Look! Over there! It's Jesus! Jesus is alive! Hip, hip, hooray!"

*After the Activity:* "You can take this home and show everyone the happy surprise. The tomb is empty 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!"**

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come sit at the table with me and let's make some amazing awards!"

*During the Activity:* "The words on your award say **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Use the markers and stamps to decorate your award. (Pause.) Wow! These look great! Let's add some yarn so you can wear your amazing awards and remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** (Thread the yarn through the hole in each child's award and knot the ends. Place it around the child's neck.) In today's true story from the Bible, we heard how Jesus did something amazing! Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were at a wedding, and so was Mary, the mother of Jesus. There was special food, and a special drink called wine. Mary saw that the wine was out, so she went to Jesus and asked Him for help. Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with water. Then Jesus turned the water into wine! Amazing!"

*After the Activity:* "Jesus did something that no one else can do because Jesus is God's Son. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!"**

# Supplies

## Bible Story Review- Bible Story Eggs

	Quantity
1. Story Egg Pictures" Activity Page	1
2. Large plastic Easter eggs	20

## Application Activity- Out of the Tomb

	Quantity
1. Painter's tape	1

## Craft- Easter Lift the Flap

	Quantity
1. "Easter Lift the Flap" Activity Page	20
2. "Empty Tomb Flap" Activity Page	20
3. Crayons	Several
4. clear tape	Several
5. Permanent marker	1