

Lesson Plan

April 5th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Set Apart

Bible Story: Jesus is alive (Matthew 26–28; Mark 15:33–16:8; Luke 23:44–24:12; John 19)

Theme Verse: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

Share: We are teaching kids this April that following God changes us in the best ways. God cares about our thoughts, words, and actions. Today, we get to celebrate God's love and care for us that He showed in sending Jesus. (Read Luke 24:5-6a.) Kids will celebrate today that Jesus is alive, He defeated sin, and He made the way for us to live with and for God now and forever.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids know why He sent Jesus and the amazing relationship with Him that He invites them to enjoy.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.** The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

Community Big Kids

Teacher Opener: Hello, everyone! My name is _____. Let me hear your name in 3-2-1! (Allow time for responses.) Nice to meet everyone! I am so glad you joined us. Our Theme today is Live It Out! Turn to the person next to you and say, “Live it out!” (Live it out!) When we live it out, we live in a way that sets us apart because we follow God. To get things started, say, “Let’s go!” (Let’s go!)

The Garden Game

Game Rules:

1. Start the video.
2. Direct kids to move to a corner of the room, selecting where they think the flower on the screen will appear. Instruct kids to start jumping up and down when they arrive.
3. Call out the letter where the flower appears, awarding a point to each player in that corner. Players in the flower corner will continue jumping while waving their hands in the air.
4. Continue playing in this way, having the kids select different corners each round, until the video ends.

What You Say: We are going to get up and play something called “The Garden Game!” What are we playing? (The Garden Game!) Right! In this game, you will have 15 seconds to choose a corner of the room, which will match a letter on the screen. You are going to try and guess which corner will have a flower appear at the end of the timer. When you get to your corner, start jumping up and down, like you are a plant waiting to grow. Once the time runs out and a flower appears, let’s all call out the winning letter. The players in that corner will each get a point! What will they get? (A point!) Right! When you are in the flower corner, you can keep jumping up and down but also start waving your hands in the air—like you are a plant that finally got to grow.

If you are ready, stand up and say, “Let’s get gardening!” (Let’s get gardening!)

Leader Tip: Keep the energy high, challenging kids to move quickly between rounds, keep jumping, and call out the answers.

Way to go, gardeners! Go back to your seat. (Allow time.) Call out how many points you won in 3-2-1! (Allow response.) That is a lot of points! In each round of our game, one corner was set apart from the other corners because it was the only one with a flower. It was different and special. Today, we get to talk about the truth that we are set apart by God. Say, “Set apart!” (Set

apart!) When we trust and follow Jesus, He helps us live in a way that makes us stand out from the rest of the world. Everyone, say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: Springtime means lots of fun outside, and there is no one who likes outdoor fun quite like Hiker Rob. Ask, "Who is that?" (Who is that?) I am so glad you asked! I will let Hiker Rob introduce himself. Say, "Let's go, Hiker Rob!" (Let's go, Hiker Rob!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: I will be like Hiker Rob, and you can be like the echo by repeating what I say. Ready? "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!) "God cares about me!" (God cares about me!) Thanks for being such great echoes! Today is all about how God showed His love and care by sending His Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. That is good news we can celebrate on Easter and every other day of the year!

Worship

What You Say: Let's all come together and worship this morning!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible.) The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. What is God's true message to us about himself? (The Bible!) Today's Bible story is about why we celebrate Easter! Say, "Happy Easter!" (Happy Easter!) The

Bible is made up of different books. The four books about the life of Jesus are called Gospels. Turn to a friend and say, "Gospels!" (Gospels) Our Bible story today will help us see how God cares about us. To get our Bible story started, say, "God cares about me!" (God cares about me!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: What an amazing story! Jesus took the punishment for sin by dying on a cross. Not only did Jesus give up His life, He rose again on the third day. Jesus showed that He is stronger than death and sin. The whole reason we celebrate Easter is because Jesus is alive! Say, "Jesus is alive!" (*Jesus is alive!*) Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today, working in our lives and in the world. He did all of this because we matter to Him, and He cares about us. Say, "God cares about me!" (*God cares about me!*) God cares about us so much, He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him now and forever through Jesus.

Everyone, say, "But wait, there is more!" (But wait, there is more!) When we trust and follow Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. We are set apart from the world, and our lives look different than they did before. They also look different than other people around us. Everyone say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!) God works in and through our lives so we can love Him and point others to Him. I know sometimes we may feel like no one sees us and that we are not very important. But with God, we matter. He loves and cares about us so much; He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Now we can live our lives with Him and for Him. We can live set apart! Say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 1) God has cared about people since the beginning of time. God made the world and the people in it. His creation was good. God's perfect design for the world was for people to know and enjoy a relationship where we love and follow Him.

(Circle 2) However, the world is not perfect. When we look around, we can tell our world is broken. Things are not the way God designed. People experience suffering, sadness, sickness,

and all sorts of “hurt.” Our world is broken because of sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. The very first people God created sinned, and all people have sinned ever since then. Sin separates us from God and deserves to be punished. Even when we try and be good, we cannot be good enough to fix our sin problem. God knew we would need Someone to rescue us from sin and separation from Him.

(Circle 3) God cares about us so much; He sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our Rescuer. Jesus died on a cross, taking the punishment we deserved for sin. On the third day, Jesus came back to life, showing that He is the true King and more powerful than sin and death. Jesus promised that one day He would return and make everything new and perfect, like it was in the beginning. Everyone who trusts and follows Him will get to live with God forever!

Jesus did all of this because He cares about you. Say, “Who, me?” (Who, me?) Yes, you! God loves you so much; He made the way for you to have a relationship with Him. God wants a relationship with you, not because of anything you have done or because you follow instructions and do everything right. God invites you to a relationship with Him because you matter to Him. He cares about you. Repeat after me, “God cares about me!” (God cares about me!)

We can accept God’s invitation when we trust and believe the truth about Jesus. We believe that Jesus is God’s Son, He died on a cross for our sins, and He rose again. We admit that we need Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins. We turn away from our sin so we can trust and follow Jesus. If you have never accepted God’s invitation or want to know more about following Jesus, talk with me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to talk with you!

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions: For I have come down from heaven, (Start with your arms up to the sky and palms facing inward. Bring your hands to your waist with palms up.)
not to do my own will, (Lower your left hand and bring your right hand to your chest, hand over your heart.)
but the will of him who sent me. (Bring your right hand up to the sky with your palm facing inward.)
John 6:38 (Hold both hands out like a book.)

What You Say: Let's learn our Theme Verse. John 6:38 shows us that God cares for us because He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Let's learn our Theme Verse together.

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse is such an incredible reminder of how God cares for us. Jesus trusted and followed God's plan to rescue us from our sin. You matter to Him so much; He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. God cares about you. Say, "God cares about me!" (God cares about me!) We can also trust and follow God. When we do, we can live it out!

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Friends, the story about Easter and why Jesus died and rose again is the best news ever! God cares about you. Everyone, say, "God cares about me!" (God cares about me!) It is amazing to hear that God, who made the entire universe, loves you. You see, we matter to God. When we trust and believe Jesus died for our sins and rose on the third day, we can turn from our sin and follow Him. Then we have a relationship with God now and forever! As we follow Jesus, God sets us apart. Our lives change. We live differently than others. We get to live our lives in ways that show we follow Jesus. Say, "Live it out!" (Live it out!) Let's pray and talk with God in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You so much for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Help all of us to accept the invitation to have a relationship with You. When we do, help us to live our lives set apart, following You every day. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let's live it out by talking about how God cares about us!

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1. Who are some people in your life that care about you, and how do you know they care? (Allow kids time to respond.)
2. What are some different things you have been invited to do? (Allow kids time to respond.) We like getting invitations to things, but what is different about the invitation God offers to love and follow Him? (You do not have to earn the invite from God; He gives it to you freely.)
3. The Bible tells us that God cares about us and sets us apart. Let's open our Bibles to **Luke 24:5-6a** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) The women were startled when two men, who were angels, appeared to them. How did the women respond when they discovered Jesus was alive? How can we respond to the truth that Jesus is alive? (Allow kids to respond and share your own thoughts. The women were terrified and confused, but then they believed and told others. We can have hope that Jesus is powerful, even over death. We can believe that Jesus is God's Son. We can live our lives by trusting and following Him.)
4. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life to make the way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. How can God's love for us change the way we live? (We can live with thankfulness that God rescues us. We can live with purpose, knowing we are loved. We can trust and follow what God says. Allow kids to share additional responses.) Do you have any questions about accepting God's invitation to have a relationship with Him through Jesus? (Allow responses.)
5. The Bible tells us that God loves us. We have been set apart to trust and follow Him. When we follow God, He helps us live out our faith and point others to Him. We get to live out our lives showing the world that God cares about them. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about?

Option #2: Thumbprint Cross

1. Press your thumb on the ink pad, then place your thumb on the outlined cross. Continue this process until the cross is covered with thumbprints.
2. **Use baby wipes to clean your thumb before stamping with a different color.**
3. Write your name in the blank at the top, beside the words God cares about ____.

What To Do: We are going to make cross pictures using our very own thumbprints! First, you will gently press your thumb on one of the ink pads, then press that thumb on the cross outline. You will keep getting ink and stamping thumbprints until you have filled the whole cross. **(Allow time, giving directions to clean thumbs with baby wipes, if switching colors.)**

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Now in the blank at the top, write your name. This way, you will remember that God cares about you, which is why He sent Jesus! **(Allow time. Provide baby wipes to clean thumbs at the end.)**

Keep It Going: Decorate the background on the page.

Leader Tip: Remind kids to share the ink pad with their group and to wait patiently for their turn

Loud And Clear: You made such excellent crosses. Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment for our sin, making the way for us to have a relationship with God. When Jesus rose again on the third day, He defeated sin and death. God shows His care by inviting us to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Repeat after me, "God cares about me." (God cares about me.)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story. Remind them that when we do not feel important, we can remember God thinks we are important enough for Jesus to make the way to have a relationship with Him! When we follow Jesus, we live differently and set apart from the world.

Loud And Clear: God cares about you so much! He showed His love for you by sending Jesus, who died on a cross and rose again to take the punishment for your sin. When you believe in Jesus, He changes your life and helps you stand out as a child of God. Repeat after me, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

Community Big Kids

What You Say: God, thank You for loving and caring for us. Thank You that we can celebrate Easter because You sent Jesus to make the way to have a relationship with You. Help us believe the truth of who You are and what You have done. Help us to live our lives by pointing others toward You. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.