

K-3rd

Large Group

April — Week 1

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Large Group:

- Opener
- Bible Story
- Talk It Out!
- Memory Verse
- Prayer

Transition to Small group:

Creating a safe place to connect.

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH

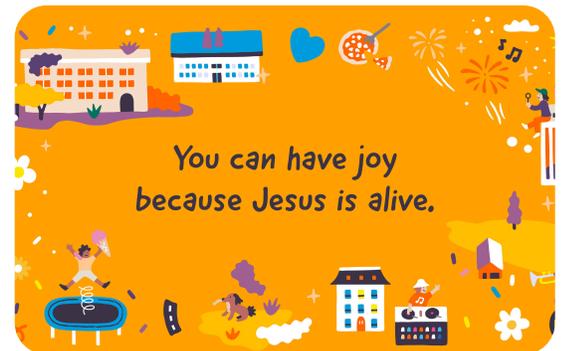


Today's Bible Story

Easter (Crucified and Risen)

- John 18-20:23

Bottom Line



Memory Verse



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10 MINUTES

OPENER

Countdown_60 Seconds

① Opener

LEADER: "Hi, friends! Welcome to Kidz Rock! I'm so glad you're here today. Give me a big wave if you're excited to be here! This month, we're celebrating Jesus and the joy that never, ever ends. Can you say, 'joy'?"

KIDS: "Joy!"

LEADER: "And today, we get to celebrate **Easter!** Who loves **Easter?** **Easter** is when Jesus gave His life to rescue us, but then He came back to life. And now we can be God's friend forever! Jesus is alive! Jesus is our friend forever! That's so awesome, and the biggest reason to have joy! Yay!"

"Before we celebrate all of that, we're going to play a super-fun Easter game. Wow, look at these huge Easter baskets!"

(Gesture to the tubs.)

"I bet there are tons of Easter eggs hiding in there! And you know what, it's time to play one big Easter egg game! Today, we're playing a game called 'Egg Rush!'"

SLIDE → Game_Egg Rush! Title

"Inside these big tubs are LOTS of hidden Easter eggs. They're sneaky eggs, and they're hiding way down deep in the grass. I think I even saw one trying to peek out at me!"

"Here's how the game works: we're going to have two teams of four, and both teams are going to line up at the start line. When it's your turn, you'll run all the way down to your team's tub, dig through the Easter grass, find ONE egg, and bring it back to your team's basket. Then tag the next person on your team, and they'll take their turn. We'll play for two minutes, and when the time is up, we'll count the eggs to see which team found the most."

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10 MINUTES

OPENER

“Let’s go ahead and pick our teams! These friends will be our runners. If you’d like to volunteer, raise your hand!”

(Choose kids from the ones who have their hands raised, split them into two teams of four, and line them up at the start line.)

“Woohoo, we have our teams! And everyone else, you get to be our cheering squad!”

“Okay, cheering squad, are YOU ready?”

(Pause while kids cheer.)

“Team One and Team Two, are YOU ready?”

(Pause while kids cheer.)

“On your mark ... get set ... GO!”

Optional Video: 2-Minute Countdown

(Start timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. One kid from each team is to run to the tub, search the tub for an egg, grab ONE egg, run back to the start line, return the egg to the team’s Easter basket, and tag the next kid on their team.)

(Encourage each team as they race and involve the audience. Make sure the runners from each team are only bringing back ONE Easter egg at a time.)

“Look at those fast feet! Wow, they found a shiny egg! Let’s hear some joyful cheers from the audience!”

(When two-minute timer is up ...)

“And FREEZE! Time is up! Wow! You guys were FAST! Okay, everyone, help me count Team One’s eggs!”

(Count eggs together with kids and announce the final number.)

“Okay, now let’s count Team Two’s eggs.”

(Count eggs together with kids and announce the final number.)

“Our winner today is ... [Name of Team]!”

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

K-3rd

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10 MINUTES

OPENER

“Everyone did such a great job, and you were all so joyful during our game! But do you know what gives us the MOST joy? Jesus! Jesus is alive—at He can be our friend forever—and that means we can have joy every day.

“Let’s check out our Bible Story for today!

Story

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W1

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- Friday was hard, Saturday was quiet, but Sunday changed everything. Jesus came back to life! He defeated sin and death!
- When Jesus died, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done. He paid for sin so we could be close to God.
- When you decide to follow Jesus, you can be close with God again. Because Jesus defeated death, that friendship will last forever.
- This is why we celebrate Easter.
- BL: You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

KIDS & LEADER: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive."

SLIDE -> Memory Verse



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5 MINUTES

TALK IT
OUT

Now, before we move on, I have a question for you... (lean in and whisper) do you know what time it is?

It's time to... (pause, cup your hand to your ear) **TALK IT OUT!**

That means it's your turn to do the talking! You get to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how this story connects to YOUR life.

So, let's put on our 'thinking caps' ... zip up our listening ears... and get ready to Talk. It. Out!"

SLIDE -> Talk It Out

Talk It Out Questions

✔ Question 1

What happened on Friday in the Easter story?

- A) Jesus went on a vacation
- B) Jesus was arrested and died on the cross ✓
- C) Jesus had a big party
- D) Jesus slept all day

✔ Question 2

Why did Jesus allow the soldiers to arrest Him?

- A) He didn't want to help people
- B) He came to rescue us and take the punishment for our sins ✓
- C) He was scared
- D) He wanted to take a break

✔ Question 3

How did Jesus' friends feel on Saturday?

- A) Happy and excited
- B) Confused and sad because Jesus had died ✓
- C) They went shopping
- D) They were playing games

✔ Question 4

What happened on Sunday?

- A) Jesus stayed in the tomb
- B) Jesus came back to life ✓
- C) The friends forgot about Jesus
- D) It was just a normal day

✔ Question 5

Why is Easter important?

- A) Because we get candy
- B) Because Jesus died and came back to life to save us ✓
- C) Because school is closed
- D) Because it is spring

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5 MINUTES

Prayer

Prayer

“Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for dying on the cross for us to rescue us. And thank You for rising again on Easter morning. Help us make our whole lives about growing our forever friendship with You that You bought for us on Easter. We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition → Move kids to do small groups activities.