

3-6 | April 5

Bible Story: Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

1. Opening

What You Do:

Gather the kids together. Welcome all the children joining us for the first time. We're so glad they are here with us today!

What you Say:

In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus' friends had a lot of questions about what was happening. They were confused and sad. But then they discovered the answer that changed everything. Let's go dive into the story."

[Lead children to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Easter Team Challenge

What You Need:

- Plastic Easter eggs (variety of colors; some filled, some empty)
- Plastic spoons
- Small baskets or bins
- Burlap sacks
- Painter's tape (to mark start/finish lines)
- Scoreboard (whiteboard)
- Prize bin (3 small prizes per child on the winning team)
- Goodie bags (one per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Divide kids into **four teams**. If there aren't enough kids, create smaller teams or allow kids to play individually. Explain that teams will compete in a series of challenges. Each round won earns **one point**.

Set expectations clearly:

“Each challenge you win earns your team a point—but let’s make sure we’re playing with kindness, teamwork, and encouragement.”

Set up the painter’s tape ahead of time and prepare a visible scoreboard (whiteboard).

Kids can choose to come up with a team name or just do Team 1, 2, etc.

During the Activity:

Teams rotate through the challenges. Choose as many games as time allows. After each round, award one point to the winning team and briefly connect the activity to the Easter story when possible.

Team Challenges:

Don’t Spring Break

Kids pair up within their team and gently toss a treat-filled egg back and forth, trying not to crack it. If there’s an odd number of kids, allow three to toss the egg back and forth. Eggs dropped on the ground means the pair are out and must sit down on the side. They can cheer on the rest of their team. Encourage them to cheer for their opponent’s team as well. During the challenge, have the kids stand further and further apart with each round of egg tossing. The last pair or trio standing with the most successful catches wins.

Egg Roll Relay (Spoon Edition)

Kids race one at a time, using a spoon to roll an egg from the start line to the finish line and back without touching it with their hands. Once completed, they tag the next teammate. The first team to finish wins.

Leader Note: Rolling the egg reminds us of the stone that was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb.

Easter Basket Egg Toss

Teams toss eggs into baskets from a marked line. The team with the most eggs landed in their designated basket wins the round.

Egg & Spoon Relay

With spoon in hand, kids balance an egg on a spoon and race to the finish line and back. Then they tag the next teammate and give him/her the egg. If the egg falls, the kid must return to the start and try again. The first team to finish wins.

Challenge: have the kids pass the egg to the next teammate using the spoon only. No hands are allowed to touch the egg during the pass!

Burlap Sack Race

Kids take turns hopping in a burlap sack from the start line to the finish line and back. First team to complete the relay wins.

After the Activity:

Gather everyone together and tally the points on the scoreboard.

“Before we announce the winning team, I want to say this—you all did an amazing job today. I saw teamwork, encouragement, and kids helping each other, and that matters.”

“Let’s give all the teams a big round of applause!”

(Announce the winning team.)

“Congratulations to the winning team! You worked together, stayed focused, and encouraged one another. You may come choose your 3 prizes from the prize bin.”

“To everyone else—great job playing hard, cheering loudly, and not giving up. Every one of you helped make today fun.”

“Easter reminds us that our greatest joy doesn’t come from winning a game—it comes from knowing Jesus is alive.”

“Say it with me: **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**”

“Because Jesus is alive, we celebrate! Everyone gets an Easter goodie bag to take home along with a fun take home craft.”

[Optional if time allows]**3. Easter Suncatcher Craft****What You Need:**

- He Lives Suncatchers Craft Kit
- Scissors
- Clear tape or string for hanging the finished suncatchers
- Table space for crafting

What You Do:**Before the Activity:**

Gather kids at tables with space to work. Open the craft kit and separate the cross shapes, tissue paper pieces, and stickers. Explain that they will create **He Lives suncatchers** to celebrate how Jesus is alive and shines light into our lives.

During the Activity:

Invite kids to pick a cross shape. Show them how to gently press the colorful tissue paper onto the sticky area to fill in each section and make a stained-glass effect.

As kids are working, ask questions like: “What do you think it means that Jesus lives today?” and “How does this craft remind you of the Easter story?”

Once finished, put their craft items in their labeled take home bags. Encourage kids to tape or string their suncatchers to a window or wall at home where light can shine through them.

After the Activity:

Gather kids in a circle to talk about the activity.

What You Say:

“You guys made some beautiful suncatchers! When the light shines through them, it reminds us of something important. Jesus is the light of the world, and because He lives, we can have joy every day.”

“Let’s remember the Easter story together. Because Jesus loves us so much, what happened first? Yes—Jesus died on the cross. Then what happened? Jesus was placed in the tomb. And what happened next? The tomb was empty—Jesus is alive! Because Jesus is alive, we can have joy!”

“Let’s say our memory verse together: ‘Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!’ Philippians 4:4.”

“Jesus doesn’t just live back then—He lives today and wants to be part of our lives now. Every time you see your suncatcher shine, remember that Jesus brings light and joy into your heart.”

4. Pray

“Jesus, thank You. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the empty tomb. Thank You that You’re alive right now! We are so grateful that we can know You and be Your friends. Please fill us with Your joy this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”