

First Look | April 5

**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

Opening: Welcome new friends visiting us for the first time. We're so glad they're here with us today!

## 1. Bible Story Eggs

### What You Need:

- Story Egg Pictures-- 1) Jesus with a heart: Jesus loved us so much He knew He had to die to rescue us. 2) Cross: Jesus died on the cross. 3) Tomb with stone: Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb and closed it with a big stone. 4) Sparkly Jesus: Jesus is alive!
- Large plastic Easter eggs (at least one per child; total of 20 eggs; eggs with the Story Egg Pictures should be placed in a labeled Ziploc bag)
- Glue stick (for story sequencing)
- Story Egg Pictures Sequencing Sheet
- Celebration stickers for eggs— one per remaining egg (see examples below)



### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

Copy "Story Egg Pictures" on copy paper and cut one set per Small Group. Place one story picture and a celebration sticker inside each of four eggs. Place a small celebration sticker inside every remaining egg so that each egg has something inside. Hide all the eggs around the side room (room that has the doll house and kitchen set) in relatively easy-to-find places.

#### During the Activity:

There are a total of 20 eggs. Put out an appropriate amount based on how many kids there are; one egg per child [Example: If there are 10 children, put out the 4 Story Eggs and 6 Celebration Eggs].

Have all the children sit down on the blue/green foam mats in the main room (the room with the TV monitor). Let them know we will take turns going to the side room to each find one egg. Send three children at a time so it's more manageable. Have two teachers monitor the egg

hunting area to help children grab only ONE egg and then the children will bring their one egg back to the main group to open it.

*Recommendation—Send the oldest kids to go first so the younger ones can see them model how to do the activity.*

Encourage the children to look for the eggs. After they find an egg, have the child go back to the main group and help them open it and show everyone what's inside. Celebrate what they find inside every egg. If it has a Story picture, teachers will hang onto it and talk about that part of the story. If it has a celebration sticker, remind them that it helps us celebrate the happy ending—Jesus is alive!

If the children want, they may put their sticker on their shirt and show it off!

After all the children have had a turn finding an egg, it's time to work together to sequence the Easter story! Gathering all the story pictures, have the children stay seated on the foam mats and a teacher may stand up to show the story sequencing sheet. Work together to glue each picture from the Easter story in the proper order. Celebrate at the end because Jesus is alive!

#### **After the Activity:**

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

#### **What You Say:**

##### **Before the Activity:**

"Alright friends, let's quietly sit down on the mat. Let me explain what our activity is. In the next room will be eggs hiding all around. We will be working together to find ONE egg each. We will take turns so please wait till I call your name. When you hear your name called, that means it's your turn to go. How many eggs do we each get to find?? (pause for responses) That's right! ONE egg. When you find one egg, please come back to the main group and open it here so we can all see what special item is inside your egg and celebrate together. There are four eggs that will have a story picture. After everyone has found an egg, we will use those four story pictures to help us tell the story of Easter and put them on our sequencing sheet."

##### **During the Activity:**

"Look! [Child's name] found an egg! Let's see what's inside. (Help child open it.) You found something special! This helps us celebrate because Jesus is alive! Yay! (clap and cheer)"

"Let's see what [child's name] found...!"

"Oh! This egg has a picture inside. Come gather around and let's look together. (Pause.) It's a cross. This is the sad part of our story, when Jesus died on a cross. But we know the story

doesn't end there! I will keep this picture on the side for now so at the end of our activity, we can use this picture to help us tell the Easter story (sequencing)."

"Let's see what [child's name] found...!"

"[Child's name] found one! What's inside? (Pause.) You found something special to celebrate! We celebrate because Jesus is alive!"

"Oh, here's another picture! It's the tomb with the stone in front. Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb and rolled a big stone in front. But we know something amazing is about to happen! I will keep this picture on the side for now so at the end of our activity, we can use this picture to help us tell the Easter story (sequencing)"

(Continue until all picture eggs are found.)

"We found all the pictures that tell our Easter story! Now let's work together to put them in order."

"The first picture is Jesus in a heart. Hearts remind us of love. Jesus loves us so much!"

"The next picture is the cross. Jesus died on the cross, and that was very sad."

"Next is the tomb with the stone in front. Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb."

"And this last picture—look! The stone is rolled away! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive! Jesus went away and came back just like He said He would! Hip, hip, hooray!"

### **After the Activity:**

"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.**

**[OPTIONAL Activity if time allows]**

## 2. Easter Story Headband

### What You Need:

- Easter Story Headband craft (one per child)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Stapler (for volunteers only)
- Stickers to cover the prongs of the staples (avoids poking when the kids wear their headbands)
- Table space for coloring

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

Lay one headband at each child's spot with crayons or markers. Teachers will help staple the headbands once the children are finished coloring. Use the stickers provided to cover the prongs of the staples so that the children do not get poked while wearing their headbands.

#### During the Activity:

Invite the children to color their Easter Story headband. Encourage them to color all the pictures they see—like the cross, the tomb, and Jesus.

As they color, volunteers can walk around and talk with the kids about what they're seeing on their headbands, helping them connect the pictures to the Easter story.

Once a child is finished coloring, a volunteer staples the headband to fit the child's head and helps them put it on.

#### After the Activity:

Gather the children together wearing their headbands and briefly review the Easter story using the pictures they just colored.

### What You Say:

#### Before the Activity:

"Today we're going to color a special Easter headband! When we wear it, it will help us remember the Easter story."

#### During the Activity:

"Look at the pictures on your headband. This cross reminds us that Jesus died because He loves us so much.

This picture shows the tomb where Jesus was laid.

And look—this tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!"

"Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He came back to life, just like He said He would."

(As headbands are stapled.)

“When you wear your headband, it reminds us of the best news ever—Jesus is alive!”

**After the Activity:**

“Let’s all look at our headbands. They tell the Easter story from beginning to end.”

“Because Jesus is alive, we can have joy, and we can be His friend forever.”

“Say it with me: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

“This week, when you wear your headband or see it at home, remember—Jesus loves you, He is alive, and He wants to be your friend forever.”

### **3. Resurrection Butterfly Craft**

**What You Need:**

- Butterfly template cutouts (one per child)
- Party blowers (one per child)
- Tape
- Stapler (for volunteers only)
- Crayons, washable markers, tempera sticks, dot markers
- Table space for crafting

**What You Do:**

**Before the Activity:**

Place one butterfly cutout and crayons at each child’s spot. Keep the party blowers, tape, and staplers with the volunteers. Volunteers will help tape and staple the party blower to the center of the butterfly once the child finishes decorating.

**During the Activity:**

Invite the children to color and decorate their butterfly. Encourage them to use bright, happy colors and fill the wings however they like.

As the children color, talk with them about butterflies and Easter using simple language. Once a child finishes coloring, tape and staple the party blower to the middle of the butterfly to create the butterfly’s “proboscis—a long, straw-like, tube-shaped mouthpart—to drink liquids, primarily sucking up flower nectar for energy.”

**After the Activity:**

Gather the children together with their finished butterflies. Invite them to gently blow the party blower and watch it move. Celebrate that Jesus is alive!

**What You Say:****Before the Activity:**

“Today we’re going to make a butterfly! Butterflies remind us of something very special about Easter.”

**During the Activity:**

“Did you know a butterfly starts as a tiny caterpillar? Then it goes into a chrysalis where you can’t see what’s happening inside.”

“That chrysalis reminds us of the tomb where Jesus was placed.”

“But guess what? The butterfly doesn’t stay there. It comes out alive and beautiful!”

“Jesus didn’t stay in the tomb either. The tomb was empty—Jesus is alive!”

(As volunteers attach the party blower.)

“When you blow your butterfly and see it move, it reminds us of new life and joy.”

**After the Activity:**

“Because Jesus is alive, we can have joy and hope.”

“Jesus loves you so much, and He wants to be your friend forever.”

“Let’s say our bottom line together: **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

“When you take your butterfly home, remember—Jesus is alive, He loves you, and He wants to be your friend forever.”

**4. Pray**

“Let’s pray. Dear God, thank You for all the things that make us say Hooray. 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.”