

K-2 | 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 NIRV

1. Opening

What You Do:

Gather the kids together. Welcome new friends visiting us for the first time. We are 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. Team Color Easter Egg Hunt

What You Need:

- Plastic Easter eggs in **four colors** (one color per team, each team gets 10 eggs)
- Small baskets or bags – one per team
- Easter story picture cards (Jesus with heart, Cross, Tomb, Jesus Alive) – one picture per team
- Sequencing sheet for each group
- Prepare 2 sets per service time (in case there's a large group of kids and we need to run two separate hunts due to our small space)

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Divide the kids into **four teams**. Assign each team a **color** and give them a bag. Explain that each team must find 10 eggs in their team's egg color.

If the group is very large, have the kids take turns in smaller numbers by having half the kids sit on the side to be the "Cheer Squad" while the others participate in the activity. Then switch.

*This is a **walking** activity. Kids should NOT be running or screaming. Let the kids know that if they run, they will get called to sit on the side (for a short period of time but long enough for them to calm their bodies) before returning to the game. Let's prevent accidental collisions!

Inside the eggs:

- Place **one Easter story picture** inside **four eggs of each team's color**.
- Leave the remaining eggs of that color empty

Gather all the kids to a corner of the room. Tell them to each sit down on the floor and cover their eyes. No peeking! Hide all eggs around the room in relatively easy-to-find places. Make them somewhat tricky for a good challenge (ex. Hide on one of the art shelves) but not too hard that they won't find them (ex. bottom of the toy bin).

During the Activity:

Teams search together for **only their assigned color eggs**. When a team collects ten eggs, they stop and bring their basket/bag to a teacher. The teacher will then hand them a story sequencing sheet. Then the teammates will go and sit down on the side (somewhere away from those still hunting for eggs) to work on their sequencing sheet.

Each team opens their eggs together and finds **their four story pictures**. Then each team must work together to sequence each of the four story pictures in the right order to tell the Easter story. After the teams are done sequencing, have a teacher check. The first team to correctly sequence their story wins. They may pick a prize from the treasure chest.

Congratulate all the children for a job well done! Everyone gets a goodie bag sent home.

After the Activity:

As one large group, review the Easter story in order and connect the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Today we're going on a team Easter egg hunt! Everyone will work together."

"You will be separated (by a teacher) into teams. Each team has a color and must find 10 eggs in that specific color. You may only pick up eggs that match your team's color, and you must stop when you reach 10 eggs. Let's be encouraging and uplifting to one another as we play this fun game."

During the Activity:

"Let's get ready to start. But first, let's make sure we are all calm. Remember, what kind of feet will we be using today? [allow for responses] That's right! WALKING FEET. If you run, we will call

you to the side to take a break and calm your body. You may return when you're ready to use your walking feet. Let's play safe!

Remember to ONLY find the eggs designated to your team. There are 10 eggs of each color. Only find the eggs that your team is supposed to find.

Are you ready? You may begin.

As the teams find all of their colored eggs, have them come to a designated teacher to grab a sequencing sheet and then sit down on the side out of the way to work on it.

"Great job gathering all your team's eggs!"

"Open your eggs together. What did your team find?"

"Awesome! You found the four parts of the Easter story. Please work with your teams to sequence the Easter story."

(Teams work together to order the story from pictures 1-4)

The first team to correctly sequence the story wins. They may pick a prize from the treasure chest.

"Great job EVERYONE in putting together the Easter story! "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."

Announce the winning team. Encourage everyone to cheer on their friends.

Everyone will get to take home a goodie bag today."

After the Activity:

"Let's review the Easter story together! What would be the first picture for our sequencing sheet? Yes—Jesus holding the heart because He loves us so much! And because of His great love for us, He died on the cross to pay for our sins. What comes next? 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!"

"That's the good news of Easter! Jesus came back alive, just like He said He would. **[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.”

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.”