

JESUS WANTS TO BE
MY FRIEND FOREVER.

WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2020

SMALL GROUP
3-5
YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER

MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Monthly Overview
Create the Environment

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Roll
Where's Jesus?
Nature Bin

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

He's Alive Oh Yeah
I've Got A Friend

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
Bible Story
Prayer

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.
Memory Verse Flower Search
One, Two, Three!
Jesus Is Alive Memory Game
Empty
Roll the Stone Away
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move
to help them learn

1. ROLL

WHAT YOU NEED: Five clean, empty, two-liter bottles; and a small inflatable ball

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Stand the bottles up in a pyramid shape in the middle of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand about six feet in front of the bottle. Challenge the children to roll the ball at the bottles to knock them down.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: After each child rolls the ball, reset the bottles and continue the activity by allowing another child to have a turn.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today we will hear about something that ROLLS."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We will roll the ball (*hold up*) and knock down these bottles. (*Point to bottle.*) Let's get rolling!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wahoo! You did a great job rolling the ball and knocking down the bottles. Today we are going to hear about a stone that rolls away. I cannot wait to find out what happens!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by rolling the ball toward the story area and asking the children to follow it.

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PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

2. WHERE'S JESUS?

WHAT YOU NEED: Three plastic opaque cups and a male Little People® figure

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the table. Show the children the Little People figure.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the cups on the table in a line. Hide the Little Person figure under one of the cups and slide the cups around, switching spots several times. Make sure the cups stay flat on the table so that the Little People figure remains under one of the cups. Let the children take turns guessing where the figure is and lifting each cup to see if their guess is correct. Repeat as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect the cups and Little People figure for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "See this little guy? I'm going to hide him right here under this cup. (Place the Little People figure under the center cup.) Watch carefully as I mix these up. Are you watching closely? (Mix up all the cups several times and then line them back up.) Okay, where's Jesus? (Lift each cup as the children guess.) You found Him. Great job! Let's play again."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did a great job paying attention to the cups as I moved them! It took lots of concentration. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something sad that happened to Jesus. But don't worry. There's a VERY happy ending. Let's go find out what happened!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story walking on tip-toes.

PRELUDE

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EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

3. NATURE BIN

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, artificial flowers, green artificial leaves, small smooth rocks, and a medium-sized tub

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Jesus" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines. You will need one cutout per child. Place all of the flowers, rocks, and leaves in the tub. Hide all of the cutouts among the items in the tub.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to stick their hands into the tub and try to find Jesus. Each child should pull out one Jesus cutout.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's go digging into the nature bin!" (*Point to the bin.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There is someone very special inside all of the flowers, leaves, and rocks. Reach inside the bin and see who you can find!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice work! You found Jesus! Jesus is super special! Let's get ready to hear our Bible story about how **Jesus is alive!**"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting the Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

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1. MEMORY VERSE FLOWER SEARCH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Flower" Activity Page and several different colors of cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Flower" Activity Page onto several different colors of cardstock (*one flower per color*). Place each colored flower around the room in places where the children can reach them.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in the activity area. Explain that there are different colored flowers placed all over the room. Point them out to the children. Then call out a color, send the children to stand near that colored flower, say the verse together, and then tell the children to return back to you in the activity area. Repeat with the remaining colors, reciting the memory verse together each time.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect all the flower pages for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand here with me. Do you see the flowers around the room? Everyone, walk to the [color] flower. (*Pause as children move.*) Great job! Now let's say our memory verse together: "I am alive for ever and ever!" Revelation 1:18. Good job!" (*Repeat with the remaining colors.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was fun! **Jesus is alive**. That's what our verse is all about. **Who is alive? Jesus is alive!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

2. ONE, TWO, THREE!

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus by the Tomb" Activity Page; cardstock; wide painter's tape; and one of the following: dot markers, watercolors, or crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make one copy of "Jesus by the Tomb" for each child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child one copy of "Jesus by the Tomb" and a piece of wide painter's tape. Show the children how to cover Jesus with one long strip of tape going from the top to the bottom of the page. Next, instruct the children to use the dot markers, watercolors, or crayons to color the tomb picture. Once the children are done adding color, count to three together and remove the tape to reveal **Jesus is alive!**

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: (Give each child a "Jesus by the Tomb" Activity Page.)
"This is a picture of Jesus from our Bible story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you remember how something very, very sad happened to Jesus? (Allow children to respond.) Yes, people hurt Jesus so bad that He died. Jesus' friends put His body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.

(Give each child a piece of tape and show them how to put it over Jesus and the opening of the tomb.)

"We're going to pause our story for a minute while you add some color to your picture.

(Allow the children to use dot markers, watercolors, or crayons to add color to their tomb scene.)

"Looks like you're ready for the BEST part of the story. Grab the bottom of your tape. Now, when we count to three, I want you to slowly peel the tape off of your picture. Got it? Okay, after Jesus' friends put His body in the tomb, something AMAZING happened! On the third day, Jesus came back! Count with me and pull your tape off when we say three. Here we go! One, two, THREE!" (The children should take the tape off of their pictures.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive! Yay! Jesus is alive!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

3. JESUS IS ALIVE MEMORY GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus is Alive Memory Cards" Activity Page and cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make two copies of the "Jesus is Alive Memory Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart. Shuffle and place cards face down on the table in a grid pattern.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call on the children to take turns turning over two cards to find a match. If a child finds a match, he may take another turn. If the child does not find a match, play moves to the next child. Once all matches have been found, lay out the cards in the following order to review today's Bible story: Jesus by Himself, the mean soldiers, the closed tomb, and Jesus outside the open tomb with stone. Play again as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play a memory match game! When it's your turn, I want you to turn over two cards to try and find a match. If you find a match, you may take another turn. If not, another friend will have a turn! (*Play the game.*)"

"Great job! Let's see. First Jesus prayed on his own in the garden. Then some mean soldiers came and took Jesus away. Then Jesus died and they placed His body in the tomb. It was VERY sad, but then something amazing happened! Jesus appeared outside the tomb. How? Because **Jesus is alive!**"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "This is the most amazing TRUE story ever! **Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive.** It's true. And Jesus wants to be your friend forever."



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

4. EMPTY

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic eggs (*one per child*) and small pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place a pom-pom inside each egg except one. Be sure to leave one egg empty. Place all of the eggs around the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children sit in front of you. Ask the children to stand up, walk around the room, and find an egg. Ask the children not to open the egg and to bring it back over to where they started. Ask the children to sit back down and hold their closed egg. One by one, ask the children to open their egg and show the class what is in it.

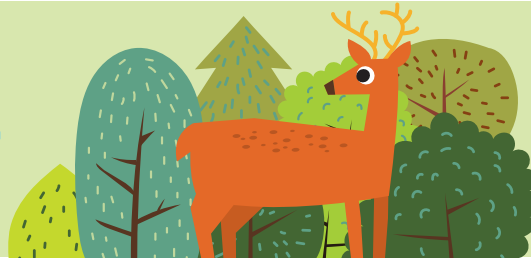
AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Continue the activity until you come to the child who has the empty egg. Compare the empty egg with the empty tomb in the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's go on an egg hunt!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone please walk around the room and find one egg. When you find your egg, bring it back over here to me, but please do not open it! We will open them together." (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Way to go! Let's open our eggs one at a time. (*Finish activity.*) Look! We found an EMPTY egg! It is empty just like the tomb was in our Bible story. Jesus was not in there! **Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

5. ROLL THE STONE AWAY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stone Sticker" and "Jesus" Activity Pages, Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent, cardstock, scissors, nine-oz. gray paper cups, and tape or glue

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make enough copies of "Stone Sticker" on label paper so each child can have one sticker. Make enough copies of "Jesus" on cardstock so when cut apart each child can have one Jesus cutout.

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

Pre-cut the opening in each paper cup for the children. To do this, turn the cup upside down. Begin cutting at the lip of the cup going up to the middle of the cup, around, and back down, like a rainbow. Stop cutting before you get to back to the lip of the cup. The flap you have created should open and close like a door while remaining attached to the cup.

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to make something very special that you can use to tell everyone that **Jesus is alive!** Let's get started!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

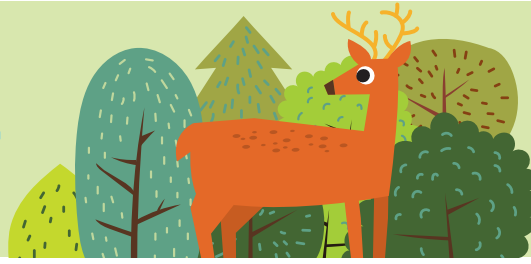
DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, you will need a picture of Jesus. (Give each child a cutout.) Jesus is God's Son, and He wants to be your friend forever. Next, you'll need this cup. (Give each child a pre-cut cup.) When you turn your cup upside down, this little door can open and close. See? This will be the tomb. (Demonstrate opening the door, and encourage the children to do the same with their cup.) Now we're going to glue/tape the Jesus picture to the inside of the door on your tomb. (Assist where needed.) We're almost done. The last thing we need to do is put this stone sticker on the outside of the door. (Assist where needed.) There! You have a tomb, Jesus, and a large stone. Now we can tell the story together. Get ready!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Start with your tomb open like this. (Demonstrate.) A long, long time ago, some people hurt Jesus so bad that He died. His friends put His body in a tomb and rolled a large stone in front of it. It was very, very sad. (Close the door on the cup.) Good-bye, Jesus.

"But then something AMAZING happened! Let's count to three and roll the stone away to see the amazing thing that happened. One, two, three! (Open the door



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

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BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

on the cup.) On the third day, Jesus came back! Yay!" (Encourage the children to play with their cups and say, "Jesus is alive," every time they open the door to their cup.)

**EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7**

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The angel rolled the stone away because **Jesus is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive!**"

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY**



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER

**MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7**

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Revelation 1:18. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group. You will also need a sheet of flower stickers.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to roll a big stone like this while we walk to our Small Group spot.

(Demonstrate pretending to roll a big stone.)

MEMORY VERSE

“I am alive for ever and ever!”

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

“Follow me and roll your big stone.

(Pretend to roll a big stone as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Whew! We rolled our stones, and now we can sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“There was another big stone that got rolled in our Bible story today. Do you remember the big stone I’m talking about?

(Pause for response.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

“Right! When Jesus died, His friends put His body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it. When Jesus’ friends went back, the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was gone! Do you remember where Jesus was?

(Pause for response.)

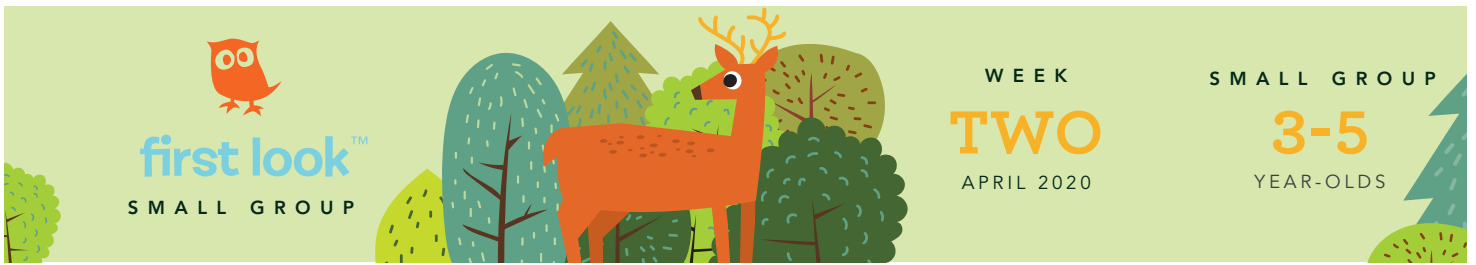
BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

“Yes! **Jesus is alive!** The big stone was rolled away and Jesus wasn’t in the tomb because **Jesus is alive! Who is alive?”**

CHILDREN AND SGL: “Jesus is alive!”

SGL: “And the Bible verse we are learning will help always remember that **Jesus is alive!**”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

"It says: "I am alive for ever and ever!" Revelation 1:18.

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

"That is Jesus saying: "I am alive (*point both hands up*) for ever and ever!" (*Twirl around.*) Revelation 1:18. (*Open your hands like a book.*) Let's stand up and say that together with the motions.

(Lead the children in saying the verse with the motions several times.)

"Wow! You sound SO good!

(Clap for the children.)

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.
(Hold the journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Since it's Easter, I thought we could do something special in our prayer journal today. I am going to write the name 'Jesus' really big in the middle of the page. Watch while I write 'Jesus.' J-E-S-U-S. Jesus.

"Now I am going to say your names. When I say your name, I will give you a flower sticker to put around Jesus' name. When flowers bloom, they are a beautiful reminder that something is alive. And we all know **Jesus is alive!** Right? Right!

"Okay, listen for your name!

(Say each child's name. When they come to you, give them a flower sticker to put around "Jesus" in the prayer journal.)

"Look how pretty! We have flowers blooming all over the page! Thank you for doing that with me. Now, would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Happy Easter, God! **Jesus is alive!** And that is amazing! I pray we will never stop believing that **Jesus is alive** and He wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."