

Come Alive

Bible Story: Come Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • John 18-20:1-18

Key Question: What does Easter mean to you?

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse: *“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged. I have won the battle over the world.”*
John 16:33b, NIV

Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Game (Easter Egg Rays)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- “Shadow Charades” Title Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- Easter Tradition Slides (1-3): Bilby, Norwegian Mountain, Sawdust Carpet

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- *Note: For this week's introduction the Communicator can include a personal Easter tradition from when he or she was younger. The story should match the idea of the provided example story.*
- For each international Easter tradition, search the Internet for an example to show your kids. Download the images and have them ready to use in your presentation software. *Note: Bilby, Norwegian Mountain, and Sawdust Carpet are the examples from the script. You can choose others; just be sure to edit the script accordingly.*
- For the Truth section of the script you will need the Host and Worship Leader's assistance. Provide a script to the Host and Worship Leader ahead of time so they are able to follow along with the story. They will be acting behind the scrim as the Communicator tells the Easter story.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "Real Love" from *Hillsong Young and Free*
- "Through It All" from *Planetshakers*
- "Tremble" from *Mosaic*

Come Alive

Bible Story: Come Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • John 18-20:1-18

Key Question: What does Easter mean to you?

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged. I have won the battle over the world."*
John 16:33b, NIV

Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter from the "Easter Walk-In" playlist on Spotify

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Host enters.

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: Masters Tournament, World Table Tennis Championships, National Cheeseball Day, National Animal Crackers Day, National High Five Day, National Cheddar Fries Day, movie opening (Breakthrough, Penguins), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening. The stage should be prepared for the game as kids walk into the large group room.

Opener

HOST: "Happy Easter, everybody! We are so very excited to see you this beautiful Easter Weekend! Hopefully you will have a chance today to chow down on some glazed ham, hot cross buns, and the always-classic chocolate bunny. Before you feast or enjoy your family festivities, we thought we would have a good time! In fact, we absolutely love a good party with lots of people and bright lights. Without you, we would only have bright lights and not nearly enough fun."

*****"Let's get excited for today and get some of that energy out of our systems..." (roller-coaster moment)**

"We're going to kick our time off with a competition amongst small groups . . . only with a little higher stakes. We call it "Easter Egg Rays.""

CG: "Easter Egg-Rays" Title Slide

"To play, we will ask one leader from each small group to grab a whiteboard and dry erase marker. One at a time, an image will pop up within an Easter Egg. The group is going to have 5 SECONDS to determine what the answer and have the leader write it down on the clipboard. Once the time is up, the leader will raise the board in the air. The team with the most correct wins and that small group will receive a donut party the next week!"

SFX: High-energy game music

Optional Video (Media Package): 60-second Countdown

"Today, we are going to be looking at the REAL meaning of Easter."

"Here at MISSION, though, we want you to know that regardless of what you believe or what your family is like, we want you to know that YOU BELONG HERE! Every week at MISSION, we have a place just for you and we have groups that you can connect in. WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN, but we also want you to know that this place is FOR EVERYONE and that you are welcome anytime. In fact, many of you may be here for the first time... we want to say THANK YOU for coming. We would love to see you back every weekend. **In fact... NEXT WEEKEND, we are going to play ANOTHER GAME in each area and we will be giving away MORE DONUTS to the groups that win!!**"

"But right now, we want you to take a minute and check out this quick video about some of YOUR THOUGHTS about Easter."

LIGHTS: *Lights dim.*

Host exits. Video Plays.

VIDEO: *Easter Interviews*

Worship Leader enters the stage.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “What an exciting day for us to be here together! I’m so happy to be able to praise Jesus with you. We’re celebrating because He is alive! When you experience the love, the freedom, and the joy of trusting Jesus, it’s a happy, happy day. Get on your feet and sing this with me.”

SFX: *Real Love*

WORSHIP LEADER: “I want to give all I am to praise God. From my head to my toes . . . every breath I breathe . . . every beat of my heart is calling out the name of Jesus. The Bible is God’s Word to us... and it says that life won’t be easy... BUT through it all, whatever happens, God is with us... we just need to trust Him.

“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged. I have won the battle over the world.” John 16:33
Come on—let’s sing extra-loud on this Easter Sunday. Here we go!”

SFX: *Through It All*

WORSHIP LEADER: Pray

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STILL NEED TO EDIT)**INTRODUCTION**

COMMUNICATOR: “Happy Easter to one and all! I absolutely love holidays, and Easter is at the top of my list. With every holiday, my family has a list of traditions we do to commemorate each one.”

Note: Communicator can include a personal Easter tradition from when he or she was younger. The story should match the idea in the following example story.

“As a child, Easter brought the usual traditions of candy, resurrection rolls, honey glazed ham, and Easter eggs. However, one particular tradition stands out. I came from a large family with lots of siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles. We would all gather in the yard for an Easter egg hunt. However, the prized eggs were not candy-filled plastic eggs. Rather, the best were confetti eggs, also known as *cascarones*. These are chicken eggs dyed a bright color that have been emptied and filled with confetti. When any of my family members located one of these confetti eggs, he or she would rush to the closest person and smash the egg on his or her head causing confetti to dump everywhere. Definitely good times.”

“But I’m sure lots of you have great Easter traditions, too! Let’s have everyone gather with their small groups to briefly share your favorite Easter activity.”

Communicator allows small groups to briefly share their favorite Easter traditions or memories. Communicator allows a couple of volunteers to share with the group as a whole.

“Wow! Those sound like awesome traditions. Did you know Easter looks a little different in other parts of the world? For example, in Australia, Easter comes in autumn instead of spring because they are on the Southern Hemisphere. Instead of seeing bunny rabbits all over stores, the TV, and candy wrappers, Australians have an endangered marsupial called a bilby, which has big ears like a rabbit.”

CG: Image of a bilby

“In Norway, many schools close the week following Easter as a way to celebrate the holiday and the coming of spring after a long, dark winter. As a part of their Easter celebration, many families will spend time in the mountains skiing and eating chocolate.”

CG: Image of Norwegian mountain

“In Brazil, a few of the streets are lined with a carpet of brightly colored flowers, sand, and sawdust to create intricate patterns as a way to remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. A large parade will march over the road.”

CG: Image of sawdust carpets for Easter procession

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “I’m so glad it’s Easter! Easter is a big deal in lots of countries around the world. Whether you are climbing a Norwegian mountain, marching through a Brazilian parade, or enjoying a honey glazed ham

at your grandmother's house in the United States, it is a day filled with happy memories and awesome traditions."

"We've spent this month talking all about light and dark. We often think of Easter as light and happy for the reasons already mentioned. What's interesting is when we look at the Easter story found in the New Testament, we see that many of the actual events of Easter seemed quite dark . . . events that God used to become light. And this is precisely why I am so excited you all made the decision to be here today. Let's jump into our story today so you can see what I'm talking about."

Lights dim. Scrim light comes on. Spotlight on Communicator. Host and Worship Leader are near the scrim ready to help with the story.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "The disciples had just finished eating a special meal with Jesus to celebrate the Passover. Then they moved outside where they crossed the Kidron Valley."

Host kneels behind the scrim to portray the silhouette of someone praying.

"Jesus had spent time praying beneath the olive trees while His disciples slept nearby."

Host exits scrim. Worship Leader stands behind the scrim wearing Roman armor and holding a club/baseball bat.

"By the time He finished, Judas was approaching with a small militia carrying swords and clubs to arrest Jesus. Some of you might recognize the name Judas. He was one of Jesus' friends who had traveled long distances with Jesus, listened to His teachings, and even shared special meals with his Lord."

Worship Leader exits scrim. Host stands behind scrim holding a moneybag.

"But on this day, Judas had chosen to betray Jesus for thirty silver coins. Jesus knew what Judas had done but still went out to meet the mob."

Host exits scrim. Worship Leader stands behind scrim holding ear as if in pain.

"Recognizing Jesus was in trouble, Peter drew a sword cutting off the high priest's servant's ear."

Worship Leader exits scrim.

"Telling Peter to put away his sword, Jesus allowed the soldiers to tie Him up and haul Him away to stand trial before the religious leaders. Meanwhile, all of the disciples fled except Peter and John who followed behind at a distance."

Host stands behind the scrim wearing Roman armor with a sword

"During the trials, none of His friends tried to help. Jesus was abandoned and left alone with those who meant harm. Even Peter, the one who cut off the servant's ear, seemed to give up. Three different times Peter denied knowing Jesus before the rooster crowed in the morning."

Host exits. Worship Leader stands behind the scrim holding a rubber chicken. Worship leader exits.

"Jesus was led to Pilate, the Roman Governor, who would ultimately decide His fate. Though Pilate spoke with Jesus asking questions, he found no basis for a charge against Jesus. Pilate asked the crowd if they wanted Jesus released, but the crowd wasn't having any of it. Pilate ordered Jesus to be beaten. The soldiers who carried out the order took it a step further, mocking Jesus by placing a crown made of thorns on His head, draping a purple robe over His shoulders, and striking Him in the face."

Worship Leader and Host stand behind the scrim. Host stands pumping his/her fist in the air as if chanting in unison with a crowd. Worship Leader stands with his/her thumb sideways (think the movie Gladiator). When Communicator says Pilate ordered Jesus to be beaten, Host points his thumb down.

"However, this wasn't enough. The crowd wanted Jesus to die even though Pilate did not find Him guilty of doing anything wrong. The Bible says the crowd responded this way, (Read directly from John 19:15a) 'But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"' Not wanting to upset the crowd, Pilate handed Jesus over to the crowd to be crucified."

Host exits. Worship Leader stands behind the scrim, get on his/her knees and pretends to be hammering something on the ground.

"Jesus was forced to carry a wooden cross to Golgotha, where it would be placed in the ground. Once there, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and raised the cross upright between two other criminals."

Worship Leader exits. Host stands behind the scrim holding three crosses

"As Jesus hung on the cross, He had completed His mission. He was willing to face a death He didn't deserve because He cared so deeply about His friends . . . and His enemies. With a final gasp, Jesus cried out, 'It is finished, (John 19:30, NIV)' and Jesus died."

Scrim light goes out. Host exits.

"Darkness fell over the earth. The ground shook. Huge rocks split wide open. Later two men prepared Jesus' body and laid Him in a tomb with a huge stone blocking the tomb entrance."

"It was several days later when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb only to discover the massive stone had been moved. With friends, they discovered Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb. The tomb was empty! God had raised Jesus from the dead! Jesus was alive again! He cared so deeply for every person God created that He entered into death . . . and defeated it for all time!"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Don’t miss the significance of this story. Those darks days became light as His friends discovered He was alive! And Jesus is STILL alive!”

“Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life, a feat unaccomplished by any before Him or after Him. He allowed Himself to be arrested! Jesus was innocent but was beaten. He did no wrong but was mocked. He was sinless but killed . . . as He endured a painful death. This pain and suffering was done for all of us. Jesus cared not only for those whom He loved . . . but He also cared for those who hated Him, who caused His death. Jesus also did this for you and me. It was done to pay the price of our sins. With our debt covered, we are able to have a close relationship with God! On the third day, Jesus came back to life. The stone was pushed away, and Jesus came out alive. Jesus came back to life proving He is more powerful than death . . . proving He is the Son of God!”

“When you understand this story, it can change everything. We can have hope in the darkest of days because Jesus is alive! Nobody or no circumstance can take this fact away from us. We can place our faith in Jesus Christ and have the promise of eternal life!”

CREATIVE MOMENT

COMMUNICATOR: “Today, you each have an opportunity to accept the challenge to FIND THE LIGHT IN THE DARK... you can choose to trust Jesus... but sometimes that starts with just trusting that there is HOPE for all the hopeless situations you might face. Maybe it’s a difficult family situation, maybe a divorce, maybe you’re being bullied, maybe you have a hard time in school, maybe you deal with anger and frustration daily, or maybe you just feel depressed sometimes. Whatever your situation, we believe here at MISSION that **Jesus changes everything for everyone**... so we want to encourage you to start looking for the light in the dark... and find this through Jesus. He truly does change everything for everyone... WHEN ALL HOPE WAS LOST, JESUS WAS THE LIGHT IN THE DARK! And the darkness trembled in His light... because of how amazing He is, we don’t have to worry or fear. He is alive and His Spirit lives in us. BUT, we must choose to find His light in the dark.

“We’re about to sing a song that explains this... that when we place our trust in Jesus, the darkness in our lives trembles and it doesn’t stand a chance! How amazing is that?!”

“First let’s pray, and then we want you to stay seated and listen to this song about how Jesus brings PEACE and HOPE into our lives.”

Communicator prays.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: ***Segue

SFX: Tremble (part 1)

COMMUNICATOR: ***Segue

SFX: Tremble (part 2)

WORSHIP LEADER: Pray

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

LANDING

HOST: “Easter means a lot of different things to a lot of different people all over the world. We want you to consider what Easter means to you.”

“Easter is a story of hope. You might need a lot of that right now. Or you may be the most hopeful person you know! Think about the Easter story and all that Jesus went through for us to have a relationship with God!

“Some of you here today have never heard about Jesus before... that’s OK! We are glad you are here today and I hope that you have enjoyed time with us today at MISSION. And for some of you that are here for the first time, you want to know more about Jesus

Here’s a questions we want you to discuss in your groups today:

“Will you look for the light in the dark?”

“Do you believe Jesus is alive?”

“Have you put your HOPE in Jesus?”

“Some of you just shared that you WILL do that by using your light... turning on the light and finding HOPE! This is amazing and I want to encourage you to come back each week to hear more about Jesus and the HOPE that’s found in Him.

“In your group today, you will have a card that you and your leaders will walk through that we want you to take time and fill out. It’s pretty simple... we just want to know a little more about you and how we can serve you and pray for you... All you need to do is put your name and grade and then mark the boxes that best describe you.”

Before we head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior!”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.