



EASTER – APRIL 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Come Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) ▪ John 18–20:1–18*

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.*

Summary: We’ll take a look at Easter through John’s perspective in John 18:1–20:18. As the disciples experienced the events of the crucifixion, from Jesus’ arrest in the garden to His death, they must have wondered if everything they experienced with Jesus was all for nothing. But that all changed when they discovered that Jesus was alive! Everything Jesus said about Himself was true. Their hope was now built on the foundation of a risen Savior.

EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

1. Take a Snapshot

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: "Easter Vocabulary" Activity Page, pens, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Give each child an "Easter Vocabulary" activity page and a pen.
- Ask them to circle five words on the page that remind them of Easter. If they want to add other words that aren't on the page, allow them to do so.
- Encourage kids to draw a quick picture beside each word they circled to illustrate the word.
- When finished, allow each person take a turn sharing the words they chose while explaining the significance of their choices.
- As time allows, discuss some of the words that weren't chosen by any of the students and why.

What You Say:

*"Many different things pop into our mind when we think of Easter. Today, while we're together, we're going to focus on the true meaning of Easter. No bunnies. No baskets of candy. We have something even better. Listen for words like Jesus, cross, alive, believe, and raised. Those are the words of Easter. Those are the words of hope. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and find out!**"*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive. No matter what we face in life, we can hope because Jesus is stronger than sin and death. He's resurrection is proof that God loves us and wants a forever relationship with us. We pray that kids will celebrate Jesus and discover the hope we can have only because of the resurrection.*

SMALL GROUP

Discussion & Application

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Easter Response” Cards; pens

What You Do:

- ASK:
 - How might things like the Easter Bunny, candy, egg decorating, and other such things get in the way of the true meaning of Easter? Are those things wrong? Why or why not?
 - What can you do to keep Jesus the focus of your Easter celebrations today?
 - How would you explain the true meaning of Easter to someone?
 - In what ways does the resurrection give us hope?
- As you wrap up your conversation, have a volunteer grab a Bible and turn to John 16:33
 - ***“I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” – John 16:33 NiRV***
- Talking Points:
 - ***“Jesus won the battle over the world when He lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and came back to life. Jesus did all of that because He loves you and wants you to live forever with Him!”***
 - ***God LOVED us*** // Before we were even born, God loved us. But something called ‘sin’ separated us from Him. Sin is the stuff we do that’s wrong. Because God is perfect, sin keeps us from having a relationship with God.
 - ***God GAVE us Jesus*** // God knew that our sin would keep us out of His family forever, so He gave the most important thing He had: His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins and fix our broken relationship with Him. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin and make a way for us to be part of God’s family again.
 - ***We BELIEVE in Jesus*** // Believing simply means to trust. In order to accept God’s gift of salvation, we believe that we have sinned and that Jesus took the punishment for our sin.
 - ***We RECEIVE the gift of eternal life*** // That means we get to spend forever with God in a place that He made perfect. And once we receive this gift, it can never be taken away. There is nothing we can do to lose our place in God’s family.
- At this moment, recap the importance of Easter and why it is the “Super Bowl” of our faith.
- As you wrap up to pray, hand out an Easter Response card to each child in your group. Explain each box for them and challenge to mark the box that best describes their situation in life.

- As they fill them out, collect them and place in pre-assigned area

What You Say:

“Jesus, thank You for conquering death so You could be alive and here with us today! Just like these eggs are empty, the tomb was empty that day they went looking for You, and that moment has made all the difference. Because that tomb was empty, we know that Jesus is alive! We pray for the people sitting around our Easter dinner table and here at church and we pray that each of them would know how amazing it is that you are stronger than death!”

As adults arrive to pick up, hand out the gift to each one of the kids and explain the importance of that by having hope, we are choosing to find the light in the darkness and that we are called to remember this everyday, not just on Easter.