



## WEEK 2- April 2020 - PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story Focus:** 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.

### Make it Fun

*Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.*

-Where's Jesus?

### Make it True

*Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world*

-Large group time

### Make it Stick

*Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.*

-Memory Verse  
-Empty  
-Roll the stone away  
-Journal and prayer

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**9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN**

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### **1. Where's Jesus?**

*Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts*

**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.

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**9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE**

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### **Large Group Overview:**

Story Focus: Jesus is alive! Next is the most important thing we will ever share with preschoolers. It is the reason we follow Jesus and can truly be friends with Him forever. Jesus said He would go away but He would come back. Then He died. Jesus' friends were so very sad. But on the third day, Jesus did come back, just like He said He would! This day is all about the truth that Jesus is alive!

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**9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK**

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## **1. Memory Verse Flower Search**

### **Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**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! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.** That's what our verse is all about. **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!"**

## 2. Empty

### Live for God | Application Activity

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**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! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is ALIVE! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**"

## 3. Roll the Stone Away

### Live for God | Application Activity

*Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home*

**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.

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.

### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “We are going to make something very special that you can use to tell everyone that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** Let’s get started!”

*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!

“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 on the cup.)* On the third day, Jesus came back! Yay!” *(Encourage the children to play with their cups and say, [Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive,” every time they open the door to their cup.)*

*After the Activity:* “The angel rolled the stone away because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**”

## **4. Journal and Prayer**

### **Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application 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.)*

“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!

*(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.)*

“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.)*

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

**CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive!”**

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

*(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 **[Bottom Line] 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! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** And that is amazing! I pray we will never stop believing that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** and He wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”