



## WEEK 1 - April 2021 - PRESCHOOL

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus is alive!

Easter • *Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7*

**Memory Verse:** "How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Ephesians 3:18, NIV

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

### Make it Fun

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

-Jump high like a kite

### 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  
-Act it up  
-Empty Tomb  
-Journal and prayer

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## **First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN**

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### **1. Jump High Like a Kite**

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

**What You Need:** Colored paper, masking tape or sticky tack, and scissors

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Cut out several diamond shapes from the colored paper to mimic a kite. . Place a tape loop or sticky tack on the back of each kite cutout.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a kite cutout and have them stand in front of the wall. Encourage each child to take a turn jumping as high as they can to stick their kite cutout to the wall.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Have you ever flown a kite at the park or on the beach? I have a kite here for each one of you! Lets pretend this wall is the sky!"

*During the Activity:* "Let's take turns. One at a time, I want you to jump as high as you can and stick your kite on the sky."

*After the Activity:* "That was so fun! Great job, friends. Today, we'll hear a story about someone who loves you higher than the HIGHEST kite! Let's go."

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to fly kites as you travel.

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## **Large group - MAKE IT TRUE**

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### **Large Group Overview:**

Story Focus: Jesus is alive! We kick everything off by sharing the amazing true story about why we celebrate Easter. We will teach our preschoolers that Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son. Jesus did amazing things and showed us how to love one another. Then, angry people hurt Jesus so bad that He died. But, Jesus came back—just like He said He would! Yes! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! For some children, this will be the first time they hear this incredible story.

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## Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

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### 1. Memory Verse with Motions

#### 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:** No supplies needed.

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

“How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*) and high (*jump*) and deep (*crouch*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,” (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book.*)

*During the Activity:* Say the verse with the motions again and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “I’m going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!

“How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*) and high (*jump*) and deep (*crouch*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,’ (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

*During the Activity:* “Now, let’s do it together! Are you ready?”

“How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*) and high (*jump*) and deep (*crouch*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,’ (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

*After the Activity:* “Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us high, wide, long, and deep! He loves us so much and wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**

**[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”**

### 2. Acting-Up

#### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed.

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Lead the children in doing the following actions as you retell the Bible story.

1. Sit and pretend to eat.
2. Stand up and run-in-place.

3. Ball up on the floor.
4. Count to three then everyone jumps up with hands in the air.
5. Cheer for Jesus.

If time and interest allow, repeat the activity.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Easter is a special time when we celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive!

### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Hi, friends! We heard an AMAZING story about Jesus today. Let’s act it out together.”

*During the Activity:* “Our Bible story began with Jesus eating with His friends, the disciples. Let’s pretend to eat together. (*Sit and pretend to eat.*) While they ate, Jesus told His friends that He had to go away but He would come back.

“Later, Jesus and His friends were in a garden and some mean people came and took Jesus away. Jesus’ friends were so scared that they ran away. Everyone, stand up and run-in-place. (*Run-in-place.*)

“Ok, stop running. The mean people hurt Jesus so badly that He died. Jesus’ friends buried Him in a tomb. Everyone, ball up on the floor like this. (*Ball up on the floor.*) A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb so no one could go in and no one could come out. Jesus’ friends were very sad.

“Now, when I count to three, I want everyone to jump up with your hands in the air. Listen for me to say three. Got it? Ok, Jesus was buried in the tomb, but on the third day, Jesus came back! One . . . two . . . THREE! (*Jump up with hands in the air.*) Jesus is alive!

“Jesus’ friends were so happy that Jesus is alive! Let’s cheer for Jesus because we are happy Jesus is alive, too! (*Walk in a circle as you cheer for Jesus.*) Yay, Jesus! Yay, Jesus! Yay, Jesus!” (*Repeat if desired.*)

*After the Activity:* “Jesus is alive, and He wants to be YOUR friend forever. That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who wants to be your friend forever?**’, you say [**Bottom Line**] ‘**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**’ Ready? Let me hear you! **Who wants to be your friend forever?** [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Yay! [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

### **3. Empty Tomb, Jesus Is Alive!**

#### **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

**What You Need:** “Empty Tomb, Jesus Is Alive!” and “Rolling Stone” Activity Pages; cardstock; dessert size paper plates; scissors; brads; crayons; glue sticks; small hole punch; and permanent marker

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Empty Tomb, Jesus Is Alive!” on cardstock, one per child. Copy “Rolling Stone” on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Cut the plates in half then cut a circle the size of the stone cutouts in each plate half. Punch a hole on each plate half to the side of the opening. Punch a hole in each of the stones.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to color the back of the plate and the stone. Push the brad through the hole on the stone then through the hole on the plate and secure. Have children glue the dessert plate to their paper, making sure you can see the circle on the activity page through the hole in the plate. Show children how to move the stone. Write child’s name on their paper.

*After the Activity:* Review the story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “We heard a really special story today about Easter, and it begins with God’s love for us. God loves us soooo much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever! But something really sad happened first. Jesus said He had to go away, but He would come back.”

*During the Activity:* “Let’s make a picture of the tomb we heard about in our story today. Color your stone and the backside of your plate. *(Pause.)* Let’s add the stone to the tomb like this. *(Push the brad through the hole on the stone then through the hole on the plate and secure.)* Now take a glue stick and rub it all over the lip of the plate. *(Demonstrate.)* Then put it on your paper but make sure you can see the circle on your paper through this hole. *(Demonstrate.)* Very nice! Now watch how the stone moves away. *(Demonstrate.)* Is Jesus in there? *(Pause.)* No! Jesus isn’t there. Jesus is alive!”

*After the Activity:* “God’s love for us is wide and long and high and deep. His love is so big that He gave His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. One night when Jesus was having dinner with His friends, He went out to the garden to pray. Some angry men took Him away and hurt Him so badly that He died. Jesus’ friends were sad. They put Jesus’ body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it. Three days went by. On the third day, some of the friends went to the tomb, and the big stone had been rolled away! Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive! Be happy today because it’s Easter, Jesus is alive, and He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

**4. Journal and Prayer**

**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect:* An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**What You Need:** Paperclipped “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18, journal, and fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It’s Small Group time! Today while we walk to our small group spot, we’ll pretend we are the angel rolling the stone away from where Jesus was buried like this. (*Pretend to roll a big stone in front of you with both hands.*) Do what I do, and let’s roll the stone away! Follow me!

(*Pretend to roll a large stone in front of you as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)  
“We did it! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!  
(*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

“Today’s Bible story was about how Jesus died and was buried. Jesus’ friends were so very sad. But on the third day, God sent an angel to roll the stone away from where He had been buried. When Jesus’ friends looked inside, He was gone! Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive!

“Jesus came back because He loves us and wants to be our friend forever. The Bible verse we will learn is about how much Jesus loves us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

“‘How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.’ Ephesians 3:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

“That means nothing is wider or longer or higher or deeper than Jesus’ love for you and me. Jesus’ love is THAT big! Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*) and high (*jump*) and deep (*crouch*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,” (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

**SGL:** “We celebrate Easter because Jesus loves us so much that He came back, just like He said, and He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** [*Bottom Line*] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

**SGL:** “Who wants to be your friend forever?”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** [*Bottom Line*] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

**SGL:** (*cheering*) “Yay! [*Bottom Line*] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

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

“Today, we’ll make a list of the highest things we can think of, like a super-tall tree or a kite or even the stars! It can be anything that is way up high in the sky. So, when I say your name, tell

me the highest thing you can think of, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name! *(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“These are some pretty high things! I’m going to add one more thing to our list. Jesus’ love for you and me. Because Jesus’ love is SO high, we can’t even measure it! *(Write ‘Jesus’ love’ in the journal.)* There. Now we can pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

### **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He came back and will always love us, no matter what. Jesus’ love for us is higher than a *(read the list the children made.)* That is some BIG love! Thank You again for our friend, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

