



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is alive!

EASTER

**MATTHEW 26:21-30;
27:1-2; 28:1-7**

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:20, 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
my friend forever.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 28:20, NIV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "We Are Friends," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "We Are Friends" is on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "He's Alive Oh Yeah," which is on the All Good album, iTunes®, Spotify®, or OrangeKidsMusic.com. The dance moves video for this song is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Welcome, friends! It's time to worship. We can sing and dance and tell God how much we love Him! He sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our friend. Jesus is the BEST! Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! Jesus loves you, so much. Sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "We Are Friends," this month's worship song.

"Great job, everyone! Jesus is always there, taking care of me! We can count on Him because **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** The Bible teaches us that Jesus said, 'I am with you always,' Matthew 28:20. Let's say it together. 'I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20. (*Open hand like a book.*)

"Awesome job, friends! Jesus can do anything because He's bigger and stronger and greater than anything ever! Let's sing this together.

Lead children in singing "He's Alive Oh Yeah."

"I'm so, so glad that God sent Jesus to be my friend and your friend. One more time, **who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Large brown bedsheet or blanket

Host walks out, carrying the bedsheet or blanket.

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment's name]! It's me, [your name], and I can't wait to tell you what I found in my backyard yesterday!"

Hum to yourself while quickly making a bird's nest with the bedsheet— basically a round pile sunken in the middle.

"Okay, are you ready to hear what I found? I. Found. A. Nest!"

Step into the middle of the "nest" and sit down.

"It was so cool that I thought I would make my own nest. See?"

Spread arms out like "ta-da."

"My nest! (*Nestle into the nest.*) Okay, so this is how I found the nest. I was walking around my backyard, looking at the trees and squirrels running around. Then I looked up, and there, nestled in a tree, was a real nest!"

"Do you know what goes together with a nest? (*Pause.*) Yes! A bird goes together with a nest. And that's what I saw! I saw a bird fly away from the nest then come back to the nest. Fly away then come back. Fly away then come back. I think it was getting food for the baby birds in the nest."

Jump up out of the nest and stand in front of the children.

"Hey, that reminds me of someone else who went away and came back; and you get to hear all about Him in our Bible story today."

Pick up the bedsheet.

"It's time for me to fly away, but I'll be back later. Bye!"

Host pretends to fly away while carrying the bedsheet.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Small table, Bible, easel, large ringed drawing pad, and a marker; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Preset the small table and easel with the drawing pad on it in the middle of the storytelling area.

Storyteller enters carrying Bible and marker.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! Happy Easter! I'm so glad you're here today. I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible."



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Hold up the Bible for the children to see then lay it open on the table.

"Today's story is extra special. That's why I'm extra excited to tell it to you! Do you want to know why it's so extra special? (*Pause.*) Because it's all about why we celebrate Easter! Before I get started with the story, I'll draw something for you.

Flip open the drawing pad and draw a large heart on the first page.

"Do you know what shape this is? (*Pause.*) Yes! This is a heart! I drew a heart because the true story of Easter begins with God's love for us. A heart makes me think of love. Give yourself a big hug, like this. (*Demonstrate.*)

"God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

While Jesus was on Earth, He did amazing things that only He can do and showed us how to love one another. But before Jesus could be our friend forever, something very sad had to happen.

Flip to a new page and draw a large sad face.

"One night, while Jesus was having dinner with His friends, the disciples, He told them that He had to go away, but He said he would come back.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

After dinner, Jesus went to pray. While Jesus prayed, some angry people took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus, and He died. It was very sad. Can you show me your sad face? (*Demonstrate.*)

"After Jesus died, some of His friends put His body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"Three sad days went by. Count with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "One, two, three!"

STORYTELLER: "And on day three, the most amazing thing happened! Jesus came back, just like He said He would!"

Flip to a new page and draw a simple cave with a stone (circle) to the side.

"On the third day, when some of Jesus' friends went to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

Point to the stone.

"And Jesus was not there. The tomb was empty!"



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Point to the empty cave.

"Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive! That's the best news ever! It makes me so, so . . .

Quickly flip to a new page and draw a big happy face.

". . . HAPPY! Show me your happy faces! (*Demonstrate.*)

"Yay! And that's why we celebrate Easter. Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend forever! So when I ask you, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', you say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' Let me hear you. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Again! Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He went away and came back, like He said He would. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"Happy Easter! I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the easel, Bible, drawing pad, and marker.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

The Host enters, smiling.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus went away and came back! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! I think I got the story. Did you get it? (Pause.) If you did, give me two thumbs-up (hold up two thumbs) and say, 'Got it!' (Pause.) Get it?"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good! Birds and nests for sure go together, but the best things that go together are my friend Jesus and me. I'm going to find some friends and tell them that Jesus is alive! I can't wait to celebrate! Happy Easter everyone! See you next time."

The Host skips off excitedly.