



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



ROLL THE BALL

WHAT YOU NEED: Ball and laundry basket

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Turn the laundry basket on its side and place it in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Line up the children about four feet from the laundry basket. Show them how to roll the ball on the floor into the basket. Encourage each child to retrieve the ball to pass it to the next friend in line.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect the ball and basket and set aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come here with me! Let's roll the ball to see if we can get it into the basket."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The ball we used looks a little like a rock. In our story today, we'll hear about a big, heavy rock that covered a tomb. Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to carry a very heavy rock all the way to your Large Group space.

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.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



DANCE AND CELEBRATE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player and the monthly song, "We Are Friends"

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in the activity area to dance and sing to the monthly song, "We

Are Friends."

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're learning an awesome song this month! Come dance and celebrate because we are friends forever with Jesus! He is the best!" (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! Jesus is worth celebrating for sure because He is the best friend ever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



JESUS IS RISEN!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Empty Tomb Maze" Activity Page, cardstock, and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Empty Tomb Maze" on cardstock, one per child. Set a page at each spot at the table. Place the markers in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to find a spot at the table. Point out the closed tomb at the top of the page and the empty tomb with Jesus standing nearby at the bottom. Encourage the children to use a marker to find their way through the maze from the closed tomb at the top of the page to the open tomb with Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Make sure each child's name is on their page and set aside for pick-up. Gather the markers for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a spot at the table. What do you see at the top of the page? Yes, a closed tomb. Some people hurt Jesus, and He died. Then they placed His body in the tomb and rolled a big heavy stone over the entrance. But three days later—count with me, one, two, three—Jesus came back! (*Point the open tomb at the bottom of the page.*) Yes! Jesus is alive! Let's see if we can figure out how to make it through the maze from the closed tomb at the top to the empty tomb at the bottom!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Way to go, friends! You found your way through the maze. I'm so glad to know that our friend Jesus is alive! What a wonderful friend He is. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is alive!

EASTER
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27:1-2; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 28:20; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to roll a really BIG stone while we walk to our Small Group spot. Get ready to roll and follow me!

(Pretend to roll a really big stone as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is alive!

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

"Whew! We made it! Let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* Our Bible story, today, was about why we celebrate Easter. Who remembers why we celebrate Easter? *(Pause.)* That's right! We celebrate that Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:20, NIV

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

SGL: "God loves us so much that He sent us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. And because Jesus went away and came back, He can always be with us! The Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that Jesus is always with us. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)* 'I am with you always,' Matthew 28:20. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

"Jesus said those words so we will know that He is always with us. Let's stand up and say them together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'I am *(point up)* with you *(thumbs to chest)* always,' *(spread arms out)* Matthew 28:20." *(Open hand like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SGL: "You sound awesome! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* Jesus is alive, and He wants to be EVERYONE'S friend forever. So we'll make a list of people we can tell. That way, everyone will know that Jesus is alive and wants to be their friend forever, too!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Okay, when I say your name, tell me one person you can tell that Jesus is alive and wants to be their friend forever. *(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"This is a great list! 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 that Jesus came back, just like He said He would, and that He's alive today. Please help us tell (*read the list the children made*) that Jesus is alive and wants to be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

