



WEEK  
**TWO**  
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. First and foremost, thank God for the enormous sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Pray for the kids who may be led by the Holy Spirit today to start a relationship with Jesus and begin growing in their faith. Ask for God's guidance as you have those conversations today and for wisdom on how to help those kids take the next step.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rise Again**  
Crucified and Risen  
John 18:12-20:23  
(John 16; Matthew 26)

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "Leaf" Activity Pages, markers, tape, scissors, Tree Mural from Week 1, and mobile device or timer

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Point out the Tree Mural from last week.
- Give each kid a leaf from the "Leaf" Activity Pages and a marker.
- Ask kids to think of a situation when they saw someone show humility this week—a time when someone put others first?
  - To prompt kids' thinking, offer suggestions, like at school they saw someone share their lunch, or maybe at home they helped a parent when they would rather have been playing games.
- Encourage the kids to write on their leaf one way to put others first and add their leaf to the Tree Mural.
- Fill out a leaf for yourself, too.
- Set a timer for 30-60 seconds. (Depending on the skill level, you may need to change the time limit for additional rounds.)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because Jesus is alive.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."**  
Philippians 2:3, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CREATE**

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



**\* 1. JESUS IS ALIVE!**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic eggs (opened), sunflower seeds, spoons, craft tape, and scissors; *Optional:* garden-themed stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Let each kid pick a color of egg.
- Guide them to put a spoonful of sunflower seeds in one side then snap the halves together.
- Next, guide kids to put a strip of tape over the seam to seal it.
- Invite kids to decorate their eggs with tape and stickers, if you provided them.
- When finished, kids can shake their eggs to **celebrate because Jesus is alive!**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"When Mary Magdalene came to the garden, she discovered that the tomb was EMPTY! Jesus wasn't dead. He was ALIVE! That's what Easter is all about, celebrating because Jesus is alive! And because Jesus lived a perfect life, died, and came back to life, ANYONE who believes in Him and follows Him can have life FOREVER with God. WOW! The Bible says, 'God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.' (John 3:16, NIV) We can **CELEBRATE because Jesus is alive!**

"It's okay if you don't understand all of this yet. I'm still learning more about God every day. But if you have any questions or want to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, you can talk to your parents, me, or any of the other leaders. We'll be happy to help you understand as much as you can!"

*(Depending on what you know about your kids, it might be a good idea to simply "plant the seeds" and have a conversation about salvation without explicitly leading kids to take the step of faith. If a kid's parents are already believers, they may want to be present for this eternally important moment. Use your judgment, your knowledge of your kids' home lives, and your ministry's guidance/training when having this conversation.)*

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**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



**2. CELEBRATE**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Upbeat worship music; music player; shakers from "Jesus Is Alive!" activity; scarves, streamers, or bandanas; and snacks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Play the music and invite kids to dance, sing, and "shake" to the music to **celebrate because Jesus is alive.**
- Guide kids to wash or sanitize their hands, then serve the snack.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Through God's amazing, INCREDIBLE power, Jesus came back to life! He did it so that when you believe in Him and follow Him, you can have life FOREVER with God! Now that's a reason to celebrate!

"So how can you **celebrate because Jesus is alive?** (Pause to let kids think. If kids are stuck for ideas, ask, 'Can you sing songs to Him? Can you jump for joy for Him? Can you thank Him? Can you tell others about Him?')

**[Make It Personal] (Tell kids one way that you'll Celebrate because Jesus is alive, whether by praying when you wake up, thanking Him as you do chores, praising Him as you hike a trail, or any other way.) So remember to celebrate because Jesus is alive!"**

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**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



**4. PRAY AND DISMISS**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Shakers from "Jesus Is Alive!" activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Guide kids to bring their shakers, sit in a circle around you, and hold their shakers quietly in their laps.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in a responsive prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"In just a minute we're going to pray. I'll say a sentence, then all together, you'll say, '**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**' Let's practice. Jesus is ALIVE! (Cue kids.) **Celebrate because Jesus is alive!** Wonderful! Let's pray."

*(As you pray, help kids say the response.)*

**LEADER:** "Jesus, You lived a perfect life."  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

**LEADER:** "You were killed, but God's power brought You back to life!"  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

**LEADER:** "You will never die again."  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

**LEADER:** "Through You, we are forgiven."  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

**LEADER:** "Through You, we can live forever with God."  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

**LEADER:** "You saved us!"  
**KIDS:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"  
**EVERYONE:** "**Celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

*(Invite kids to shake their shakers in celebration!)*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line.  
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