



WEEK
FIVE
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER

MATTHEW 26:26-28:10

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, 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: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files; and "He Is Alive," available on [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com); *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com), and "He Is Alive," available from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com)*

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. It's Easter—the day we celebrate that Jesus is alive! There is NO better friend than Jesus!

"When I ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's true! Jesus loved us first. He always cares. Stand up on your feet and sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "Never Better," this month's worship song.

"What a great song! And it's all true. Jesus is the best friend in the whole wide world. And He wants to be YOUR friend, forever and always. Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "You've got it! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** The Bible teaches us that Jesus says, 'I (point up) have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers) friends (hook index fingers twice); John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.). Let's say that together."

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

"Jesus is the best. He calls us all His friends. I just want to tell the world that



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Jesus is alive! Sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "He Is Alive."

"What an awesome truth! We celebrate Easter because Jesus is alive! He has saved the day. Thanks for celebrating and worshipping with me, friends."

[Transition] "And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Basketball and a volunteer

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name]."

Hold up the basketball.

"Do you know what this is? (*Pause.*) That's right! It's a basketball. You can do a lot of really cool things with a basketball. You can dribble a basketball like this.

Dribble the ball.

"And you can pass the basketball to a friend.

Pass basketball to volunteer.

"And you can throw a basketball in the net.

Volunteer shoots the ball and Host catches it.

"Basketball is such a fun game. My team has a basketball game tomorrow. It's going to be THE BEST DAY EVER! But right now, [name of Storyteller] is ready to share a Bible Story. Everybody, say, 'Go team!'"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Go team!"

Storyteller enters as Host and volunteer exit with the basketball.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: a small table or tray table, two chairs, a plate, a cup, potted or artificial plants, cardboard, utility knife, black paint, paintbrush, paper honeycomb heart decoration, and a Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

Preset the table and chair on one side of your storytelling area. Set the plate and cup on the table. Set the cardboard tomb (taped to a chair to prop it up) on the opposite side and lean the cardboard stone against the tomb, covering the painted entrance. Set some potted or artificial plants in the center of the



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storytelling area.

Storyteller enters, carrying the honeycomb heart and a Bible, as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and it's SOOO good to be with you on the best, most wonderful day of the whole year!

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Do you know why we celebrate Easter? The true story of Easter begins with this.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 01)

Open honeycomb heart and show children.

"Do you know what this is? *(Pause.)* Yes! It's a heart! Because Easter begins with God's love for us. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever.

Close heart. Walk over and sit behind the table.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 02)

"One night when Jesus was having dinner with His good friends, the disciples, He told them He would have to go away, but He promised He would come back.

Walk to plants and kneel as if praying in the garden.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 03)

"After dinner, Jesus went to pray in a garden when some angry people came. Can you show me your angry face? *(Pause.)* Yes, this group of people were very angry. They were so angry that they took Jesus away.

"They hurt Jesus, and *(simple/somber)* He died. It was very sad. All of Jesus' friends were so sad. Can you show me your sad face? *(Demonstrate.)* Yes, it was very sad.

Walk to the cardboard tomb.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 04)

"They put Jesus' body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it. Three sad days went by, can you count them with me?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: *(Count on fingers)* "One . . . two . . . three."

STORYTELLER: "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 W5 05)



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Roll cardboard stone away to reveal the empty tomb.

"... and Jesus was not there. (*Excited.*) JESUS came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive! Let's say it again! On the count of three say, 'Jesus is alive!' One, two, three!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus is ALIVE!"

STORYTELLER: "That's right! Jesus is alive!"

Open honeycomb heart.

"God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, and Jesus came to be our friend forever. That's what we celebrate on Easter! Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

STORYTELLER: "One more time: **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

STORYTELLER: "Yes, that's why we celebrate Easter in a big, BIG way! Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! **[Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son to us. Thanks for Easter and the chance to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Because Jesus is alive, we know He is our forever friend! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

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

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

HOST: "Wow! Jesus came back, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive."

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good! My basketball game is going to be super fun. But Easter is the best day ever because that means Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever. Happy Easter, friends! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.