

Easter Services



April 2nd – April 5th

OVERVIEW CARD

**Jesus wants
to be my
friend forever!**

Key Question:

Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse:

"Go and make disciples of all nations."

Matthew 28:19, NIV

Bible Story Focus:

Jesus wants me to tell others about Him.

Easter

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

Coloring Page:

Jesus rises from the dead.

Music:

Whoa I Have Life

Life with Jesus

Praise the Lord Everyday

Bible Lesson:

God's Story for Me Bible

Jesus in Gethsemane & Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Pages 422 to 430

Story:

What is Easter (2's/3's/4's)

by Michelle Medlock Adams

An Easter Gift for Me (Clubhouse)

by Crystal Bowman

Service Time:

72 minutes

Memory Verse –

"Go and make disciples of all nations."

Matthew 28:19, NIV

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ACTIVITY 1

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Easter Egg Hunt Game:

What You Need: Empty Easter Eggs in several colors, matching colored baskets, CD Player and fun music

What You Do:

Before the activity: Scatter the colored eggs all over the room and place the different colored baskets in various locations throughout the room.

During the activity: Start the music. Have the children collect the eggs and place them into the baskets by color (*pink eggs in the pink basket, blue eggs in the blue basket, etc.*). (For older children divide the class into teams based on colors and size and see which team can collect their eggs the fastest.) Tell the children that they can collect eggs as long as the music is playing and they must freeze when the music stops. Start the music. Play and stop the music periodically to have the children “freeze”. Play until all the eggs are picked up and placed into the correct colored baskets. Repeat as long as children are interested.

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ACTIVITY 2

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Jelly Bean Toss:

What You Need: Jelly Bean Cutouts and mini bean bags.

What You Do: Children will take turns tossing the mini bean bags onto the jelly bean cutouts. Children will practice saying their memory verse while doing different movements based on where the bean bag lands. *(For younger children: if they are struggling to say the memory verse just have them act like the animals listed below.)*

Red – run in place and say like a cheetah super fast...

Yellow – hop on two feet and say like a bunny really quietly

Purple – swing your arms and say like an elephant really loud

Orange – walk really slow and say like a turtle really slowly

Blue – hop on one foot and say like a chicken with a cheap

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ACTIVITY 3

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HE LIVES Fun:

What You Need:

He lives beach balls and parachute.

What You Do:

Arrange children in a circle around the parachute. Have each child pick up the edge of the parachute so that it is completely off the ground. Ask the children to slowly move their arms up and down to make a rippling effect. Direct them to go faster and then slower. Once the children have mastered the technique, toss the beach ball on the parachute and allow it to be bounced around. Repeat the activity until the children lose interest.

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ACTIVITY 4

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Playdoh Fun:

What You Need: Play-Doh, rolling pins, and dough tool sets.

What You Do: Show the children how to roll the Play-Doh out flat and then allow them to choose one tool from the basket. Show the children how to cut the dough into strips to make a cross. Review the Easter story while all the crosses are being made.

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ACTIVITY 5 – 3's/4's/5's

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Eggcellent Easter Ring Toss:

What You Need: Egg shaped bases and five rope rings

What You Do:

Children will take turns trying to toss the rings onto the egg shaped bases. When they are successful, announce the color where the ring landed and have them answer the question or complete the activity that corresponds to the color of the peg.

Pink: "Say the memory verse"

Green: "Shout Jesus wants to be my friend forever"

Blue: "Answer the question: What makes Easter so special?"

Yellow: "Answer the question: How many days until Jesus came back?"

Orange: "Answer the question: What is your favorite thing about Easter?"

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 6 – 4's/5's

**Jesus wants
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He's Alive Freeze Dance

What You Need: "Reach Up High" CD with song # 12: "Jesus is Alive" and CD player

What You Do: Have the children gather around in one area. Play the song "Jesus is Alive" for the children to dance to. The children should continue dancing as long as you are playing the music. Once you stop the music, the children should immediately stop dancing and Shout "Jesus is Alive". Children should start dancing again when you switch the music back on.

Memory Verse –

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CRAFT

**Jesus wants
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He Lives Crosses

What You Need:

Crosses, memory verse label and tissue paper

What You Do:

Give each child a cross and tissue paper. Encourage them to spread out the tissue pieces and to use many different colors to color the cross. *(Show the children how to place the tissue paper onto the sticky side of the cross, encouraging them to cover all of the cross.)*

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I LOVE Jesus! And Jesus loves you and me, too! Our lesson today told us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and He wants us to tell others about Him. Let's make a cool project that reminds us of just how much Jesus loves us and that we can tell others about Him."

During the activity: "We are going to make a BEAUTIFUL cross today to remind us of Jesus' love and that He came back for us. (Hand out crosses and tissue.) Here is some pretty colored tissue. We are going to cover our crosses with this tissue paper. Here is your label. *(Hand out labels.)* Our labels have our memory verse on them. Now let's add our labels so we can remember that Jesus wants us to tell others about Him and his love for everyone! **Who wants to be your friend forever? (Pause.) Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

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SMALL GROUP

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Small Group Time

What you Need: Provide a “Small Group” poster, marker and stickers for each classroom.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today’s Bible lesson is so special. It’s special because it’s about how much Jesus loves you. Jesus loves *(name of child)* and *(name of child)* and ... *(continue naming each child)* SO much that He made a way for all us to be His friend forever. FOREVER! That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who wants to be your friend forever?**’ I want you to say, ‘**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**’ Got it? *(Pause.)* Let’s try it. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

SGL: “Yay! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Jesus wants EVERYONE to know that He wants to be their friend forever and it’s up to you and me to GO and TELL them.

“Our new memory verse will help us remember to GO and TELL. It says, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations’, Matthew 28:19. Let’s say it together.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Go and make disciples of all nations’, Matthew 28:19.”

(Repeat the verse a few times together.)

SGL: “Way to go! It’s time to write on our small group poster. We’re going to tell God thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be friends with Him forever. When I write down your name, I want you to say, ‘Thank You, God!’ Watch and listen for your name and be ready to tell God thank You.” *(Write down the children’s names and wait for each one to say, “Thank You, God!” Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and the letters. Don’t forget to write your name and tell God thank You, too!)*

“Wonderful! Let’s pray. Would anyone like to say your own prayer before I pray?”

(Give each child that wants to pray the opportunity to do so and then close with a prayer that includes the list the children made.)

Memory Verse –

“Go and make disciples of all nations.”

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