

Easter



March 24th – March 27th

OVERVIEW CARD

EASTER

Key Question:

Who can you follow?

Bottom Line:

I can follow Jesus.

Memory Verse:

“Come, and follow me,” Jesus said.”

Matthew 4:19, NIV

Bible Story Focus:

God sent Jesus to be my friend forever.

Easter

Matthew 26:20-30, 27:1-2, 28:1-2

Coloring Page:

Jesus rises from the dead.

Music:

Shout

Praise the Lord Everyday

Hosanna Rock

Nobody Loves Me Like You

Bible Lesson:

The Beginner’s Bible

The Last Supper; Jesus is Arrested and Crucified;

Jesus is Risen

Pages 442 to 458

Story:

What is Easter

by Michelle Medlock Adams

The Easter Story

by Autumn Ward

Service Time:

69 minutes

Memory Verse –

“Come, and follow me,” Jesus said.”

Matthew 4:19, NIV

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ACTIVITY 1

EASTER

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.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hello, boys and girls! I’m so excited today we are celebrating Easter! I love Easter and I love Easter Egg Hunts! Do you like Easter Egg Hunts? (Pause.) You do – GREAT, let’s have one right now! (Set out eggs and buckets.) I need you to help me pick up all these Easter eggs and put them in the matching colored buckets but we can only pick them up when the music is playing. When the music stops we have to freeze and wait until the music starts again. Are you ready? (Pause) Go! Keep going until all the eggs have been found!” (Repeat as many times as desired.)

After the Activity: “Let’s look inside our Easter eggs (Open up an Easter egg and show the children it is empty). In our Bible lesson today, we heard about something that was empty too! Do you remember what it was? (Pause.) Yes, you are right the tomb was EMPTY! We learned today that Jesus went away. He died and they put His body in a tomb. But when Mary went to the tomb, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was EMPTY! Jesus wasn’t there. He was alive!”

“Jesus made a promise to His friends that He would come back and He did! He wants to be our friend forever and He wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow? (Pause.) I can follow Jesus.**”

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 2

EASTER

Empty Tomb:

What You Need: Four Large Easter Buckets, Easter egg stress balls and masking tape

What You Do:

Before the activity: Divide the children into two teams and assign a leader to each team. Divide the buckets (2 *per team*) and Easter eggs up amongst the teams. Each leader will line up the two baskets and make a toss line with masking tape. Allow the children to take turns tossing the Easter Eggs into the buckets. Continue playing until the buckets are full of all of the Easter eggs.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Today we’re going to play a fun game called Empty Tomb. I have two empty buckets here (*show them the buckets*) and all these Easter eggs. I want you to watch as I toss one of these eggs into the bucket. (*Stand behind the masking tape line and toss an Easter egg into the bucket.*) Can you help me fill up this bucket? (*Pause*) Great! Let’s play!” (*Play the game.*)

After the Activity: “You did a great job filling up those Easter buckets. (*Dump out the Easter eggs and show the children the empty bucket*) Our bucket looks so empty without all of our Easter eggs. That makes me think of our lesson today, in our Bible lesson, we heard about something that was empty too! Do you remember what it was? (*Pause*) Yes, you are right the tomb was EMPTY! Today, we learned that Jesus went away. He died and they put His body in a tomb. But when Mary went to the tomb, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was EMPTY! Jesus wasn’t there. He was alive!

“Jesus made a promise to His friends that He would come back and He did! He wants to be our friend forever and He wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow?** (*Pause.*) **I can follow Jesus.**”

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 3

EASTER

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 making sure to have them FOLLOW your instructions. Once the children have mastered the technique of following, toss the beach balls on the parachute and allow them to be bounced around. Repeat the activity until the children lose interest.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

All month long we have been talking about what it means to follow. We are going to play with our parachute and you have to follow my instructions as I tell you what to do. Let's start by moving our arms up and down to make a rippling effect. Great! Now, let's move our arms really fast. Great! Now, let's move our arms really slow. Great! (*Keep giving them instructions and have them follow your lead.*)

After the Activity:

You all did a great job following my instructions! You have really learned what it means to follow. And there is someone who loves us that we should follow every day. Do you remember **who you can follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

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ACTIVITY 4

EASTER

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, freeze and shout, "Jesus is Alive". Children should start dancing again when you switch the music back on.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I love to sing and dance! I have a wonderful song that we can all dance to that tells us that Jesus is alive. Once the music starts, you can hop, skip, dance, sway, or move in any way as long as the music is playing. Once the music stops, you must freeze in place and shout all together, 'Jesus is Alive'. We can't start the music again until we shout what? (*Pause.*) 'Jesus is Alive.' You got it! Are you ready to have some fun? Here we go..."

After the Activity: "That was SO fun! You did a GREAT job dancing to 'Jesus is Alive'! But you had to listen each time to know when to stop and start dancing. All month long we've been talking about what it means to follow. And there is someone who loves us that we should follow every day. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

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ACTIVITY 5 – 3's/4's/5's

EASTER

Egg-cellent 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 all FOLLOW the activities listed below that correspond to the color of the peg.

- Pink: Say the Memory Verse: "Come, and follow me," Jesus said."
Green: Answer the question: What is your favorite thing about Easter?
Blue: Answer the bottom line question: Who Can You Follow? I Can Follow Jesus!
Yellow: Play one round of "Follow the Leader" where the child tossing is the leader.
Orange: Shout: "Jesus is Alive" three times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's see who can toss these rings (*hold up rings*) onto the eggs (*point to the eggs*)."

During the Activity: "Let's take turns. (*Have a child toss a ring.*) Great job! You landed on the pink peg. When the ring lands on the pink peg we all have to say our memory verse together. (*Have the children say their memory verse.*) Great Job! Let's try it again! (*Have another child take a turn.*) You landed on the blue peg. When the ring lands on the blue peg we all have to answer the question, 'Who Can You Follow?' (Prompt the children to say, "I Can Follow Jesus.") Great Job! Let's try it again! (*Have another child take a turn.*)"

After the Activity: "You did a great job following the instructions! Jesus asked His friends to follow Him. And we can follow Him too! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** I'm sorry. I'm not sure I heard you. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

Memory Verse –

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CRAFT

EASTER

He Lives Crosses

What You Need:

Crosses, “He Lives” stickers, tissue paper and magnets

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.)* Once complete, add a “He Lives” sticker to the center of the cross and a magnet and the year on the back 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 follow Him. Let’s make a cool project that reminds us of just how much Jesus loves us.”

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. Once you are done, raise your hand and I will help you add a sticker to the center of your cross. *(Show children where to place their sticker on the cross and assist if needed.)* Our stickers say, “Jesus is Alive”. Jesus is alive and I hope you always remember that we can follow Him. We follow Him! I follow Him! You follow Him! We all follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”

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SMALL GROUP

EASTER

Small Group Time

What you Need: Parent Take Home Card, Playdoh, Rolling Pins, Easter Eggs and Sticker Roll

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "Raise your hand if you like Playdoh. *(Pause and raise your own hand.)* I do too! Today, I have some thing really special we can play with. Can you tell me what they are? *(Pause.)* You are right! They are Easter eggs. *(Show the children how to make Easter eggs shapes by using the open plastic eggs.)* Easter eggs are something that we use at Easter but do you know why we celebrate Easter? *(Pause.)* We celebrate Easter because God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Forever is a long, long, LONG time! It never ends! Forever means Jesus wants to be your everyday, all-the-time, never-ending bestest friend! That's why we celebrate Easter—to tell God thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever!

"And do you know how we show Jesus we believe He's alive and that we love Him for being such an AH-MAZING friend? *(Pause.)* We follow Him! I follow Him! You follow Him! We all follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** Yes, you can! And following Jesus means we do what He does—we love God and love people. Since today is such a special day celebrating our good friend Jesus, we're going to do something super special, when I call your name I want you to say, 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!' Got It? *(Go around the table and have each child say, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever".)*

"Ok, now it's time to review our lesson. I am going to ask you some questions and you will get a sticker for answering them. I have some really cool stickers today. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Great! *(Ask the children the questions from the "Parent Take Home Cards". You can also make up additional questions from our video lesson. Don't forget to ask them to say their memory verse for another sticker. You can repeat the same questions over and over as repetition is good for preschoolers.)* You are such great listeners!"

"Now I'll pray before it's time to say goodbye until next week. *(Read the prayer on the back of the "Parent Take Home Card.")*"

Memory Verse –

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