

EASTER



April 12th – 16th

OVERVIEW CARD

HAPPY EASTER

Key Question:
Bottom Line:

Who is the best?
Jesus is the best!

Memory Verse:

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”
John 3:16, GNT

Bible Story Focus:

God sent Jesus to be my friend forever.
Easter
Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7

Coloring Page:

Jesus rises from the dead.

Music:

Praise the Lord Everyday
Shout
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:

The Easter Story
by Autumn Ward

Memory Verse –

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only HAPPY EASTER

Easter Basket

Big Idea:

Children will collect the Easter eggs and place them inside the Easter basket.

What You Need: An inflatable pool, pool noodles, stress ball Easter eggs, and a timer (you can use your smart phone if easier)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place both ends of the pool noodles on opposite sides of the inflatable pool to resemble an Easter Basket (the noodles should be in an arc shape).

During the Activity: Gather the children around the Easter basket. Toss the eggs around the perimeter of the basket. Explain to the children that you will set a timer to see how many eggs they can get into the basket before time runs out. Dump the eggs back out and repeat this activity three times.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Do you see all these eggs? They need to get back into the basket. Can you help me? *(Pause.)* I’ll set a timer for each round and I want to see how many eggs you can get into the basket. Let’s get started!”

After the Activity: “Great job, everyone! That was so much fun! You worked together and gathered all the eggs! How many times did we play our game? *(Pause)* That’s right we collected all the eggs 3 times. One, two, three! What does the number three have to do with our story today? *(Pause.)* That’s right, Jesus promised He would come back. And after THREE days, Jesus DID come back. Yes! Jesus kept His promise and He DID come back. Jesus came back. He’s ALIVE! God sent Jesus to be my friend and YOUR friend forever! I love Jesus. He’s the best. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.** That’s right, friends!”

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ACTIVITY 2 – 2's/3's only HAPPY EASTER

He's Alive Freeze Dance

Big Idea:

Children will play a fun game of freeze dance with colorful scarves.

What You Need: Colorful Scarves, “Reach Up High” CD with song # 12: “Jesus is Alive” and CD player

What You Do:

Have the children gather around in an open area and give each child a scarf. Play the song “Jesus is Alive” and have the child wave their scarves while they dance. 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 freeze. Count to three and have the children shout, “Jesus is Alive” while waving their scarves and restart the music.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “I love to sing and dance! I have a wonderful song that we can all dance to. This song reminds us that Jesus DID come back. Yes! Jesus kept His promise and He DID come back. Jesus came back. He’s ALIVE! Once I start the music, I want everyone to wave your scarves and dance. Once the music stops, you must freeze in place and wait for me to count to three and then we will all shout 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 waving your scarves and dancing to ‘Jesus is Alive’! What did we shout? ‘Jesus is Alive!’ And what does the number three have to do with our lesson today? *(Pause.)* That’s right, Jesus promised He would come back. And after THREE days, Jesus DID come back. Yes! Jesus kept His promise and He DID come back. Jesus came back. He’s ALIVE! God sent Jesus to be my friend and YOUR friend forever! I love Jesus. He’s the best. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.** That’s right, friends!”

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ACTIVITY 3 - All

HAPPY EASTER

Jelly Bean Toss:

Big Idea:

Children will toss bean bags onto jelly bean cutouts while practicing their memory verse.

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

What You Do: Children will take turns tossing the 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.)*

Orange – run in place and say your memory verse like a cheetah super fast...

Yellow – hop on one foot and say your memory verse like a chicken with a cheap...

Purple – hop on two feet and say your memory verse like a bunny really quietly...

Red – swing your arms and say your memory verse like an elephant really loud...

Blue – walk really slow and say your memory verse like a turtle really slowly...

What to Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s say our memory verse together. *God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son*, John 3:16. Great job! When I call your name, I want you to come up and toss one of our bean bags onto a jelly bean. *(Pick a child to toss a bean bag.)* Great job tossing! Your bean bag landed on the orange jelly bean. Let’s all pretend to be cheetahs and say our memory verse together really fast while we run in place. *(Pick another child to toss a bean bag.)* Great job! Your bean bag landed on the purple bean bag. Let’s all pretend to be a bunny and say our memory verse together really quietly while we hop on two feet. Great Job! *(Continue with the activity until everyone has had a turn.)*”

After the Activity: “Way to go! You all did a great job saying your memory verse. God sent us Jesus because He loves us SO much! **Jesus is the BEST! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**”

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ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only HAPPY EASTER

HE LIVES Fun:

Big Idea:

Children will play a fun game with the parachute and beach balls.

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 faster making sure to shake off all of the beach balls. Repeat the activity until the children lose interest.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “There was a tomb in our lesson today and a stone too!! Do you remember what happened to the stone? (*Pause.*) It was rolled away. Let’s pretend this parachute is the tomb and these beach balls are the stones. The stone in our lesson was rolled away, so our job is to keep the stones off of the tomb (parachute) just like what happened in our story today. Every time we shake off all of the stones, let’s shout on the count of three, ‘Jesus is Alive!’ Are you ready? Let’s try it together!”

After the Activity: “Way to go! You all did a great job of rolling the stones away from the tomb. God sent us Jesus because He loves us SO much! **Jesus is the BEST!** Who is the best? **Jesus is the best!**”

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only

HAPPY EASTER

Easter Egg Hunt Game:

Big Idea:

Children will collect the Easter eggs and place them inside the Easter baskets.

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 baskets.*) I need you to help me pick up all these Easter eggs and put them in the matching colored baskets 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. That’s right, Jesus promised He would come back. And after THREE days, Jesus DID come back. Yes! Jesus kept His promise and He DID come back. Jesus came back. He’s ALIVE! God sent Jesus to be my friend and YOUR friend forever! I love Jesus. He’s the best. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.** That’s right, friends!”

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CRAFT PART 1

HAPPY EASTER

Colored Sunsets:

Start this activity as children arrive to ensure the coffee filters have time to dry.

What You Need: Small spray bottle, large coffee filters cut in half, water, yellow and orange markers

What You Do:

During the activity: Give each child one filter and allow them to color it with the yellow and orange markers. Encourage them to color the entire filter on one side. When finished, have an adult lightly mist the filter with the spray bottle so that the colors run and then set them aside to dry. Write the child's name on the bottom of the filter once complete (*remember this is the bottom of the sunset so please keep names small*).

At the end of the activity: Once dry, continue to Part 2 of the craft.

****You may want to make some additional colored coffee filters for late arrivals****

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CRAFT PART 2

HAPPY EASTER

He is Risen:

Complete this activity after Large Group

What You Need: “He is Risen” activity page, magic scratch crosses, magic scratch sticks or coins to scratch, glue sticks, and coffee filter from Craft Part 1

What You Do:

Before the activity:

Set out at the table, a cross, magic scratch stick or coin, ‘He is Risen’ activity page, and glue stick for each child. Once children are sitting, give each child their dried coffee filter from the Craft Part 1.

During the activity:

Give each child a cross and show them how to use the pencil or coin to decorate the cross ornament. Once complete, have the children glue their coffee filter to the bottom of the blue cardstock to resemble a sunset. Then, have the children glue the cross to the center of the sunset.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today in our lesson, we learned that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. We are going to make a beautiful picture to remember that *God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son!* Let’s start by using our pencils to decorate our crosses. You can decorate your cross anyway you would like. (*Once crosses are completed.*) Your crosses look amazing! Now let’s take the coffee filter you colored before we went to Large Group and glue it to the bottom of the blue paper to resemble a sunset. Great! Now we just have to add our crosses, can you glue them to the middle of the sunset? (Pause) Your pictures look fantastic, great job!!!”

After the activity: “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! God sent Jesus to be my friend and YOUR friend forever! I love Jesus. He’s the best. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.**”

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SMALL GROUP

HAPPY EASTER

Small Group Time

What you Need: Parent Take Home Card, Playdoh, Easter Eggs cut in half horizontally, Rolling Pins, Sticker Roll and **Take Home Easter Eggs with John 3:16 Bracelet inside**

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today is a very, very special day. Do you know why today is a very, very special day? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! It’s Easter! Easter is when we celebrate that Jesus is alive! Our good friend Jesus did what He said He would do and He came back! That’s one of the things that make Jesus the best! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**”

SGL: “Look at these cookie cutters. They are Easter eggs. *(Show the children how to make Easter eggs shapes by using the open plastic eggs that are cut in half horizontally.)* 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! I think today is the perfect day to tell God thank You for loving us and giving us Jesus. I’ll say everyone’s name. When I say your name I want you to say, ‘Thank You, God!’”

“I have a special present for you today. It is an Easter egg with a special bracelet inside. Let’s take a look at my egg *(show children a Take Home Easter egg)* and then when you leave today you will all receive a special egg of your own. This Easter egg has our memory verse on it. Let’s say our verse together. *(Say the memory verse with children and open the egg.)* The bracelet has the words John 3:16 written on it. John 3:16 is where we can find our verse in the Bible. Every time you wear your bracelet you can think about how God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”

“Ok, 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.”)***”

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