

Alley SG—April 10th, 2022 (EASTER LESSON)

Today's Bible Story: Back to Life (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • John 18:1–20:18

Today's Key Question: What does Easter mean to you?

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33b NIV

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, “Easter Reveal” Page (1 per kid), scissors, and paper lunch bags (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read John 16:33b then practice saying it together to help kids memorize it.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they’re looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it’s in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they’re looking for. If it’s in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they’re looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they’re looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they’ve already found.

- Point out that Easter is the story of Jesus’ victory over the world, and it’s why we can be encouraged even in hard times. Whatever happens, we can have hope because Jesus is alive!
- Ask kids to find 1 Peter 3:18 then invite someone to read it aloud.
- Explain to kids that this verse was written in a letter that Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, wrote several years after Jesus rose from the dead.
 - What does this verse tell you about Jesus?
 - What does it tell you about His resurrection?
 - How does this verse help you better understand what Easter is all about?
- Give each of the kids a copy of “Easter Reveal” Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Tell kids to cut out the cards and set the cards out face up in front of them.
- Read the dialog portion of the activity page as kids use the letter cards to spell out the words that correlate with the portion of the script you’re reading.
- Challenge kids to practice the Easter Reveal with a partner by reading the script and arranging the letters as described on the page.
- Encourage kids to take the Easter Reveal cards and the instructions home with them (give each kid a paper lunch bag) and share the story of Easter with someone.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, “Resurrection Matching Game” Cards (1 set per pair of Kids)

What You Do:

- Split your group up into partners.
- Give partners a set of “Resurrection Matching Game” cards.
- Instruct teams to line up the cards face down in the shape of a cross.
- Tell kids to take turns flipping over two cards. If they match, they keep the cards but move on to let the next person take a turn.
- Continue until all of the cards have been revealed.
- Tell partners to divide the set of cards so that they have one of each card.
- Challenge each kid to put their set of cards in chronological order. If needed, they can check out the story by looking up John 18:1–20:18 for the correct order. The correct sequence is shown below.

- 1. Coins
- 2. Praying Hands
- 3. Zzz
- 4. Rooster
- 5. Crown of Thorns
- 6. Whip
- 7. Heavy Cross
- 8. Nail
- 9. Three Crosses
- 10. Sealed Cave
- 11. Number Three
- 12. Empty Cave
- Ask kids to share a part of the Easter story they find most meaningful.
 - If you had been the first one to see Jesus alive on Easter morning, how do you think you would have reacted? What would you have done?
- Allow time for kids to ask questions about parts of the story they find confusing.
- Remind kids that Jesus died because of his great love for us.
 - We celebrate Easter because we remember that Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story.
 - Jesus came back to life to give us hope so that when we believe in him, we will have a relationship with God that will last forever.
 - He rose from the dead to show that he's more powerful than death itself.
 - That means there's absolutely no fear, hurt, struggle, or problem of any kind that Jesus couldn't handle.

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Prepared plastic eggs in carton (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Sit together as a group.
- Emphasize the puns while you tell the kids, "Since today is all about celebrating Easter, I thought it'd be eggspecially (especially) fun to hear you eggspress (express) your eggstraordinary (extraordinary) thoughts about today. So that's eggsactly (exactly) what we'll do. Are you eggcited (excited)? That's eggsactly (exactly) what I thought you'd say."
- Take turns passing the egg carton and letting kids choose an egg.
- Tell them to open the egg then read and answer the question inside.
- As time allows, you can invite all the kids to answer each question or simply answer the one question one from the egg they chose.
- Continue until everyone has taken at least one egg from the carton.

4. Discussion Questions

- If you've heard the Easter story lots of times already, what's something that stuck out to you today in particular? Is there anything you heard that you hadn't really thought about yet?
- If you've never really heard the Easter story like this until today, what's something you want to know more about?
- What are some things Jesus does or did for us that no one else can do?
- What are some things that can make us forget the true meaning of Easter?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Do:

- Invite kids to take turns sharing prayers of thanks for Easter.
- Ask them to remain seated as they pray silently or aloud thanking Jesus for dying for them.
- Ask them to “rise up” (stand) as they pray silently or aloud thanking Jesus for rising from the dead.
- When they’re finished, close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending us Jesus. Thank You for loving each of us enough to come and be our Savior. We know that Jesus is alive and is stronger than anything—even death. Help us to share the good news that Jesus is alive as we spend time with family and friends today. We love You! Amen.”