

April EASTER
3-K
Happy Day
April 17-20

CRAFT EASTER

Jesus Is Alive

SUPPLIES: Paper cups (pre-cut), Jesus sticker, stone sticker

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Invite the children to sit at a table.**
 - *"Let's make something special to take home to help you remember that every day can be a happy day because **Jesus is alive!**"*
- ⇒ **Give each child a paper cup, a Jesus sticker, and a stone sticker. Invite them to stick the stone sticker to the outside of the cup flap and the Jesus sticker on the inside of the flap. (keep the memory verse sticker for the last step)**
 - *"In our Bible Story today, Jesus was having dinner with His friends, the disciples. Jesus told them He would have to go away, but He would come back. Some angry people hurt Jesus, and He died. It was very sad. Jesus' friends put His body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.*
 - *"Let's pretend this cup is where Jesus was buried. See where the cup is cut? Put this sticker right here. (Point.) Jesus' friends rolled a big stone in front of the tomb. Open the door and put this sticker of Jesus on the inside of the door right here. (Point.) Close the door, like this, (demonstrate) to show the stone One, two, three sad days went by. Then something amazing happened! The stone was rolled away! Open the door. (Pause.) Jesus came back! Just like He said He would! **Jesus is alive!** Close the door to roll the stone in front. (Pause.) One . . . two . . . three— open the door! **Jesus is alive!**" (Repeat as long as time and interest allow.)*
 - *Now let's add one more sticker to the **top** of the cup, It's our **memory verse!** "I am alive forever and ever!" Revelation 1:18*
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bible Story and Bottom Line**
 - *"It was a very sad day when Jesus went away. But it was a VERY happy day when Jesus came back! Now every day can be a happy day because **Jesus is alive!**"*
 - *"Who is alive?"*
 - *"Jesus is alive!"*



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ACTIVITY #1

Story Sorting

SUPPLIES: Story Picture cards, happy and sad cards (*kids take cards home*)

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Gather the children either at a table or on the floor. Make sure the children have space in front of them to spread out their cards.**
 - *“Come sit with me! We’re going to play a sorting game to help us review today’s Bible Story so you need to make sure you have room in front of you to lay out your cards!”*
- ⇒ **Give each child a set of cards. Ask them to find the happy and sad cards and set them out. Review the story cards and instruct the children to sort them by happy and sad.**
 - *“First, everyone gets a set of story cards. (Pass out story cards.) Now you’ll need a happy face card and a sad face card. (Pass out happy and sad cards.) Put your happy face and sad face cards in front of you. When we talk about our story cards, if the picture is a sad card, you will put it on your sad face. If the picture is a happy card, you will put it on your happy face. Let’s sort this story!”*
 - *“One day, Jesus told His friends He was going away. Look at your cards and find the one with Jesus and His friends, the disciples. Do you think it was a happy day or a sad day when Jesus told His friends He was going away? (Pause for answers.) You’re right. It was a sad day. Put that story card on your sad face card. (Pause.)”*
 - *“Later, people took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus, and He died. After Jesus died, they put Jesus’ body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it. Look at your cards and find the one with a tomb that has a big stone in front of it. Do you think it was a happy day or a sad day when Jesus was buried? (Pause for answers.) Yes, it was a very, very sad day. Put that story card with your sad cards. (Pause.)”*
 - *“But then, something AMAZING happened! On the third day, the stone rolled away! Jesus came back just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! Look at your cards and find the one with Jesus next to the empty tomb. Do you think it was a happy day or a sad day when Jesus came back? (Pause for answers.) You’re right! It was a happy day! Put that story card on your happy face. (Pause.)”*
 - *“Jesus is alive forever and ever! And Jesus wants to be our friend forever! Look at your cards and find the one with the heart. Do you think it’s a happy day or a sad day that Jesus wants to be our friend forever? (Pause for answers.) Right again! It’s a happy day! Put that story card with your happy cards. (Pause.)”*
 - *“You did a wonderful job sorting the story! Let’s pick up our cards and play again!” (Send the story cards home with each child in their bag.)*
- ⇒ **Bring it back to the Bible Story and Bottom Line. Invite children to put their cards into their white bags.**
 - *“It was a very sad day when Jesus died. But now every day can be a happy day because Jesus came back—just like He said He would! **Jesus is alive!**”*
 - **Who is alive?**
 - **Jesus is alive!”**

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ACTIVITY #2

Happy Dance

SUPPLIES: CD Player, EC Worship CD, scarves, instruments

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Gather children and invite them to take a scarf and/or an instrument.**
 - *“Come join me over here. We have something to celebrate today, Who is alive? Jesus is alive! We’re going to celebrate by having a dance party. I have some fun scarves you can dance with or instruments you can play. Everybody grab something and get ready to dance!”*

- ⇒ **Play music and dance with the children. Periodically pause and review the Bottom Line. Repeat as interest allows.**
 - *“Okay friends, when I start the music, I want everyone to dance, dance, dance! We’re going to dance because **Jesus is alive!** Ready? One . . . two . . . three . . . dance with me! (Pause.) Amazing! That was so fun getting to dance together and celebrate **Jesus is alive!**”*

- ⇒ **Collect items and bring it back to the Bottom Line**
 - “Every day can be a happy day because we know that **Jesus is alive!**
 - **Who is alive?**
 - **Jesus is alive!”**

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ACTIVITY #3

Easter Hot Potato

SUPPLIES: Easter Egg, CD Player, EC Worship CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the middle of the room.**

- *"Friends, come sit in a circle with me. Let's say our Memory Verse together while we do the motions. Ready? 'I am alive (jump with arms up) for ever and ever. (Twirl with arms up.)' Revelation 1:18. (Open hands like a book.) Great job! I've got an Easter Egg here. We are going to play some music and pass the heart around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the egg will say our memory verse!"*

⇒ **Play music and pass the heart around. Pause music. Have the child holding the heart say the memory verse.**

- *"It's your turn to say the memory verse – we can help you!"*
 - *"I am alive for ever and ever."**Revelation 1:18*

⇒ **Let the children play until every child has had a turn.**

⇒ **Bring it Back to the bottom line.**

- *"Great job, friends!"*
- ***Who is alive?***
- ***Jesus is alive!"***



Please keep
the Easter Eggs
for week 4

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY
APRIL EASTER

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *The Easter Story*

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - ***Who is alive?***
 - ***Jesus is alive!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - ***“I am alive for ever and every.” Revelation 1:8***

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ “Since Jesus wants to be my friend forever and your friend forever, I’m going to write a list of Jesus’ friends. Do you know who I’m going to write down? All of you! I’m going to make a list of your names and we can use it while we pray.
 - *Write each child’s name on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Let’s use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let’s fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *“Dear God, thank You that **Jesus is alive!** Jesus is Your Son, and we are so thankful Jesus wants to be friends forever with (read the list of names in the journal). We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

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BONUS ACTIVITY

Easter Egg Hunt

SUPPLIES: Basket, stress Easter eggs

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Scatter and hide the eggs throughout the room.**

⇒ **Gather the children around the basket.**

- *"We are going to have an Easter egg hunt! I need you to find all of the eggs around the room and bring them back to the basket as quickly as you can. Just remember to use safe feet and hands when you are searching. Are you ready? On your mark, get set, GO!"*

⇒ **Let the children find all the eggs and bring them back to the basket.**

- *"Great work! Friends, **Who is alive?***
- ***Jesus is alive!"***
- *I wonder if we can do it even faster this time. I am going to scatter the eggs and you are going to find them again!"*

⇒ **Repeat the activity until you have played it a total of 3 times and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *"Great job, everyone! That was so much fun! You worked together and gathered all the eggs! Did you notice how many times we played our game? That's right, we collected all the eggs 3 times. One, two, three! What does the number three have to do with our lesson today?*
- *That's right, Jesus promised He would come back. And after **THREE** days, Jesus **DID** come back. Jesus kept His promise. He's **ALIVE!** God sent Jesus to be my friend and **YOUR** friend forever!*
- ***Who is alive?***
- ***Jesus is alive!"***