

CITY LG – April 12 – 13, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Hope Is Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • *John 18–20:1-18, 1 Peter 1:3*

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

LG SUPPLIES: Plastic Easter eggs (one for every 2 kids), carpet tape

WORSHIP

Let it Be Known

He Has Won

SLIDE: Theme

Happy Easter, everyone! Wow, what a special day next Sunday! Today we celebrate the most amazing news ever—that Jesus is alive!

I love Easter because it reminds me that I can always have hope. I know that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and then He came back to life. Because of what Jesus has done, I can be forgiven and live every day of my life knowing that I have a relationship with God that will last forever. Amazing! And even when life gets tough, I can remember to look at the 'big picture' and think about what Jesus has done for me.

We'll get into the whole story in just a few minutes. But first—since it's Easter—I thought it would be fun for us to play a really fun game with Easter eggs! Sound like fun? *(Pause for responses.)* Great!

First, I'll need you to partner up with one other person. Go ahead and do that really quick. Give your partner a high five. *(Pause while the kids partner up.)* If you still need a partner, raise your hand.

Help the kids who still need a partner by pairing them up with each other.

All right! Now that we all have a partner, one person from each pair can stand on this line, and their partner will stand on the other line and face them.

Reference the two tape lines, which are a few feet apart.

"Okay, you can go ahead and get in place.

Pause while the kids get in place, standing across from their partner on the two tape lines.

"Great job, everyone! We're ready to play the game. Here's an Easter egg for each team.

Walk down the line, giving an empty plastic egg to all of the kids on one side (so that you have one egg for each pair of kids).

Now that you've got your eggs, here's how the game works. We'll start with the eggs on this side. *(Point to the side on which the kids have the eggs.)* When I say 'toss,' you'll toss your egg to your partner. If they catch it, your team is still in and you'll take one step farther apart. If the egg hits the floor, your team is out and you'll have a seat. What do you say we try a practice round first? Okay—ready, set, toss!

AUDIO: Fun, instrumental music

The kids toss their eggs to their partners. This first round should be pretty easy, since the lines are just a few feet apart, but if anyone drops their egg on the first try, they can stay in the game.

Is everyone ready to play for real? Then let's get to it. Ready, set, toss!

Let the kids toss their eggs again. From this point on, if an egg hits the floor, encourage the two kids who dropped it ("Good try!") while you motion for them to have a seat. All teams who caught their egg get to stay in the game. Have them take a big step back for each new round.

Play the game in this way for as many rounds as you can—until you get down to one winning team, or a few winners. Collect the eggs as you send the kids back to their seats.

I'm so excited to talk about the Easter story with you. We can find the whole story right here in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Easter is a HUGE celebration because of what Jesus did for us!

If we go back to the very beginning, we see how God created the world and everything in it—including people. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. God chose one family, the Israelites, and promised to bless the whole world through them.

Many, many years later, God fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus to live here on Earth. Jesus traveled around, teaching and healing people. He showed perfectly what it means to love God and love others.

Let's check out The Story Lab

VIDEO: Bible Story 12:21

Something that I think is truly amazing about this story is how many times along the way that things must have seemed hopeless.

When Jesus was arrested in the garden . . . when He was put on trial . . . and when He was put on the cross and died . . . it seemed like all hope was lost. When Jesus' body was laid in the tomb, His followers thought that was the end of the story.

But it wasn't the end of the story. God always knew the big picture. This was all part of God's good plan. Here's what we need to remember today. This is why we can live each day with hope! Stand up for our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line
SLIDE: Bottom Line

Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Our sins, or the things we've done wrong, separate us from God. But when Jesus gave His life on the cross, He paid the price for our sins. And when Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated death, once and for all!

When we choose to follow Jesus and put our faith in Him as our Savior, we have the gift of eternal life. We get to live with God forever! Each one of us can choose to follow Jesus and be part of the incredible story God is telling. That doesn't mean that the hard things in your life will just go away. But it does mean that Jesus will be right there with you—always. And it means that you can have hope no matter what happens.

God loved us so much that Jesus came to rescue us. That's so good to know as we celebrate Easter together.

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank You so much for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. When we remember how Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we can see how He made a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever! God, we know that You are able to make something good out of the bad things that happen in our lives. Thank You for the hope we have because of Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part.

OFFERING:

We are collecting our offering to support a mission partner called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay) in Africa. La Liberte' Church is in a financially challenged area in The Congo. The kids at the church don't have access to a lot of food so this church feeds 700 children a meal every weekend! Each meal costs \$2.00 and our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can! Check out this video....

VIDEO: Offering Video

SLIDE: Theme