

CITY SG – 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: Easter—Celebrating that Jesus is alive

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Story Starter Activity Pages (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid as they arrive and help them feel welcome!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask kids if they were here last week and if they were, ask them if God helped them with anything difficult last this last week?
- Place one of the "Story Starters" Activity Pages in the middle of the group.
- Ask one of the kids (or a leader) to be the recorder.
- Ask a child to add a sentence to the story.
- Have the recorder write out that sentence.
- Encourage kids to use their imaginations to build on the story in a fun or surprising way!
- When the story gets long enough read it to the group.
- If there is still time choose another "story starter" activity page and repeat.
- Before you go to large group say **"Today, we'll hear about one of the greatest stories ever told—and it's true!"**

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Easter Verse Frame

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Frame Kit, Memory verse card (one per kid), tape

What You Do:

- Remind the kids of our memory verse for this month, *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b (NIRV)
- Ask the kids, "How did Jesus 'win the battle over the world' in today's Bible story?"
- Give each child a frame kit and a memory verse card
- Use the white adhesive strips to adhere the verse card to the back of the frame. (you may use tape to attach the verse)
- Decorate the front of the frame with the egg stickers.
- Adhere the magnet to the top strip on the back of the frame with short double-sided foam sticker.
- Encourage the kids to hang this frame up at home to remind them that this Easter we are celebrating that whatever happens, Jesus is alive!!

2. Easter Bingo!

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bingo cards, Bingo calling cards, bingo chips, prizes

What You Do:

- Pass out cards and beans.
- Remind Kids that next Sunday we are celebrating Easter!
- As you play, ask the kids what each symbol has to do with the Story of Easter when you call it.
- Let each winner choose a prize.
- Play until the 5 minute warning.
- After the game, give each child who did not win a prize.
- Say, "Because Jesus is alive, we can have hope, no matter what we face. Hope is all about believing something good can come out of something bad. The truth is that following Jesus doesn't mean that hard things will just go away. But remember, Jesus will be right there with you. And His Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Friends, when you're having a hard time, you can hold on to the best news ever: **whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive!**"

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
- "Dear God, thank You for this time we've had to spend together on Easter! Thank You for giving us hope through Jesus. Help us to share the Good News that Your Son Jesus is alive with the people around us. Please help them to believe that whatever happens, Jesus is alive. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- **Remind the kids that they will not be in the City next weekend – They will attend Easter service with their family in the Worship Center.**
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back April 26-27 for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show their parents their frames and ask them to explain how God "won the battle over the world!"