

April Easter
3-K
Hip Hip Hooray

April 2-5

CRAFT EASTER

Jesus is Alive!

SUPPLIES: Clear plastic cups, empty tomb stickers, stone stickers, crayons

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child 2 cups, an empty tomb sticker and a stone sticker.**
 - *“Come make a special Easter craft with me that shows the super happy surprise of our Easter story!”*

- ⇒ **Encourage the children to color the stickers. Then show them how to put the stickers on the cups so that they line up when the cups are stacked. Model for the children how to retell the story using the craft.**
 - *“Look at these pictures, they’re pictures of the stone and the tomb. Color your pictures then we’ll add them to your cups. (Pause.) Take the sticker with picture of Jesus next to the tomb and stick it to the side of your cup like this. (Demonstrate.) Super! Now put that cup inside your other cup. (Demonstrate.) Now take the sticker with the great big and stick that on your cup to cover the tomb like this. (Demonstrate.) Great job!”*
 - *“Now let’s use our cups to tell our story! In our Bible Story today, we heard that Jesus died on a cross and His friends put His body in a tomb. (Twist the cups so only the tomb shows.) Then the big stone was rolled in front to cover the tomb. (Twist the cups so the stone covers the tomb and Jesus.) Let’s count to three, 1, 2, 3. On the third day, the stone was rolled away (Twist the cup again to show the empty tomb and Jesus next to it) and the tomb was ... **EMPTY!** Jesus was gone! Jesus is alive! Jesus came back just like He said he would! Hip, hip, hooray! Let’s celebrate! Jesus is alive! Let’s do it again. The tomb was closed with a big stone ... but then it was rolled away! Jesus is alive!”*

- ⇒ **Bring it back to the Bottom Line**
 - *“You can take this home to tell everyone the good news! Jesus is alive, and **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**”*
 - ***“Who wants to be your friend forever?”***
 - ***“Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Easter Bingo

SUPPLIES: Easter Bingo cards, Bingo calling cards, pom poms

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child an Easter Bingo card and set out pom poms where they can reach them.**
 - *“Let’s play a game of Easter Bingo to help us remember our happy story about Jesus! Everyone gets a special card. When you see a picture on your card that matches the one I hold up, you can cover it with a pom-pom!”*

- ⇒ **Pull a Bingo calling card and encourage the children to use a pom pom to cover up the picture you pulled. Repeat until children get 3 in a row. Celebrate when they get a bingo and then encourage them to clear the board and start again.**
 - *“Okay, let’s start! The first picture is ... the cross. (Hold up card.) Does anyone have the cross? If you do, cover it up! (Pause.) Next up is... the empty tomb! (Hold up card.) Look for the empty tomb! (Continue until someone gets a bingo.) Yay, you got it! Hip, hip, hooray! Jesus is alive!”*

- ⇒ **Bring it back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Playing bingo was so fun! All of those pictures help us remember the amazing true story of Easter. The best part of the story is that Jesus is alive, and **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***
 - **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
 - **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”**

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ACTIVITY #2

Easter Egg Hunt

SUPPLIES: Easter Eggs, basket

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 wants to be your friend forever?**"*
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"***
- *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 wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"***



Keep Easter
eggs for next
week

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ACTIVITY #3

Memory Verse Practice

SUPPLIES: Reward Stickers

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.**
 - *“Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!”*

- ⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**
 - *“First, let’s say it once together. ‘I (point up) **have called you** (point to others) **friends,**’ (hook index fingers twice) **John 15:15.**” (Open hands like a book.) Now let’s try it...*
 - *Super loud*
 - *Super quiet*
 - *Really fast*
 - *Really Slow*
 - *Jumping up and down*
 - *Running in Place*
 - *All the boys*
 - *All the girls*
 - *Kids only*
 - *Teachers only*

- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends!*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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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 wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - **"I have called you friend." John 15:15**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "In our Bible Story, Jesus came back alive. That makes me want to say, Hip Hip Hooray! Let's make a list of things that make us want to say 'Hooray'! When I say your name, tell me **one that makes you want to say 'Hooray'!**
 - *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 for all the things that make us say Hooray, like (read the list you made with the children). But thank You most of all for the happiest and best news ever—that Jesus is ALIVE! Jesus is alive and we know Jesus wants to be our friend forever, and that makes us shout, 'Hip, hip, hooray!' We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

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BONUS Activity

Praise Party

SUPPLIES: Preschool Instruments

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child an instrument to play while they dance.**
 - *“Friends! We are celebrating that Jesus is alive and **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** God sent Jesus because he loves us so much. That makes me want to party! Everybody grab an instrument and let’s have a Praise Party!*

- ⇒ **Encourage the children to make noise and praise Jesus. Pause them periodically and practice the memory verse.**
 - *“We’re going to make music and make a joyful noise to God with our instruments, but in order to play with our instruments, we need to practice following directions. When I put my hand up, I want you to shake your instruments, but when I put my hand down, we are all going to hold our instruments still so they don’t make any noise. Ready to practice? (Practice starting and stopping playing.)*
 - *“Great job! (Put your hand up.) Now, let’s play! (Put your hand down.) Freeze! Now let’s say our memory verse together: ‘I (point up) **have called you** (point to others) **friends,**’ (hook index fingers twice) **John 15:15.**” (Open hands like a book.)*

- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends!*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***