

**EASTER  
2019**

# **CRAFT**

## *He Lives Crosses*

**SUPPLIES:** Sticky Crosses, Heart shaped sticker, tissue paper

*TIP: Stickers say a variety of things like "He Lives" or "Jesus Is Alive" etc. Children can use any of these!*

### **What You DO and SAY:**

⇒ **Give each child a cross and remove the peel off paper, revealing the sticky side.**

- *"Friends, today in our bible story we learned about just how much God loves us. He sent his son Jesus so that he could be our friend forever!*
- *The cross is a reminder to us of how much God loves us. Today we are going to decorate these crosses."*

⇒ **Place tissue paper squares in the center of the table and demonstrate how to attach them to the cross. (Children should lay tissue FLAT, not crumple it up into little balls.)**

- *"When you attach the tissue, make sure you spread it out flat like this."*

⇒ **After the cross is covered in tissue paper, give each child a foam sticker to place in the center. Read the words to them.**

- *"Here is your sticker, \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is alive and he loves you!"*

⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *"These look beautiful, friends! Take this home and put it somewhere special. Every time you look at it I want you to remember that Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever.*
- *Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!"*

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# ACTIVITY #1

## *Heart Hop*

**SUPPLIES:** 10 Heart Cut outs, floor tape, heart stickers

**SET UP:** Create a path by taping the hearts to the floor

### What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children up for the activity.**

- *“Look at this pathway of hearts! When I see a heart, I think of love. Today in our true bible story we heard about just how much God loves us. He sent his son Jesus to be our friend forever.”*

⇒ **Invite children to hop from heart to heart as they say the memory verse – one time for each heart.**

- *“We are going to say our memory verse as we hop from heart to heart. I will start and lead the way. Let’s get hopping!”*
- *A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17”*

⇒ **When each child completes the hop, give them a heart sticker and have them sit down. Once everyone has completed the activity, Bring it back to Jesus.**

- *“Great job, everybody! Everyone gets a heart sticker. This sticker will remind you of our memory verse that tells us a friend loves at ALL times. Jesus wants to be your friend forever!”*
- *Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!”*

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## ACTIVITY #2

### *Easter Egg Hunt*

**SUPPLIES:** Laundry Basket, stress Easter eggs

**SET UP:** You may consider having a student volunteer stay back at the start of large group to “hide” the eggs. 2s and 3s can be scattered and not hidden.

### **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! 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!”*

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# ACTIVITY #3

## *Easter Story Sequence*

**SUPPLIES:** Wall tape and cardstock story pages: Jesus, angry men, tomb, 3, Jesus is Alive

**SET UP:** No prior set up needed

### What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children gather on the floor or at the table. Lay the pictures out in front of them in a mixed-up order.**

- *“Today we heard an amazing TRUE story about how Jesus went away and CAME BACK! I have pictures from our Bible story. (Point.) Let’s work together and see if we can put them in the correct order of the story.”*

⇒ **Ask the children to work together to place pictures in order according of the story. Hang the pictures on the wall in the correct sequence: Jesus, angry men, closed tomb, number three, and Jesus outside the tomb. Hang the pictures on a wall in the correct order.**

- *“Which one do you think is first? (Pause.) The picture of Jesus is first! Jesus told His friends that He was leaving but that He would come back. (Hang the picture on the wall.)*
- *Great job! Which picture is next? (Pause.) The picture of the angry men. The angry men took Jesus away. (Hang the picture on the wall.)*
- *Do you know what happened next? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus was in the tomb. (Hang the picture on the wall.)*
- *How many days was Jesus in the tomb? (Pause.) YES! (Hang up the picture of the number three.)*
- *The last picture is of Jesus standing outside the tomb. Jesus CAME BACK!” (Hang the picture on the wall.)*

⇒ **Finish up the activity and Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Great job, friends! Our true Bible story tells us that Jesus came back and wants to be our friend FOREVER. Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!”*

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# REFLECTION & REVIEW

*Let's remember: Every moment of time we have with these little ones is precious! Whether these activities are done in a station, during playdoh, while coloring, or otherwise, let's send the kids out the door really confidently and remembering these big ideas!*

## READ

- ⇒ The Bible
  - *Beginner's Bible: The Last Supper; Jesus is Arrested and Crucified; Jesus is Risen, p. 442-458*
- ⇒ *The Easter Story* by Autumn Ward

## REVIEW

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
  - **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**
- ⇒ Memory Verse
  - **A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17**
- ⇒ Basic Truth
  - **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**
- ⇒ Connect it!
  - **Today I am going to make a very special list on the board. It's a list of each of your names! Do you know why? Because Jesus loves YOU so much and he wants to be your friend forever!**

## PRAY

*Dear God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to be our best friend forever – no matter what! I thank you for each of my friends here today (list their names). I know that you love them and you will always be their friend forever. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.*