

Easter Weekend Cares Lessons (Small Group)

Bible Story: Come Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • *John 18:1–20:18*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

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

ACTIVITY #1: Easter Bingo

Supplies Needed: Easter Bingo Cards (1 per child), Easter Bingo Calling Cards, Tokens

What to Do:

Hand out Easter Bingo Cards and tokens to each child. Using the Easter Bingo Calling Cards provided, play the Easter Bingo game a few rounds, or for as long as interest holds in your room.

ACTIVITY #2: Easter Resurrection Eggs

Supplies Needed: Resurrection Egg Cut Outs (6 per bag)

What to Do: Have children flip over the eggs and describe what the picture represents in the story of Easter (example: Nails represent the nails put in the hands and feet of Jesus on the Cross). Play as long as interest holds in your room.

(The kids can take these eggs to play at home, decorate the egg, color the picture.)

EXTRA TIME Activity: Shape It!

What You Need: Bible, Play-Doh (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- Give each child a ball of Play-Doh.
- Follow the steps below to help kids better understand the verse from Large Group and today's Bottom Line.
- Tell the kids to watch carefully as you shape the Play-Doh and then follow your lead by shaping their dough as closely as they can to match yours.
 1. **Form the shape of a heart** as you share how God made us and loves us. Ask kids to name some things they love. For everything they mention, add that God loves them even MORE than that.
 2. **Separate the heart into two** pieces as you share the sad truth that everyone God made and loves has sinned. Ask kids to name things that are sins (anything we say, think, or do that's bad).
 3. **Place the two pieces of Play-Doh a short distance** apart as you explain that our sin has separated us from God because God is perfect and does not sin. Sin and God are enemies.

4. **Reshape one of the pieces back into a heart** and remind kids that even though we sin, God continues to love us. He doesn't want us to be separated from Him.
5. **Reshape the heart into a cross** as you explain how God made a way for our sin problem to be taken care of. Since sin deserves punishment, God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment that should have been ours. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid our punishment. He made a way for us to have peace and be friends with God instead of enemies.
6. **Reshape the cross into an arrow** and point it at each child as you say their name and remind them that God loves them and sent Jesus to save THEM.
7. **Combine the two pieces of Play-Doh to form a heart** as you share the good news that we don't have to be separated from God anymore. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have peace with God. That's what Easter is all about!

EXTRA TIME Video: So and So Show Week 3