

April Week 3

We Go Together

EASTER!

CRAFT

Roll the Stone Away

SUPPLIES: Jesus is alive page, stone cut-outs, crayons

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Pass out Jesus is Alive page and crayons.**

- *This is a picture of Jesus. Can you put your finger on Jesus? There He is! Jesus is God's Son, and He wants to be your friend forever. One day, something very sad happened to Jesus. People hurt Him so bad that He died. His friends put Jesus' body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.*

⇒ **Pass out stone cut-out and show children how to cover Jesus with the stone.**

- *"But then something wonderful happened! On the third day—count to three with me: one, two, three—JESUS CAME BACK! (Show them how to push the stone to the side.) There's Jesus! Put your finger on Jesus and say, 'Jesus is alive!'*
- *Let's decorate these beautiful pictures!"*

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

- *"On Easter we celebrate that Jesus is alive. Jesus went away but he came back! Jesus is alive and he wants to be your friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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ACTIVITY #1

Easter Egg Hunt

SUPPLIES: Laundry Basket, stress Easter eggs

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

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ACTIVITY #2

Praise Party Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES: CD player, Worship CD, colorful scarves, instruments

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children space out around the room. Pass out instruments and/or colorful scarves.**

- *“Friends, today in our true Bible story we learned about how Jesus went away but he came back – just like he said he would! Jesus is alive and he wants to be your friend and my friend forever!*
- *When I think about how much Jesus loves me it makes me want to sing and dance and praise him! Let’s dance together! When I turn the music on, I want you to show me your best dance moves. When I pause it, FREEZE!”*

⇒ **Play music and let children dance. Pause and have them freeze.**

- *“Great moves everybody! It’s so fun to praise Jesus together!*
- *Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!*

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

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

- *Nice work, my friends! We can always celebrate our good friend Jesus. Jesus came back, Jesus is always with us, Jesus is alive! Jesus wants to be your friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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ACTIVITY #3

Story Reenactment

SUPPLIES: Blue wall tape, Set of 5 cardstock story pages: Jesus, angry men, tomb, 3, Jesus is Alive

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children gather at the tables or in a circle on the floor. 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 wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY EASTER

SANITIZE HANDS AND PASS OUT MOON SAND

⇒ Can you make your moon sand look like a cross?

READ

⇒ The Bible

- *Beginner's Bible p. 442-458: The Last Supper; Jesus is Arrested and Crucified; Jesus is Risen,*

⇒ *The Easter Story* by Autumn Ward

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 am with you always." Matthew 28:20**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ "Jesus is alive and He wants to be EVERYONE'S friend forever! So let's make a list of people we can tell! That way everyone will know that Jesus is alive and wants to be their friend forever, too! When I say your name, **tell me one person you can tell that Jesus is alive and wants to be their friend forever**, and I will write it down.

- *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board/paper.*

⇒ This is a great list! We can use it when we pray.

⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**: *"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He came back, just like he said he would, and that he is ALIVE Help us to tell (read the list the children made) that Jesus is alive and he wants to be their friend forever, too! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."*