

# ALLEY SG – April 1-3, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Rise Again (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18:12–20:23 (John 16; Matthew 26)*

**Today's Key Question:** How do you celebrate Easter?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate because Jesus is alive

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3, (NIRV)

## 1. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bible, Easter eggs (30 per bin)

### What You Do:

- Divide the group into 2 groups. Give each group 15 eggs.
- Explain that you will read statements about events that took place in today's Bible story.
  - If the statement is about something that happened *before* Jesus died, they must work together to create a B with their eggs.
  - If the statement is about something that happened *after* Jesus died, they will make an A with their eggs.
- Read the Story Review Statements below to review key events in the story of Easter.
- After the review, set the eggs aside and bring kids together to talk about Easter.
- Ask:
  - What are some ways Jesus showed humility through the events in today's story? (If helpful, read some of the review statements again and let kids focus in on Jesus' actions in that particular part of the story.)
  - Why is Jesus' death important to us?
  - Why is Jesus' resurrection something to celebrate?
  - If you had been the first one to see Jesus alive on Easter morning, how do you think you would have reacted? What would you have done?
  - When do you think it would have been the hardest for Jesus to show humility during the events leading up to the cross?
- Wrap up by reminding kids that Jesus coming back to life doesn't just mean that he was alive again. It means we don't have to be afraid of death anymore. It means that anyone who believes in and follows Jesus can have life forever with God.

### Story Review Statements

1. Jesus didn't try to run from the religious leaders and soldiers even though he could have called angels to defend Him. (*before*)
2. Jesus was beaten. (*before*)
3. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning. (*after*)
4. Peter and John ran to the tomb. (*after*)
5. Mary arrived at Jesus' tomb and discovered that the stone had been removed and the tomb was empty. (*after*)
6. Pilate questioned Jesus but couldn't find that He had done anything wrong. (*before*)
7. The earth shook and rocks split wide open. (*after*)
8. A crown of thorns was shoved onto Jesus' head. (*before*)
9. Jesus was nailed to a cross. (*before*)
10. Jesus' friends hid out, afraid the religious leaders might come for them, too. (*after*)

## 2. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, markers, index cards

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to look up 1 Peter 3:18.
- Invite someone to read 1 Peter 3:18 aloud as everyone follows along.
- Divide kids into groups of three and give each group 10-15 index cards and some markers.
- Give the groups time to divide up the verse and write it out on the cards, at least three words per card.
- When they're finished, instruct them to shuffle their cards and trade with another team.
- Guide teams to race to put their new cards in verse order.
- Read the verse again and then ask:
  - What do you find in this verse that gives you reasons to celebrate?
  - If you were to rephrase 1 Peter 3:18 and insert your name into it, how would it read?
  - How is Jesus an example of humility in this verse?
  - What is one thing in this verse you don't want to forget as you celebrate Easter?
- Point out that Jesus put us first by dying on the cross for us so that we can live forever with God. He humbly took the punishment that was meant for us. But the cross is not the end of the story, and it's not the end of 1 Peter 3:18. Jesus is alive, and we can celebrate!

## 3. Discussion Questions

**Ask:**

- How would you explain the true meaning of Easter to someone?
- Why do we need Jesus in order to have a true relationship with God?
- Name five things Jesus does for us that no one else can do.
- What are some things that can get in the way of the true meaning of Easter? What can you do to keep Jesus in your Easter celebrations today?

## 4. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** No supplies

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to take turns giving prayers of thanks for Easter.
- Ask them to remain seated as they pray silently or aloud thanking Jesus for dying for them.
- Ask them to "rise up" (stand) as they pray silently or aloud praising Jesus for rising from the dead.
- When finished, close with a brief prayer.

**What You Say:**

*"Jesus, thank You for loving each of us enough to come and be our Savior. We know that You're alive and that You're stronger than anything—even death. We love You! Amen."*

**EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY:**

- Divide the kids into two groups and pass out Easter eggs
- Call out a letter and see which team can create it with their eggs first.
- Ask kids to share something they celebrate or love about Easter that begins with the letter they made.