

CITY 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 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. Jesus Is Alive!

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Plastic Easter eggs (40 per bin)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two teams.
- Give each team 20 Easter eggs.
- Explain that you will call out a shape and teams must work together to create it using their Easter eggs. *(Some will be a little more difficult. Just have the kids use their imaginations and help them if needed.)*
- Explain that you will then ask a question about how that shape relates to the Easter story we heard today after each team is finished.
 1. A heart. *(Because God loves the world)*
 2. A cross. *(Because Jesus was nailed to the cross and died)*
 3. A stone. *(Because Jesus' body was placed in a tomb and a stone was rolled in front)*
 4. The number 3. *(His body was in the tomb for 3 days)*
 5. A happy face. *(Jesus was alive! And anyone who believes and follows Jesus can live with God now and in Heaven forever!)*

What You Say:

"The tomb was empty. Jesus is ALIVE! Why do we celebrate because Jesus is ALIVE? We celebrate because we don't have to be afraid of death anymore. We celebrate because everything wrong and broken will one day be made right again. We celebrate because anyone who believes in and follows Jesus can live with God now and forever. Jesus put us first when He died on the cross and provided the way we can be with God now and forever. We can **celebrate because Jesus is alive!**"

2. Egg Me On

Memory verse activity

What You Need: "Philippians 2:3 Cards" (one per child), container (one per group), Easter eggs (use same ones from activity #1), party blowers (one per child), Bibles, and floor tape

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse (Philippians 2:3) together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Direct the kids to line up at one end of your space.
- Put the "Philippians 2:3 Cards" in the container and set it across your space from the kids.
- Tape a finish line in front of the container of cards.
- Give each kid a plastic egg and a party blower.
- Instruct the kids to blow into their party blower to blow their egg across the finish line.
- Once a kid's egg crosses the finish line, direct the kid to pick a card from the basket.

- After picking a card, instruct the kids to race back to the starting point by blowing their egg and pushing it with their party blower.
- The first kid to return to the starting point, wins.
- Encourage the kids to bring their card home and put it somewhere where they will see it to remind them to be humble and value others just like Jesus did for us! Also be sure they take their own party blower home or discard it.

What You Say:

“Jesus put us first. And when we believe He died and God raised Him back to life, we can live with Him forever. One way we can **celebrate because Jesus is alive** is to follow Him and live the way He teaches us to live. One way Jesus asks us to live is to show humility. Just like Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3, we can put others first when we aren’t focused on trying to be first or the most popular. When we grow in humility, we’re showing others they’re important to us and to Jesus.”

3. Hot Potato

Application Activity

What You Need: Party hats (a few per group)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Play a game of “Hot Potato.”
- Give the party hat to one of the kids in the circle.
- Set a timer for a random amount of time on your phone OR ***(If you don’t have a phone with a timer, just close your eyes and yell “stop!” after a certain amount of time)***
- When you say, “GO,” start the timer and direct the kids to pass the hat around the circle.
- Instruct each kid to say, “Jesus is alive” before passing the hat to the kid next to them.
- When time runs out *(or when you choose to yell, “Stop!”)*, direct the kid holding the hat to thank God for something.
- Play several rounds.
- Be sure to vary the amount of time you set the alarm for each round.

What You Say:

“At Christmas, we celebrate and thank God for Jesus’ birth. At Easter, we celebrate and thank God that Jesus gave up His life for us yet still lives and reigns in Heaven. But we don’t need to stop there! Look at all the reasons we have to celebrate and thank God. We thank God for *(insert the examples kids said during the game)* and every day we can **celebrate because Jesus is alive**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Nothing

What You Say:

“God, You are amazing! Thank You for loving us! Thank You for Jesus! We know when we believe and follow Jesus, we start our friendship with You now and we’ll be with You forever. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY:

- Coloring Sheets