

April Week 5

Backyard
1, 2, 3!!!

April 30

CRAFT

Look of Love

SUPPLIES: Look of Love page, large inkpad, heart stickers, smiley face stickers, baby wipes

PREP: Pre-fold the doors of the church

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Pass Look of Love page and crayons.**

- *“Today we learned that the early Church loved one another just like Jesus did. You can love others like Jesus and the early Church, too!”*
- *“What does your paper look like? A house! That’s right! In today’s true Bible story, we learned that the early Church shared everything they had with each other, even their homes! Color your house.”*

⇒ **Press children’s hands on the inkpad and then fully press their hand in the open house. They can use a wipe to clean it. *If any children are uncomfortable with the inkpad, you can trace their hand.**

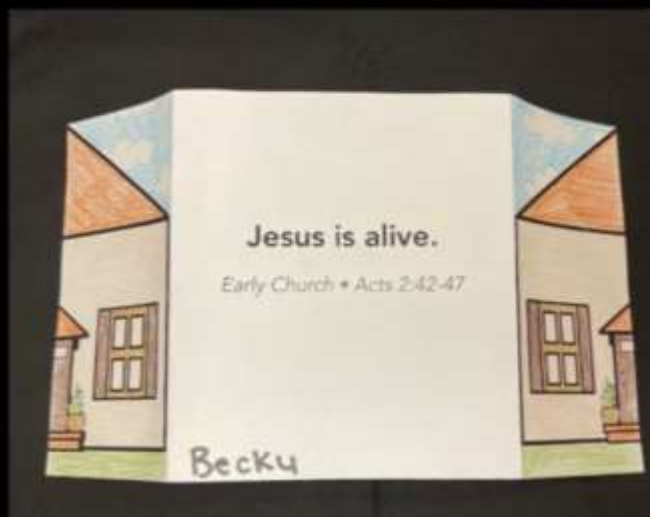
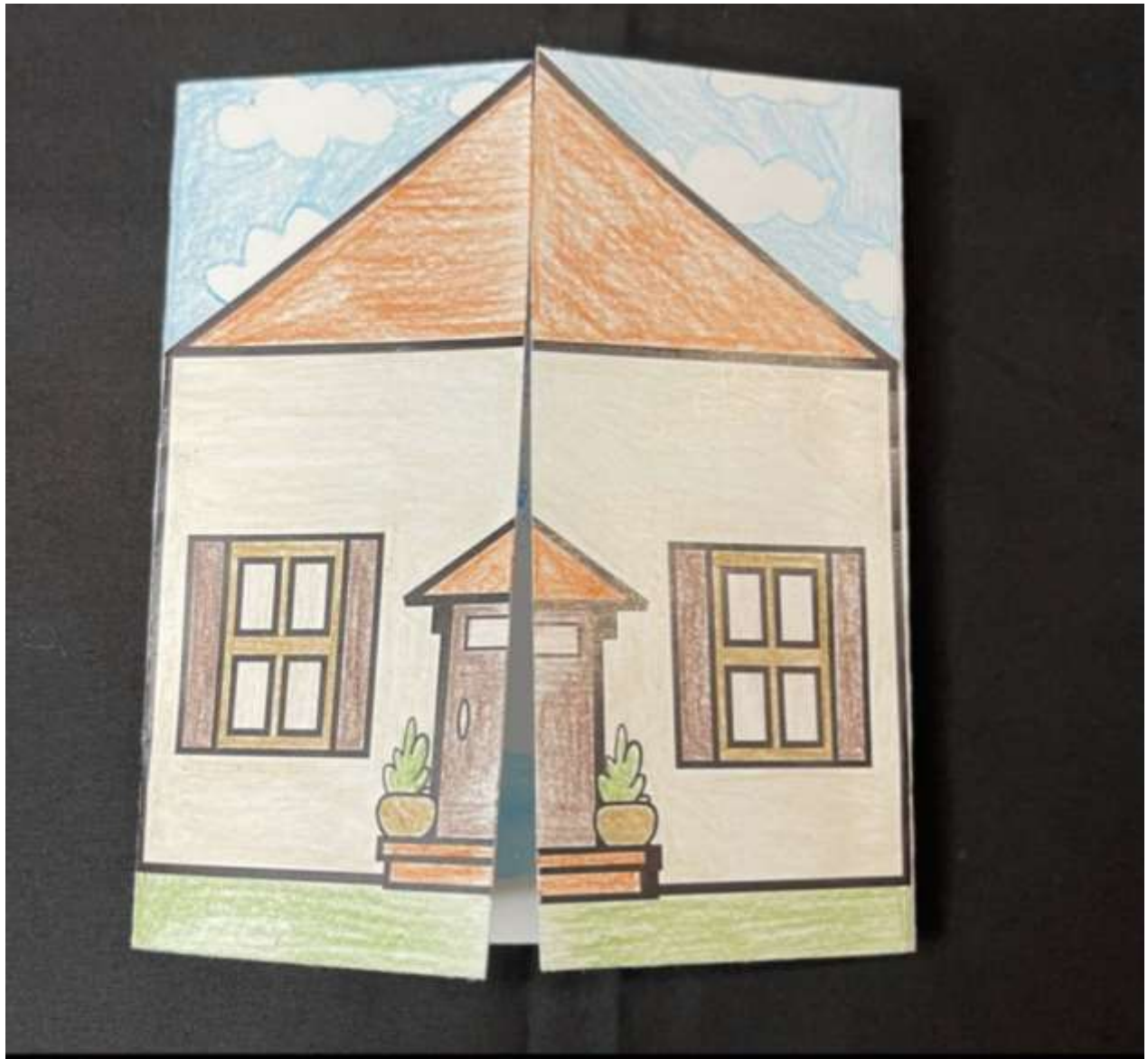
- *“Nice job! Now let’s open up the house and add your handprint.”*
- *“When you use helping hands, you are showing love!”*

⇒ **Give each child a strip of heart stickers and a strip of smiley face stickers.**

- *“Now we let’s add some heart and smiley face stickers. When you love others, it makes everyone happy! Great job, friends!”*

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

- *“Today’s true story from the Bible is about how more people believed that Jesus is alive and they became the very first Church! That’s right! The Church is not about a building, it’s about the people! People like you and me. And Jesus wants the people who are the Church to LOVE. We can show love like the early Church by doing what they did.”*
- *“We can love by eating together, praying together, and sharing what we have with others. We can share a coat with a friend who needs one or let someone stay at our house if they need a place. We can all be the Church and love because”*
- ***Who is alive? Jesus is alive!”***



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ACTIVITY #1

Share Your Food

SUPPLIES: Various pieces of play food, basket

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children sit on the floor in a circle. Review the Bible story and show children the food.**

- *“In today’s Bible story, the people who followed Jesus shared their food because they loved each other. They loved like Jesus and celebrated that Jesus is alive!”*
- *Look what I have here! What do you see? Food! We can pretend to share our food too!”*

⇒ **Pick up a piece of food, pass it to the child next to you. Have them pass it to the next and continue to pass it all the way around the circle. Then set it in the center of the circle.**

- *“What kind of food is this? Yes! It’s _____. Let’s all share our food with each other. (Pass it around the circle.) Everybody pass the food around the circle! We can share our food because we love each other. Jesus taught us how to love because he is alive! Who is alive? Jesus is alive!”*

⇒ **Repeat with each piece of food.**

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

- *“We have so much yummy food here! Thank you for sharing all of your food, friends! We can share our food with others because we can love like Jesus. Jesus taught us how to love and Jesus is alive!”*
- ***Who is alive? Jesus is alive!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Memory Match

SUPPLIES: Giant Memory Match Cards

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Set up the Memory Match cards face down in rows on the floor. Gather children in a group on the floor.**

- *“Let’s play a game! This game is called memory match. We are going to try to match the pictures. The tricky thing is remembering where the pictures are! I’ll spread out the game cards, like this. When it’s your turn, you can turn two cards over. If the pictures match, you get to hold on to the cards. If the pictures do not match, you have to turn them back over. Let’s play!”*

⇒ **Have the children flip up two cards at a time. If they are a match**

- (when a child matches the bread picture) *“The people in the first Church shared food with one another.*
- (when a child matches the Jesus picture) *“Jesus is alive, and He will help us love like Him.*
- (when a child matches the praying people picture) *“The people in the first Church prayed for one another.*
- (when a child matches the coat picture) *“The people in the first Church gave clothes to people who needed them.*
- (when a child matches the heart picture) *“The people in the first Church loved one another.*
- (when a child matches the people learning picture) *“The people in the first Church met together to learn about Jesus.*

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

- *“You made all of the matches AND you retold today’s Bible story, all at the same time! Way to go! Even better, we can love one another the way the first Church loved one another, because Jesus is alive and He will help us.”*
- ***Who is alive? Jesus is alive!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Parachute

SUPPLIES: Parachute, bag of heart and earth stress balls

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you in a circle in the center of the room.**
 - *“All month long we have been learning the answer to a very important question:*
 - ***Who is alive?***
 - ***Jesus is alive!***

- ⇒ **Ask children to stand around the parachute with you and guide them to each pick up a section of the parachute.**
 - *“Now, everybody grab a section of the parachute.*
 - *Jesus’ love for us is ENORMOUS! Can you help me wave the parachute as big as Jesus’ love? Jesus loves us so much and he will forever because Jesus is alive!*
 - *Wow! Nice job, friends!”*

- ⇒ **Show the Earth and heart squishy balls to everyone.**
 - *“When we love people like they did in the early church, our love will spread all over the world! Let’s toss these on! Can you keep them up in the air? Go!”*

- ⇒ **After all the balls have popped out of the parachute, have the children collect them all and bring them back to the parachute.**
 - *“Can you get them all? Let’s go!*
 - ***Who is alive? Jesus is alive!***
 - *Let’s do it again!”*

- ⇒ **Finish up the activity and Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Great job, friends! Our true Bible story tells us that Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever. WE can love others with that same kind of love!!*
 - ***Who is alive? Jesus is alive!***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY

APRIL WEEK 5

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- ⇒ The Beginner's Bible
 - *The First Church, p. 480*

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - **Who is alive?**
 - **Jesus is alive!**
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - **"I am alive for ever and ever." Revelation 1:18**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "Today in our Bible story, the people in the first Church looked for ways they could love like Jesus. They did things like pray together, share food and clothes, and meet together to learn more about Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus."
 - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board/paper.*
- ⇒ These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus! Let's use this list when we pray. Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**: "*Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love. Thank You that Jesus is alive and He will help us do things like (read the list the children made). We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.*"