

## Lifepoint Kids Juniors

April 9, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus is alive!

Easter • *Matthew 26:20-50; 27:1-2; 28:1-7; John 13:33; 14:1-3, 28*

**Memory Verse:** "I am alive for ever and ever!" Revelation 1:18, NIV

**Key Question:** Who is alive?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus is alive.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### **SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)**

**SOCIAL:** Providing time for fun interaction

One, Two, Three, Roll!

Celebration Banner

### **LARGE GROUP (20 minutes)**

**WORSHIP:** Inviting people to respond to God

**STORY:** Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

**GROUPS:** Creating a safe place to connect

One, Two, Three Memory Verse!

One, Two, Three, Knock Them Down

Twist the Tomb

Journal and Prayer

## **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

***-Activities designed to introduce children to Today's Bible Story prior to Large Group***

### **1. Celebration Banner**

**What You Do:** *During the Activity:* Invite the children to use one hand to search through the paper shreds to find a sticker. Once the child finds a sticker, encourage them to place it on the banner. Repeat until all stickers have been placed on the banner.

**What You Say:** *Before the Activity:* "We're going to make an awesome banner for our room that will tell everyone what our Bible story is about today!"

*During the Activity:* "To decorate our banner, we need special stickers. I have a small container right here. To find a special sticker, one friend at a time will reach one hand in and feel around. Only take one sticker out at a time. This is going to be so much fun! *(Pause.)* Yay, you found a sticker! Go place your sticker on the banner, then come back and get in line to find another one. Great job! You found all the stickers! Look at the beautiful banner you have made!"

*After the Activity:* "Come sit in front of the banner with me, and I'll read what it says. One *(Hold up one finger.)*, two *(Hold up two fingers.)*, three *(Hold up three fingers.)*, it says 'JESUS IS ALIVE!' That is what today's Bible story is all about and why we're celebrating today! Are you ready to hear a true story from the Bible? *(Pause.)* Me, too! I'm so excited!"

### **2. One, Two, Three, Roll!**

**What You Do:** *During the Activity:* Divide the children into two groups. Ask the groups to sit on opposite sides of the table from each other. Hand the ball to a child. Lead the group with the ball to count to three with their voices and fingers then roll the ball under the table to the other side. Encourage the children to wait to catch the ball. When the second group gets the ball, lead them to count to three with their voices and fingers then roll the ball back to the first group. Continue playing until every child gets a turn to roll and catch the ball. Talk about how today's Bible story is about Jesus going away and coming back.

**What You Say:** *Before the Activity:* "Friends, we need to make two groups. I want one group to come over here to this side of the table and the other group to come to this side. Now everyone, sit down, crisscross applesauce."

*During the Activity:* "We're going to play a game by counting to three and rolling the ball back and forth under the table. The streamers make it a surprise when the ball comes out, so you need to pay attention. Are you ready?"

*(Give the ball to one side.)* I want the group that has the ball to count with me. One *(Hold up one finger.)*, two *(Hold up two fingers.)*, three *(Hold up three fingers.)*, now roll the ball. *(Pause.)* Wait for it to come out on the other side. There it is!

“Okay, this side count with me. One (*Hold up one finger.*), two (*Hold up two fingers.*), three (*Hold up three fingers.*), roll the ball. (*Repeat as desired or until each child has a turn.*) You did a great job of waiting for the ball! The ball went away and came back.”

*After the Activity:* “Today, we’ll hear a story about when Jesus went away and came back, one (*Hold up one finger.*), two (*Hold up two fingers.*), three (*Hold up three fingers.*) days later just like He said He would.”

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **1. Twist the Tomb**

**What You Do:** *During the Activity:* Encourage children to color their pictures. Help put the two papers together and secure them with a brad. Demonstrate how to turn the paper to review the story. Review the Bible story.

**What You Say:** *Before the Activity:* “Friends, it’s Easter! It’s an awesome day to celebrate Jesus! Let’s make a picture that tells the Easter story.”

*During the Activity:* “You have two pieces of paper. One will be the front and the other is the back. What do you see on this first piece of paper? (*Pause.*) It’s a picture of the tomb, and there’s an opening. Let’s use brown or gray crayons to color the tomb. (*Pause.*) Now that you’ve got the front completed, let’s move to the piece of paper for the back. Color each of these pictures. There’s the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb, the empty tomb, and a heart. (*Pause.*) Let me help you put it together, and I’ll show you how to use it to review our Bible story. (*Demonstrate.*) As we review our story, I want you to turn it to the right picture.”

*After the Activity:* “The true story of Easter begins with God’s love for us. Turn to the picture of the heart. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to be our friend forever. But first, something sad had to happen. Jesus was having dinner with His friends when He told them that He would have to go away, but He promised He would come back.

”Jesus went to pray in a garden, and some angry people came and took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus, and He died. It was very sad. Jesus’ friends put His body in a tomb, then they rolled a big stone in front of it. Turn to the picture of the big stone. (*Pause.*)

“Then on the third day, when some of Jesus’ friends went to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus wasn’t there. Turn to the picture of the open tomb. (*Pause.*)

JESUS came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive! Turn to the heart. (*Pause.*) On Easter, we celebrate because Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.**”

## 2. One Two Three Memory Verse!

**What You Do:** *During the Activity:* Point out the numbers around the room. Lead the children to run to the One and repeat the verse with the motions together. Repeat in the same way, running to the Two and the Three to repeat the verse together. Repeat as desired. Count to three together and say, **[Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive.”**

**What You Say:** *Before the Activity:* “Friends, look around the room. Do you see any big numbers on the wall? (Pause.) Yes! There they are! Let’s say our memory verse with the numbers today.”

*During the Activity:* “Find the number one. Let’s run to the ‘one’ and say the verse together. (Run to the number one with the children.) ‘I am alive (point up) for ever and ever,’ (twirl around) Revelation 1:18. (Open hands like a book.) Now, let’s find the number two. (Repeat with each number then as desired.) You did a great job of finding all of the numbers and saying the memory verse together.”

*After the Activity:* “In our story, we heard how Jesus went away, and three sad days went by. Let’s count together. One (Hold up one finger.), two (Hold up two fingers.), three! (Hold up three fingers.) Three days went by then Jesus came back, just like He said He would! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive for ever and ever. Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!”**

## 3. One, Two, Three, Knock Them Down

**What You Do:** *Before the Activity:* Set up the bottles in a triangle pattern at one end of the activity area.

*During the Activity:* Have the children stand about six to ten feet from the bottles. Challenge the children to roll the ball toward the bottles to try to knock them down. When one bottle is knocked down, say, “ONE” and hold up one finger. When two bottles are knocked down, say, “TWO” and hold up two fingers. When three bottles are knocked down, say, “THREE” and hold up three fingers. When all bottles are knocked down, count on your fingers as you say, “One, Two, Three, Jesus is ALIVE!” Continue the activity until all children have a turn to bowl. Count to three and shout **[Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive!”**

**What You Say:** *During the Activity:* “Let’s count the bowling pins as you knock them down. [Child’s name], take the ball and roll it at the bottles. (Pause.) That’s (Count the number of bottles knocked down as you hold up the appropriate number of fingers.) you knocked down! Great job! Now all of the bottles are knocked over! Let’s count. One (Hold up one finger.), two (Hold up two fingers.), three (Hold up three fingers) bottles. One (Hold up one finger.), two (Hold up two fingers.), three (Hold up three fingers.), Jesus is ALIVE! Way to go! (Continue until each child has a turn.) That was so much fun!”

*After the Activity:* “In our Bible story, some people hurt Jesus, and He died. It was very sad. All of Jesus’ friends were so sad. They put Jesus’ body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it. On the third day, when some of Jesus’ friends went to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus wasn’t there. Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive! On Easter, we celebrate because Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever!”

"I love counting, especially when we can count AND tell everyone that Jesus is ALIVE! One (*Hold up one finger.*), two (*Hold up two fingers.*), three (*Hold up three fingers.*), **[Bottom Line] JESUS IS ALIVE! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**"

## 4. Journal and Prayer

**SGL:** In our Bible story today, Jesus came back, just like He said He would! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Yay! [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Who is alive?"**

**CHILDREN and SGL:** **[Bottom Line] "Jesus is alive!"**

**SGL:** "Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Since **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** and He wants to be our friend forever, we'll do something special in our prayer journal. When I say your name, stand up. (*Each time you say a child's name, print it in your journal.*)

"[Child's name], stand up! Everyone, say, 'Jesus wants to be [child's name]'s friend forever' with me."

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "Jesus wants to be [child's name]'s friend forever!"

**SGL:** "Yay! Okay, you can sit down, [child's name]. Now I need [child's name] to stand up! Everyone, say it with me."

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "Jesus wants to be [child's name]'s friend forever!" (*Continue with each child.*)

**SGL:** "Easter is such a special time to remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** and wants to be our friend forever. Let's pray and thank God for Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?" (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

### Prayer

**SGL:** "Dear God, thank You so much for giving us Jesus. Thank You that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** Thank You that Jesus loves us. Thank You that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. You are the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus' name, amen."