

# Upside Down: Jesus changes everything

WEEK  
**TWO**

APRIL 2020

GRADES  
**2-3**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 KIDS

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**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**STORY**

**WORSHIP**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**

## BIBLE STORY

### Above All

Crucified and Risen  
John 18:12–20:23

(Supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)

## 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, NIV

## LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others  
first by giving up what  
you think you deserve

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put us first.

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment  
Monthly Overview

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers  
Pillow Pass

**25**  
MIN

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

Opener  
Bible Story  
Worship  
Prayer  
Closer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Alive" from *At the Top Of My Lungs*  
"Thank You God" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Easter Storytellers  
Fast Pass  
Tomb Echo  
Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

## GETTING READY

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

**EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- An offering container
- Inflated balloons; one for each kid, plus a couple extra in case of popping
- Permanent markers

**PILLOW PASS**

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Pillows; one for every five kids
- Pillowcases; one for every five kids
- *Optional (for groups of five or less):* Stopwatch or another timer

**GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT**

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

**\* 1. EASTER STORYTELLERS****[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- Yarn in the following colors: yellow, white, red, dark grey
- Plastic eggs; one for each kid
- Cut a 10-inch length of yarn in each color for each kid and place the yarn strands inside the plastic eggs.

**2. FAST PASS****[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]**

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Heavy cardstock or cardboard
  - Cut two 12-inch crosses out of this material.
- Two markers
- Two small Easter baskets
- Individually wrapped candy; one piece for each kid
  - Put half of the candy in one basket and half in the other.

**3. TOMB ECHO****[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]**

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles
- Paper towel or toilet paper tubes (or rolled-up cardstock in a similar size); one for each kid

**PRAYER****[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]**

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Color-Coded Prayer" Activity Page and cut apart; one card for each kid
- Yellow, blue, green, and pink Easter eggs; one for each kid
- Place a "Color-Coded Prayer" card inside the eggs. Make sure the colors match.
- One empty egg carton or basket
- Place the prepared eggs in the carton or basket.
- *Optional:* Small prizes or pieces of candy inside the eggs

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WEEK  
**TWO**

APRIL 2020

GRADES  
**2-3**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

## BIBLE STORY

### Above All

Crucified and Risen  
John 18:12–20:23

(Supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)



## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

## 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, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve**

## BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus put us first.**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. First and foremost, thank God for making a way for us to have a relationship with Him through the enormous sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Pray for the kids who may be led by the Holy Spirit today to start a relationship with Jesus. Ask for God's guidance as you have those conversations today, and pray for wisdom about how to help those kids take the next step.*

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, inflated balloons, permanent markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each of the kids an inflated balloon and let them write their name on it.
- Tell the group to try and keep their balloons "resurrected" (in the air) for 30 seconds.
- If a balloon touches the floor before the time is up, tell kids to leave it there and help someone else keep their balloon in the air.
- When time is up, ask each of the kids whose balloons are on the floor to share one thing they're looking forward to as they celebrate Easter.
- Repeat the game using variations in the amount of time the balloons must stay "resurrected."
- Provide additional balloons if one pops.
- Here are some additional questions you might ask after each round.
  - Where do you usually spend Easter?
  - If you could have the perfect Easter basket, what would be in it?
  - Why do you like Easter?
  - Do you have any Easter traditions with friends or family?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

### Above All

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John 18:12–20:23

(Supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)



## MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

## MEMORY VERSE

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## 2. PILLOWCASE STUFF

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pillows, pillowcases, stopwatch or timer (*optional*)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Form two teams with kids standing shoulder-to-shoulder.
- Give the player at the end of each line a pillow and pillowcase.
- Explain that at your signal, the first person on each team must stuff the pillow into the pillowcase and then pass it to the next kid, who will remove the pillow from the pillowcase and pass both to the next person in line.
- Guide kids to continue stuffing and unstuffing their pillowcase all the way to the end of the line and back again.

*(Note: If your group is too small to form two teams, keep everyone together and use a timing device to see how quickly they can stuff and unstuff the pillow down the line of kids).*

- Play as many rounds as time allows.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys filled and emptied a pillowcase in record time! I bet your parents wish you could make your beds that fast, too. **[Transition] Let's get ready to hear about something God emptied and never filled again. Leave the pillow behind as we go to Large Group because today's story is too exciting to sleep through!**"

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK  
ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



## IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

### BIBLE STORY

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### LIFE APP

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### BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus put us first.**

### BASIC TRUTH

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### \* 1. EASTER STORYTELLERS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, prepared plastic eggs

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give the kids a plastic egg (prepared earlier, containing the pieces of yarn).
- Ask them to take out the strands of yarn and form each piece into the shape of a heart.
- Remind the group that Easter is the story of God's love for us.
  - He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross.
  - He took the punishment that all people deserve for our sin.
  - But Jesus didn't stay dead.
  - He came back to life to show us that He's stronger than sin or death or evil.
- Review today's story by asking kids to use the colors of their yarn hearts as clues or reminders of events from the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Guide the discussion to include the following story connections by asking . . .
  - What does a RED HEART remind you of? (*God loved us and sent Jesus to save us; Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood as a sacrifice for our sin.*)
  - What does a WHITE HEART remind you of? (*Jesus' body was wrapped in strips of cloth before He was placed in the tomb; Our sin is forgiven and our hearts are made clean when we put our faith in Jesus.*)
  - What does a DARK GREY HEART remind you of? (*Jesus was buried in a dark tomb or cave that was sealed tightly with a huge stone; our sin like a dark, dirty stain on our heart keeps us out of heaven unless we ask God to forgive us*)
  - What does a YELLOW HEART remind you of? (*an angel appeared at the tomb and told Jesus' friends that He was no longer dead but had risen; darkness and sadness turned to sunshine and joy when Jesus came back to life*)
- When finished, have everyone put the pieces of yarn back inside the egg to take home,
- Challenge the kids to use the "Easter Storyteller" yarns to share the true meaning of Easter with someone today.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**"Jesus put us first** and turned the whole world upside down on Easter. Ever since sin came in the world with Adam and Eve, we have had a huge problem

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**IMAGINE**

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

we couldn't fix on our own. God's love for us didn't stop even though we have broken all of His rules. He made a way for our sin to be forgiven. He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him. He sent Jesus. Today we celebrate God's gift of a Savior."

***[Make It Personal] (Share your faith story with the kids. When did you first hear that Jesus died for you? How did you come to put your faith in Christ?)***



**LIVE  
FOR GOD**  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY



**MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**BIBLE STORY**

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Philippians 2:3, NIV

**LIFE APP**

**Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve**

**BOTTOM LINE**

**Jesus put us first.**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**2. FAST PASS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Markers, cardboard crosses, Easter baskets with candy

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Form two even teams and instruct them to stand in rows facing each other.
- Hand a cardboard cross and a marker to the players at the end of each row.
- Explain that when you say, "GO," the kids holding the cross and marker will pass them to the end of their row.
- The last player will write their name (legibly) on the cross, and then run behind their team's row to the beginning of the line.
- Repeat the process until everyone is back in their original spot and all kids' names have been written on the cross.
- The team that finishes first wins.
- Remind kids:
  - When Jesus died on the cross, He died for US by taking the punishment we all deserve.
  - The cross should have had our names on it, instead of His.
  - We celebrate Easter because Jesus took our place and died so that we would be forgiven, but then He rose from the dead to prove that death could not hold Him down.
- Play another round of "Fast Pass," but this time pass the Easter baskets instead of the crosses.
- Each time the basket makes it to the end of the line, the kid holding it runs the basket back to the start of the line and takes out one piece of candy.
- The team that finishes first wins.
- At the end, let kids eat their candy.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"When you wrote your name on the cross, it was a reminder that **Jesus put us first**. He died in our place taking the punishment we deserve for our sin. But he didn't stay on the cross or in the tomb. In three days, He came back to life. We do a lot of fun stuff on Easter but the most important thing to remember is that God loved us and sent His Son to save us."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
ACTIVITY



**CONNECT**

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

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## 3. TOMB ECHO

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, paper tubes

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Provide Bibles for those who didn't bring one, and ask kids to look up Philippians 2:3. Use the navigation tips from Week 1 if they need help finding the verse.
- Say the memory verse together—a few phrases at a time.
- Remind the kids that when Jesus died, His body was placed in tomb or cave.
- Ask if they've ever visited a cave. What does their voice sound like in a cave?
- Give each kid a paper tube and let them take turns reciting (or reading) the memory verse by speaking through the tube to sound like they're in a cave.
- Challenge the group to share ways they can live out Philippians 2:3 by being humble and giving up what they think they deserve today as they celebrate Easter with their family and friends.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus was in the tomb for three days, but He didn't stay there. He came back to life. What do you think the voices of the people sounded like when they came into the tomb and found it EMPTY! (*Pause and let kids take turns demonstrating by speaking into their paper tubes.*) If you had been there, what do you think you would have said? (*Pause as kids once again respond.*) We can echo our praise for Jesus' power, love, victory, and HUMILITY because we know the whole story. We know that Jesus humbled Himself in order to do something that was absolutely impossible for any of us to do on our own. He endured the cross to pay for our sin and then conquered the grave by coming back to life. He made a way for us to reach God—something we could never do without His help.

"What better way to show our gratitude to the One who rescued us than by following His example! Easter is a perfect day for us to echo our own praises in celebration for all Jesus has done for us. When we do this, we echo His love to others. Let's echo today's Bottom Line together. **Jesus put us first.**"

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

### BIBLE STORY

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### BOTTOM LINE

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### BASIC TRUTH

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### PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared plastic eggs in an egg carton or basket

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a circle.
- Direct kids to each take a plastic egg in any color from the basket or carton.
- Explain that each color of egg represents a different type of prayer.
- Tell them to open the egg and take out the card inside.
- Encourage kids to pray out loud, if they're willing. For those who prefer to pray silently, have them indicate they are finished by placing their egg on the floor in front of them.
- When finished, invite kids to trade or choose another egg in a different color and repeat as time allows before closing the group in prayer yourself.
- If you've chosen to add candy or prizes to the eggs, let kids take the eggs home.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we are so grateful that **Jesus put us first**. We celebrate Easter because we know that Jesus is alive. Thank you for the gift of a Savior who died in our place so that we could live forever with You in heaven. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up have kids share what they learned today using the "Easter Storyteller" yarn pieces.