

Upside Down: Jesus changes everything

WEEK
TWO

APRIL 2020

GRADES
4-5

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 PRETEEN

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4-5

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SOCIAL

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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

KEY QUESTION

What does Easter mean to you?

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

Just For Fun
Get Your Head in the Game

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Communication
Prayer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"Thank You God" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"We Believe" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Extension
Discussion Questions
Verses to Take with You
Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Colorful cardstock; at least one sheet for each kid
- Markers
- Kids will be making cards in this activity. As a ministry, decide where your cards will be going: local retirement home, children's wing of local hospital, mail to soldiers overseas, people in need in your church. Make sure all leaders know where the cards will be going so they can direct kids to make cards specifically for the recipients.

2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic Easter eggs; one for each kid
- Art supplies: glue, pipe cleaners, yarn, googly eyes, scissors, markers, paper, pompom balls

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Balloons; 10 for each small group
- Permanent markers; one for each kid

- Bibles; two or three for each group
- Timer

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Gift boxes (different shapes and sizes); three to five for each Small Group
- Tissue paper; 20 sheets for each Small Group (depending on how many boxes each group will decorate)
- Art supplies: Glue, tape, yarn, ribbon, bows, construction paper, scissors, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, pompom balls, foam shapes, stickers, magazines to cut, etc.
- *Optional:* If you choose, provide a blank cake or cupcakes and supplies for kids to decorate.

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[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:

- Print the "Verse Sheets" Activity Page on cardstock of varying colors; one set for each Small Group
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Dictionary

GETTING READY, CONTINUED

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Duct tape
- Permanent marker

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**.

252 PRETEEN

WEEK
TWO

APRIL 2020

GRADES
4-5

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Above All

Crucified and Risen
John 18:12–20:23

(Supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

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

KEY QUESTION

What does Easter mean to you?

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 time to pray for your group and your time together today. Pray through your list of kids specifically by name, asking God to give you creative insight for how to connect with each one of them individually. Pray that each one would connect with the gospel in a new way.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Cardstock and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Remind** the kids that we are talking about humility this month—ask if anyone remembers what humility means—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.
- **Explain** that your church is making cards for *[wherever your church decides to send the cards]* and that they need to make a card that shows their support, love, and encouragement.
- **Encourage** kids to imagine what the recipients of their cards have recently gone through and what words of encouragement they might need to read.

BIBLE STORY

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KEY QUESTION

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2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, plastic Easter eggs, art supplies (glue, pipe cleaners, yarn, googly eyes, scissors, markers, paper, pompom balls)

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Give** everyone an egg and place all of the art supplies in the center of the circle.
- **Instruct** kids to make their egg into something else—a person, place, or thing—BUT not to tell the others what they're making.
- Once everyone is finished, ask kids to put their creations in the middle of the circle. Then pass out the eggs again, asking kids to make sure they don't get their own egg back.
- **Let** kids take turns making up a brief (two sentences) story or description of the creation they're holding, without knowing exactly what it is or what the creator intended.
- **Encourage** kids to be fun and silly with their made-up stories.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love your decorated eggs and the stories you all made up to go along with your friends' creations! **[Transition]** The reason we get to have fun like we are today with candy, big family meals, games, and egg hunts is because Jesus **FIRST** put us first. I'm excited to see how the Large Group team is going to lead us in celebrating today!"

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

Above All

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BASIC TRUTH

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1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

WHAT YOU NEED: Ten balloons, permanent markers, Bibles, timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct your group to **blow up** 10 balloons and tie them, if they can.
- **Write** one of the following 10 names on each balloon; enlist the kids' help as you do this.
 - Jewish leaders
 - Caiaphas
 - Judas
 - Peter
 - John
 - Soldiers
 - High Priest
 - Townspeople
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Jesus
- **Talk** briefly about each person/people from the Bible story and what they must have felt, and then pick one person to draw on the balloon a face and facial expression that matches the feelings of the character.
 - One side of the balloon will have the name written and the other side will have a picture of a face.
- **Open** the Bible to John 18-20 so kids can use it to reference the Bible story.
- **Mention** that balloons are usually a part of a celebration and ask what we have to celebrate today.
 - **Encourage** kids that although the beginning of the story is sad and tragic, the end changed all of our lives forever. Jesus changes everything!
- **Play** a balloon drop game:
 - Everyone stands in a circle holding a balloon.
 - Pick two kids to go first and tell them to get in the middle of the circle.
 - On your count of three, everyone throws their balloon UP and into the center of the circle and the kids in the middle have to see how long they can keep all 10 balloons up in the air and inside the circle of kids.
 - Keep time on your smartphone or watch. Stop time as soon as one balloon hits the floor or goes outside the boundaries of the Small Group circle.
 - Then let the next pair give it a try.
 - The pair that can keep the balloons in the air the longest wins!

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

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KEY QUESTION

What does Easter mean to you?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, Gift boxes (different shapes and sizes), tissue paper, and art supplies (glue, tape, yarn, ribbon, bows, construction paper, scissors, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, pompom balls, foam shapes, stickers, magazines to cut, etc.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Tell** kids that Jesus dying for us and then defeating death is a HUGE reason to celebrate! And what better way to celebrate than by making a cake?
- **Ask** kids to think back to their birthday cakes when they were younger. Let them share who was on their cakes and why. (A favorite show or super hero or Disney character, etc.)
- **Explain** that they are going to use the boxes and art supplies to build a cake as a group. (Or use the blank cake/cupcakes and real icing/decorations. Adjust the following instructions if you are using real cake for the kids to decorate.)
 - Let kids divide themselves into teams of two or three, depending on your supplies.
 - Open the Bible to John 18-20 so kids can use it to reference the details of the story.
 - Instruct kids that they have to tell the Bible story, either by making figurines and props or drawing on top of the cake.
 - Give the groups 10 or so minutes to decorate their cakes.
 - When they are finished, ask for a volunteer to present the cake and briefly re-tell the Bible story.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

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BASIC TRUTH

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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How did Jesus put His enemies first?
- How did Jesus put you first?
- Why do you think Jesus put us first?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus?
- So, what does Easter mean to you? If you've heard the Easter story lots of times already, what's something that stuck out to you today in particular? Is there anything you heard that you hadn't really thought about yet?
- And if you've never really heard the story, what's something you want to know more about?

Note: For kids who share something that might necessitate a deeper conversation, follow up with them at a later time, like when everyone in the group is working on another activity or when you're waiting for them to be picked up. If you have kids who seem to be ready to take the next step in their faith, follow your church's protocol for kids who are ready to start following Jesus. For kids whose parents are believers or regular church attendees, be sure to involve them in the process and let them know their kids are asking faith-related questions.

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Sheets" Activity Pages, masking tape, scissors, dictionary

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Pass** out the four verse pages and ask for volunteers to read them aloud.
- **Use** the dictionary to look up any words kids don't know. Or if you have one or two who know what a word means, let them explain it to the group.
- **Use** the masking tape to make two sections on the floor—one for "alike" and one for "different." (If you have any crafty kids, they may be able to use the tape to label each half.)
- **Ask** the kids to compare and contrast the verses:
 - Where do the verse match up or say the same thing?
 - Where do the verses have their own wording or ideas?
- **Let** kids work together to cut the verses into phrases, and place each phrase in one of the two columns.
- **Ask:**
 - How is Jesus an example of these verses? (He put others first when he died on the cross for us all.)
 - Does any of this change what Easter means to you?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

Above All

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5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Duct tape, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

Notes: Depending on what you know about your kids, it's probably a good idea to simply "plant the seeds" and have a conversation about salvation without explicitly leading kids to take the step of faith. If a child's parents are already believers, they will probably want to be present for the moment when their child takes a step of faith. Use your judgment and knowledge of your kids' home lives when having this conversation.

Also, the point of this activity is for you, the leader, to gauge where your kids are in their faith journeys. Be sure to make it clear that the important thing is for kids to start to discover Jesus for themselves, no matter where they're starting from. The important thing is not where they are right now but the journey itself.

- **Tell** kids that you're going to use duct tape to make crosses.
- **Set out** the duct tape where everyone can reach it and give kids a few minutes to make a cross in whatever way they choose.
 - They can take strips of tape and fold them over so that no sticky side is exposed.
 - Then use another couple of small pieces to connect larger pieces.
 - Or they can take one long strip and fold it "origami style" until it's in the shape of a cross.
 - Give kids the freedom to make their crosses whatever size they choose and make them in whatever style they choose.
- As kids finish making their crosses, ask them to use the permanent markers to write "Jesus put me first" somewhere on the cross.
- When everyone is finished, instruct kids to hold their crosses as you lead them in conversation about how Jesus put us first.
 - **Ask:** Why did Jesus put us first? (We celebrate Easter, we know that Jesus died and rose again, we believe that and are thankful for Jesus. But do you know WHY He did it?)
 - **Let** kids respond; take a couple responses before continuing.
 - **Explain:** It's because our sin—all the wrong things we do and think—separates us from God because God is perfect. Sin and perfection are

252 PRETEEN

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TWO

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4-5

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

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HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

opposites—they cannot go together. SO Jesus stepped in. He values us so much that He was willing to put us first by taking our sins on Himself and dying on the cross as the sacrifice. Because He did this, we can have a relationship with God!

- **Ask** kids to take a quiet moment to think about Jesus' sacrifice and where they are in relationship with Him. If they've taken a step of faith to accept God's gift of salvation, they can pray a prayer of thanks. If they haven't, they can ask God to help them understand and know Him better.
- **Allow** a couple minutes for kids to share after they've prayed silently.
- **Close** in prayer:

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, we can't even begin to thank You for how You put us first. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, who came to pay the price for the sins of all humanity. Thank You that You loved us so much that You made a way for us to have a relationship with You forever. You know where each of us is in our faith journey today. Please guide us as we continue to learn more about You and how Jesus put us first. Thank You for today and the freedom we have to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Savior."