

Come Alive

Bible: Come Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • *John 18:1–20:18*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse: *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*
John 16:33b, *NIV*

Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (4:30, 5:45) (7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

4:30, 9:00, & 11:30

3-Delicious

- Toothpicks
- Jellybeans or colorful mini-marshmallows (the jellybeans might be too difficult for young kids to work with)

5:45, 7:45, & 10:15

Best of All

- Five or six plastic Easter eggs, each with a small item inside
- One empty Easter egg

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (4:45, 6:00) (8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (5:10, 6:25) (8:25, 9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

All Service Times

- Easter Response Cards (use those designated for your service time)
- Pencils

Prayer (5:20, 6:35) (8:35, 9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (5:30, 6:45) (8:45, 10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help you show the kids the real meaning and importance of Easter. Ask God to show you if anyone is ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus. Give thanks to God for His Son, Jesus, and the opportunity to serve Him today in Small Group. Ask Him to help you love your kids and their families like He loves us.

4:30, 9:00, & 11:30

3-Delicious!

What You Need: Toothpicks, jellybeans or colorful mini-marshmallows

What You Do:

- Pair your groups according to age, or buddy up younger kids with older ones. Give each pair several toothpicks and jellybeans.
- Show the group how to use the jellybeans to connect the toothpicks. Encourage them to also make a square with four toothpicks and jellybeans.
- Instruct them to make another square. Then they can connect the two squares together with more toothpicks to form a cube.
- Make sure kids make a total of nine cubes, and set them aside to be used later.

What You Say:

"These are pretty cool creations. We'll use them as frames for the most amazing Truth ever! **Let's go to Large Group to hear what it is.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

5:45, 7:45, & 10:15

What You Need: Prepared Easter eggs

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Pass an egg around the circle and encourage kids to guess what's inside. They can shake it, "weigh" it, listen to it, anything except open it. (Caution kids to keep their guesses secret until each child has a turn!)
- When every child has a turn, invite kids to tell what they think is inside and why.
- Invite a child to open the egg and reveal the object.
- Continue with the remaining eggs, being sure to end with the empty one. Before passing the empty egg, say, "THIS egg has the BEST thing of all inside!"

What You Say:

(After your volunteer opens the empty egg) "How could an empty egg be the best thing of all?"

[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and find out!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 12 mounted battery-operated tap lights, Batteries for six of the tap lights
- 12 sticky notes
- 12 cue cards (index cards) with the game questions
- Table
- Battery-operated tealight candle

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Three leaders from your church, even outside of Children’s Ministry
- Simple black binder with Bible Story Pages #1-3 inside
- Small table
- Four battery-operated tealight candles
- Battery-operated tealight candles for every kid (if possible) to be given out at the end of Large Group

3. Worship

What You Need:

- “Let it Be Known”
- “Fully Alive”
- “Forever Reign”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: Theme Loop

Host enters.

CG: Transition Video (Attention Grabber)

CG: Countdown

CG: Theme

Opener

HOST: “Welcome to The Fort! My name is [your name], and I am so glad you’re here today.

Happy Easter! You know, Easter is one of my favorite days of the whole year because we celebrate the most important event in all of history! Easter is when we celebrate the brightest light that has ever shone in the darkest darkness EVER!

Hold up the camping lantern.

“Of course, I’m not talking about actual light. I’m talking about hope!

CG: Theme Transition to Life App

“Hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad.

CG: Life App Transition to Theme

“Easter is such an important day because it’s the biggest, brightest example of hope the world has ever known. Because of Easter, we can ALWAYS have the kind of hope that nothing can take away. I can’t wait for [Historyteller’s name] to tell us why.

“But first, let’s play a game together! This one is an ‘all play,’ so everyone can participate.

“I’ll ask you a question. If you have an answer, just raise your hand. If I call on you, you can answer the

question and then come up to the stage and hit one of these tap lights on the wall. But here's the thing—some of the lights will light up and some won't.

“Once you've hit the tap light, you can take the sticky note off of the light you chose. That way we'll know that someone has already tried that light. Then you can go back to your seat. Our goal is to uncover the secret message together. I know we can do it!

“Let's start the questions. Raise your hand if you have an answer, and wait until I call on you, okay?”

Read the first question from the cue card and then call on a kid who raises his hand. Whatever he answers will be correct (or give him a hint if you need to). Then let him come up onto the stage to press one of the tap lights.

After the kid presses a light, have him remove the sticky note on the light and go back to his seat. Repeat this same process the rest of the questions. The game is over once all the sticky notes have been removed and the cross has been revealed.

“Wow! That was super fun. And look at our secret message—it's a cross! What does a cross have to do with hope? Well, you're about to find out. Let's all welcome [Historyteller's Name] with today's Bible truth.”

Host exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Happy Easter! Today is such an important day. At Easter, we celebrate the greatest event in all of history—when God proved once and for all just how much He loves us. Everything that happened was part of God's plan. And what His Son, Jesus, did for us changed the world forever.

“We can read all about what happened at Easter in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“I thought today would be a great day to let you hear from a few different people from around our church. They're about to tell you what happened on that very first Easter—and how it has changed their lives forever.

Storyteller exits as Leader One enters, holding a (battery-operated) candle that's already switched on. Leader One picks up the binder and reads from the printed script.

ROOM LIGHTS: *Dim*

THE GARDEN

LEADER ONE: *(Reading from the binder)* “Jesus shared the Passover meal with His friends. He knew He was about to lay down His life for them. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that they would not see Him for a little while, and then they would see Him again.

“Jesus said: *“Now it’s your time to be sad. But I will see you again. Then you will be full of joy. And no one will take away your joy” (John 16:22 NlrV).*

“Jesus and His friends traveled to a garden across the Kidron Valley. Jesus prayed in the garden, underneath an olive tree.

“Suddenly, a mob of soldiers approached the garden with torches and swords. The mob was led by Judas. Judas was one of Jesus’ friends, but he chose to betray Jesus for 30 silver coins. Peter tried to defend Jesus, and he cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. But Jesus allowed the soldiers to tie Him up and take Him away to stand trial in front of the religious leaders. The disciples scattered, but Peter and John trailed behind.

“Jesus could have been angry. He could have fought back. He could have run away. But He didn’t. He didn’t deserve to be punished, but He went with the soldiers anyway. He did it because He loves us so much.

(Hold up your candle.) “And that’s why I put my hope in Jesus.”

Leader One puts her candle on the table and exits as Leader Two enters, holding his candle (already switched on). Leader Two picks up the binder and reads from page two of the printed script.

THE TRIAL

LEADER 2: *(Reading from the binder)* “Jesus was put on trial in front of the religious leaders. People stood up and told lies about Him. They accused Him of doing things He didn’t do. But Jesus didn’t say anything to defend himself. The high priest asked Him: *Are you the Messiah? Are you the Son of the Blessed One? (Mark 14:61 NlrV)* Jesus said: *“I am” (Mark 14:62, NlrV).*

“The high priest said that Jesus deserved death because He said He was God’s Son.

“Around that same time, a servant girl asked Peter if he was one of Jesus’ followers. But Peter was afraid. He said he didn’t even know who Jesus was. Peter was so scared that he denied he even knew Jesus—three times!

“Soldiers led Jesus to the palace of the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate found no good reason to punish Jesus, but the angry crowd demanded it. Pilate ordered some of the soldiers to whip Jesus. The crowd shouted: *Crucify him! (John 19:6 NlrV)* That means they wanted Jesus to die. Pilate didn’t think Jesus deserved to die, but he didn’t want to make the people angry. So he gave in. He handed Jesus over to the soldiers, and they marched Jesus to a hill called Golgotha.

“Jesus was going through a scary, dark time. But and instead of running away, He turned on the light of hope. He stood firm and told the truth. He risked everything because He loves us.

(Hold up your candle.) “And that’s why I put my hope in Jesus.”

Leader Two puts his candle on the table and exits as Leader Three enters, holding her candle (already switched

on). Leader Three picks up the binder and reads from the printed script.

HE'S ALIVE!

LEADER 3: *(Reading from the binder)* “The soldiers nailed Jesus to a wooden cross and raised Him up between two thieves. Jesus chose to take the punishment WE deserved. He chose to die on the cross for our sins because He loves us.

“Jesus shouted, ‘It is finished!’ and then He died. Darkness came and covered the earth. Two men carried Jesus’ body, wrapped it in strips of cloth, and placed it inside a cave. Soldiers rolled a HUGE stone across the front of the cave. They stood guard there because they didn’t want anyone to come and try to take Jesus’ body. It must have seemed like there was no hope left . . . because Jesus had died.

“But THEN—on the third day after Jesus died—there was a powerful earthquake. An angel rolled back the stone, and the tomb was EMPTY!

“Jesus’ friend Mary was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to tell Peter and John. And THEY came running to see the empty cave where Jesus had been buried. After Peter and John left, Jesus actually appeared to Mary. She saw with her own eyes that He really was alive!

“Jesus died on the cross for us. Then He came back to life and proved that He really is God’s Son.

(Hold up your candle.) “And that’s why I put my hope in Jesus.”

Leader Three puts her candle on the table and exits as Storyteller enters, holding his candle (already switched on).

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: *(Speaking directly to the kids)* “Imagine what it would have been like for Jesus’ friends back then. When Jesus died, they must have been heartbroken. They probably wondered if everything Jesus had said could possibly be true. How could Jesus be the Son of God if He had just been killed? They were confused and afraid. They didn’t know what to do. It seemed that all their hope was lost.

“But now we know that God had a plan all along. He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the price for our sins, and then Jesus defeated death when He came back to life.

“That’s why, whatever happens, I can have HOPE in Jesus. When times are good or when times are dark and scary, I can remember that Jesus is with me. He died on the cross because He loves me. But He didn’t stay dead. He’s more powerful than death. He is ALIVE!

(Hold up your candle.) And that’s why I put my hope in Jesus.

Put your candle on the table with the others.

“When we believe in Jesus, we have HOPE that will last forever.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive!

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“As you leave today, your Leaders are going to give you one of these candles that you can take home.

Hold up one of the candles.

“Put it somewhere in your room where you’ll see it often, so you can remember the hope we have in Jesus.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent us Your Son, Jesus. It’s amazing to know that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins so that we could have a relationship with You that will last forever, and THEN He came back to life and defeated death for all time! Help us to remember the hope we have in Jesus because He is alive. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

“Will you please join me in some praise and worship as we celebrate that God is amazing and Jesus is truly ALIVE?”

Worship

CG: “Let It Be Known”

CG: “Fully Alive”

CG: “Forever Reign”

Host enters as Historyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He went through everything we go through, but He never sinned. Jesus let Himself be arrested and even died on the cross. He did those things for you and for me so we wouldn’t have to pay the price for our sins. Jesus died on the cross for us so that we could have a close relationship with God.

“On the third day after Jesus died, the stone rolled away and the tomb was empty. It was the best news ever. Jesus was alive—and He still is!

“Nothing can ever take away the hope we have in Jesus. When we put our faith in Him, we have the promise of eternal life.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“Even when things don’t go the way we want them to, even when life feels dark and scary, even when we feel confused, we can have hope because we know Jesus conquered sin and death.

(Hold up your candle.) “And that’s why I put my hope in Jesus, too.

Put your candle on the table with the Historyteller’s.

“Because of Easter, I know **[Basic Truth] I can trust God no matter what.** My hope in Him will last forever.

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

“Now it’s time for you to head to Small Group and keep celebrating together. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

CG: Full Video (If needed)

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

All Service Times

Response and Prayer

What You Need: Easter Response Cards, Pencils

What You Do:

- Present the kids with a summary of the gospel message.
- Present the option for kids to pray to receive forgiveness and enter into God’s eternal family.
- Pass out Easter Response Cards that coordinate with your class and service time.
- Write the child’s **FULL Name** on the card and hand it to the child. Talk them through each choice on the card. Hand each child a pencil/pen. Walk them through the choices again, as a group. Have them circle the option that fits them today. Place the completed cards back in the curriculum box.

What You Say:

“Today you learned the most important lesson you will ever learn—that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead to be our Savior. There is nothing that matters more than that! The amazing fact that Jesus died and then rose again was the most loving thing anyone has ever done. I mean, think about it, **Jesus is ALIVE!**”

We talked about how we can always put our hope in Jesus. When things go wrong or we do wrong things, we can always, always put our hope and trust in Jesus.”

Those wrong things that we do are sometimes called sin. Everyone has sinned in their lives. Sins are the things that we say, think or do that goes against what God asks us to do. He asks us to love Him and love other, no matter what; all the time.”

Raise your hand if you have sinned. *(Make a note of the kids that do not raise their hands. They will need more time and explanation, even if they “pray” a salvation prayer.)*

Raise your hand if you believe that Jesus is God’s son and died so that He could take the punishment for our sins. Remember, that punishment was to be separated from God, because He is holy and

perfect and can't be near sin." *(Make note of the kids that do not raise their hands or are hesitant. They will need more time and explanation, even if they "pray" a salvation prayer.)*

If you believe that Jesus died to take away your sins, and you are ready to ask God to forgive you so that you can be part of his forever family, in heaven, I want you to pray a prayer with me. You will only every have to pray it one time. So, if you have already prayed a pray like this, you don't need to pray it again. If you still have questions about Jesus, sin, and forgiveness, then please do not pray this prayer. Instead, let's talk some more after this activity."

Here we go for my friends who Believe and are ready to ask for forgiveness and want to follow Jesus. Repeat after me."

"Dear father, thank you so much for sending your son, Jesus, to die on a cross for me. I want to ask him to forgive me of my sins. I ask you Jesus, to come into my heart right now. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and I promise to follow after you for the rest of my life. Thank you Jesus. I love you. Amen."

"If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, guess what; you're a Christ follower now! That is so exciting! You don't ever have to pray that prayer again. From this point forward you need to be studying your bible and making decisions that follow after Christ. Ask yourself What would Jesus do? What does Jesus want me to do?"

"If you didn't pray that prayer because you still have questions, or you didn't feel ready, please, please talk to me, your parents, or any other grown up that believes, and we will answer as many of your questions as we can, or help you find the answers in the Bible.

"Now, we are going to fill out these cards together. First I am going to write your name on the card so that everyone can read your name. (Hand each child their card) Now, we are going to read through this card together so that you know what you are going to circle when I give you your pencil.

- If today was the first time that you prayed the prayer to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, come into your heart, and be the boss of your life then you are going to circle the number One.
- If you already asked Jesus to be the boss of your life before today but you have not been baptized and you would like to do that, you are going to circle the number Two.
- If you already asked Jesus to be the boss of your life before today And you have been baptized then you are going to circle the number Three.
- If you are not ready to ask Jesus to be the boss of your life or if you have some questions about what that means, you will circle number Four.
-

"Do you have any questions about the card? (Answer any questions that arise.) I am going to give you your pencil now and we are going to go through the numbers again and you will circle the one that talks about you. Good. Make sure that you hand the cards and the pencils back to me."

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids for prayer.
- Invite them to pray with you, “Dear God, help us keep in mind that whatever happens, Jesus is alive.”
- Close in prayer together.
- *(Note: If you have eggs from the large group (without video) hunt to hand out, do that now.)*

What You Say:

“Dear God, we know that we have hope because Jesus is alive. We trust you to bring something good out of something bad in our lives, just like when Jesus was dead and came to life. Thank You for Your rescue plan. We love You! Amen.”

“While you have fun this weekend, or even if your celebrations don’t go to plan, **[Bottom Line]** **whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.**”