

# 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

#### Just for Fun

- 20 plastic eggs
- Put a different item in 10 of the eggs then repeat with a second set so that each egg has an identical match that sounds the same when shaken. It's not important that pairs be the same color.

## 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)

- Plastic eggs; one for each kid
- Spoons; one for each kid

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

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**Key Question:** What does Easter mean to you?

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

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.*

**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**

### **Just for Fun**

**What You Need:** Prepared plastic Easter eggs

#### **What You Do:**

- **Sit** in a circle with the filled plastic eggs within reach of all the kids
- **Play** a memory game by inviting the group to take turns shaking two plastic eggs and listening to the sound each makes. If the sounds are the same, it's a match and that person can keep the eggs. If it's not a match, the eggs are placed in their original location and the next person takes a turn.
- **Continue** until all the eggs are taken.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

**What You Need:**

- Host

#### 2. Bible Truth

**What You Need:**

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Light fixtures on stage

#### 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 is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

**CG: Transition Video (Attention Grabber)**

**CG: Countdown (30- or 60-second version)**

**CG: Theme**

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “Hi, everyone! Happy Easter! I’m so glad you’re here to celebrate with us today. I love Easter—and NOT just because I get to eat delicious marshmallow chicks and take family pictures wearing my Sunday best. *(Personalize this a bit with your own Easter experience.)*”

“Those things are all great. But do you know why I REALLY love Easter? It’s a chance for us to celebrate the greatest event that has EVER happened in the history of the world! Easter is the ultimate example of hope.”

*Pull the cord (or hit the foot switch) to turn on the light at the front of the stage.*

“What is 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 reminds us that we can have hope even when life seems the darkest. Whatever happens (*point to ‘Whatever happens . . .’ on stage*), nothing can ever take away the amazing, incredible, spectacular, miraculous, TRUE events of that very first Easter. Let’s get [Historyteller’s Name] in here to tell us all about it.”

*Host exits as Historyteller enters.*

### **SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! [Host’s name] is right. Easter is a HUGE day. In fact, it’s the biggest day there is! Why? Because at Easter, we celebrate the greatest event in history. It’s literally the greatest thing that has EVER happened! Easter is all about what Jesus did for you and me.

“Easter shows us that we can always have hope in God.

*Turn ON one of the lights on stage.*

**[Basic Truth] “We can trust Him no matter what.**

*Turn ON another light on stage.*

“We can be sure that He has a good plan . . .

*Turn ON another light on stage.*

“. . . even when things in life might look dark or scary.

*Turn OFF one of the lights you just turned on.*

“At Easter, God proved once and for all how much He loves us. He gave His Son, Jesus, for us. And what Jesus did changed the world forever!

*Turn ON another light on stage.*

“Do you think all of you can help me tell the Bible Truth today? *(Pause for response.)* Great! As you can see, we’ve got all these lights up here. They show what it’s like when we have hope—when we find the light in the dark.

*Turn ON another light on stage.*

“They can also show us what it’s like when life doesn’t go the way we expect . . . and things start to look a little dimmer.

*Turn OFF one of the lights you just turned on.*

“As we discover what happened with Jesus on that very first Easter, I’d love for you to come up here and use these lights to match the Bible Truth. If I nod to you when something good happens, you can come up and turn ON one of the lights. If I nod to you when something bad happens, come up and turn OFF one of the lights. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Good. Let’s get started.”

**ROOM LIGHTS: Off**

**JESUS IS ARRESTED**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “If you were here last week, you know that Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem, and the people treated Him like a king.

**CG: Bible Story Image #1: Palm Sunday**

“They waved palm branches in the air, and they spread their coats on the road in front of Him. They believed He really was the Savior God had promised.

*Make eye contact with an older kid. Nod to him to cue him to come up and turn ON one of the lights on stage. (You might need to explain what you need him to do, but after this, the kids should catch on.)*

**CG: Bible Story Image #2: Last Supper**

“Jesus shared the Passover Feast with His friends, the disciples.

“They thought Jesus had come to rule over them as their new King. But Jesus told them that He had a different kind of mission to carry out. He was about to lay down His life for them—and for us. He said:

*Open the Bible to John 16:16 (NIRV) and read.*

*“In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me.”*

“The disciples were confused. Where was Jesus going? Jesus told them this.

*Open the Bible to John 16:22 (NIRV) and read.*

*“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.”*

“Jesus and His friends then traveled to a garden across the Kidron Valley.

**CG: Bible Story Image #3: Jesus praying in the garden**

“Jesus took time to pray.

**CG: Bible Story Image #4: Soldiers arresting Jesus**

“But then a group of soldiers appeared who were carrying torches and weapons. They had come to ARREST Jesus.

“Judas was the one leading the way. He had been one of Jesus’ disciples, but unfortunately, he had decided to betray Jesus just to get 30 silver coins.

“Jesus went out to talk to the soldiers. Peter thought it was up to him to defend Jesus, so he pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant! But Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. He

didn't need Peter to protect Him. He had come for a different purpose. He allowed the soldiers to arrest Him and take Him away. Soon, they would put Him on trial in front of the religious leaders.

"Jesus' friends tried to understand, but it didn't make sense. If Jesus was the Savior, how could He let Himself get arrested? Suddenly, things were starting to look a LOT dimmer.

*Nod to a kid to cue her to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

"Like . . . a WHOLE lot dimmer.

*Nod to two more kids to come up and do the same.*

"The disciples were afraid; they started to scatter. But Peter and John trailed behind."

### **JESUS GOES ON TRIAL**

**CG: Bible Story Image #5: Jesus on trial**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "It was unbelievable. Jesus, the Son of God, was going on trial! False witnesses told lies about Him, but Jesus didn't say anything to defend Himself.

*Nod to a kid to cue him to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

"The high priest asked Jesus: "Are you the Messiah?" (Mark 14:61 NIV) Jesus answered:

*Open the Bible to Mark 14:62 (NIV) and read.*

"I am."

"The religious leaders were furious! The high priest said Jesus was worthy of death because He claimed to be God's Son. Things were getting very, very dark for the disciples.

*Nod to a kid to cue her to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

*(If you have enough lights, nod to two more kids to come up and do the same.)*

**CG: Bible Story Image #6: Peter's denial**

"In fact, Peter was so scared that he denied he even knew Jesus—three times! Earlier, Peter had been so confident that he said he would DIE for Jesus. But now nothing was going the way Peter had expected. It seemed like Jesus was LOSING. All Peter could see was fear, danger, and darkness.

*Nod to a kid to cue him to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

“Soldiers led Jesus to the palace of the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate couldn’t see that Jesus had done anything wrong, but the mob of angry people wanted Jesus to be punished. So Pilate ordered the soldiers to whip Him.

**CG: Bible Story Image #7: Soldiers whipping Jesus**

“It was so sad AND so completely unfair!

*Nod to a kid to cue her to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

“The crowd didn’t stop there. They said that Jesus should be crucified. They wanted Him to be put on a cross to die. Pilate 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.”

*Nod to a kid to cue her to come up and turn OFF one of the lights on stage.*

### **JESUS DIES AND COMES BACK TO LIFE**

**CG: Bible Story Image #8: Jesus on the cross**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “The soldiers nailed Jesus to a wooden cross. They raised Him up between two thieves.

“It was shocking. It was unbelievable. Jesus wasn’t coming to rule as King after all. Instead, He had come to give up His life—to face a death He didn’t deserve. Jesus said: *“It is finished”* (John 19:30 NIV), and right there on that cross, He died.

“Darkness fell. The earth shook. It seemed that all hope was lost.

*Turn OFF all the other lights on stage. This should be as much of a blackout as possible.*

**CG: Bible Story Image #9: The tomb (closed)**

“Two men carried Jesus’ body to a tomb. They wrapped Jesus in strips of linen cloth, and they placed Him inside. Soldiers rolled a massive stone across the front of the tomb, and that was that. For all anyone knew, it was the end.

*(Long pause.)* “But it WASN’T the end, not by a long shot.

*Turn ON one of the lights on stage.*

“On the third day—which we call the very first Easter Sunday—there was a powerful earthquake. An angel rolled back the stone, and the tomb was EMPTY!

**CG: Bible Story Image #10: The empty tomb**

*Nod to a kid to cue her to come up and turn ON one of the lights on stage.*

“Jesus’ friend Mary went to the tomb, and she saw that Jesus was no longer there.

**CG: Bible Story Image #11: Mary tells Peter and John**

“Mary told Peter and John, and they came to see that the tomb was empty—just like Mary had said. Jesus was no longer there. He was alive!

*Nod to a kid to cue him to come up and turn ON one of the lights on stage.*

**CG: Bible Story Image #12: Jesus and Mary**

“In fact, after Peter and John left, Jesus actually appeared to Mary. She saw with her own eyes that He had come back to life. There was hope after all. It was all part of God’s plan. Jesus, the Savior, was ALIVE!

“Let’s turn on every single light on this stage and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus. Let me hear you cheer, because Jesus is alive!”

*Bring a few kids up on stage and have them turn ON the remaining lights, so every single light on stage is on.*

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## **WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Whatever happens (*point to ‘Whatever happens . . .’ on stage*), we can always have hope because of what Jesus did for us at Easter.

“Think about this. Do you know WHY Jesus chose to die on the cross? He did it for you and for me and for everyone in the whole world. He knew that it was part of God’s plan to rescue us.

“You see, there’s something that’s true about each of us, whether we want to admit it or not. We sin. We do things that are wrong. And since God is perfect, our sin separates us from Him. But Jesus made a way for us to be able to have a relationship with God WITHOUT sin being in the way. He let Himself be arrested, and He died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins. Nothing stands between us and God anymore! Jesus did all of that for us, all so people can be close to God again.

“And Jesus didn’t stay dead! When He came back to life, He proved that He really is God’s Son, the Savior of the world. Jesus proved that He’s more powerful than ANYTHING—even death. And now He invites us to live a new life with God that lasts forever!

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

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

“Never forget the amazing news of Easter: that we can have hope forever, because Jesus is alive!

“Let’s pray.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You so much for Easter! Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. It’s so sad to think about all that Jesus went through, and how dark and scary it must have been on that awful day when He died. But God, thank You for the forever hope we have because we know that Jesus is ALIVE! When life is tough and things start to look dark around us, help us to remember the hope we have in Jesus that will never, ever end. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to God!”

*Host enters as Historyteller exits.*

### Worship

**CG: “Let It Be Known”**

**CG: “Fully Alive”**

**CG: “Forever Reign”**

### Closer

**HOST:** (*Noticing the stage lights*) “Wow—it is BRIGHT out here, and I love it!

“Here’s the true hope of Easter:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

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

“He really is! He’s alive TODAY. Think about all that Jesus did for ALL of us—including you and me.

“Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He went through everything we go through, but He never sinned. He taught so many amazing things that we can read in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) He performed all kinds of miracles that proved He was the Son of God. Best of all, though, was what He did at Easter.

“Jesus let Himself be arrested, and He allowed Himself to die on the cross. He knew it was God’s plan, so that He could make a way for us to have a close relationship with God. He did it for US. He paid the price for our sins so we wouldn’t have to. And when the stone rolled away, the tomb was empty. Jesus wasn’t dead. He was ALIVE! And now He invites us to live alive too!

“We celebrate at Easter because of the HOPE we have in Jesus. We know He’s alive, and nothing can take that away! We can put our faith in Him and know that we have the promise of life that will last forever. Even when things happen in life that are dark or scary or confusing, we can have hope because we know that Jesus conquered sin and death FOREVER.

“You can head back to Small Group now and keep celebrating the life-changing news of Easter: Jesus is ALIVE!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

**CG: Full Video (If needed)**

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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.

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

### 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:** Plastic eggs, spoons

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a spoon and a plastic egg.
- Have kids balance the egg on the spoon and carry it as they form a circle for prayer.
- When they arrive, have them open the empty egg.

**What You Say:**

“Jesus, thank You for conquering death so You could be alive and here with us today! Just like these eggs are empty, the tomb was empty that day they went looking for You, and that moment has made all the difference. Because that tomb was empty, we know that Jesus is alive! We pray for the people sitting around our Easter dinner table and here at church and we pray that each of them would know how amazing it is that you are stronger than death!”