

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.

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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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)