

3-5's | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Easter • Matthew 26:31-32, 36, 47-50; 27:1-2, 11-66; 28:1-8

Jesus is alive.

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "I have called you friends." • John 15:15 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Roll Away the Stone Relay

Find Jesus

In the Rocks

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions

He Is Not Here!

Easter Bingo!

1, 2, 3 Hopscotch

Jesus Is Alive!

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Easter • Matthew 26:31-32, 36, 47-50; 27:1-2, 11-66; 28:1-8

Jesus is alive.

Key Question

Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse

"I have called you friends." • John 15:15 NIV

11 min

Worship

3 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name], and I am so happy to see you today!"

"It's time to celebrate! (*Pat legs.*) Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray! Can you do that with me?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Again!"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job! When we come to worship, we are celebrating God and His Son, Jesus. God made everything—(*make a mountain peak over your head with your arms*) the big, tall mountains ... (*make a fish with your hands*) the fish that swim in the deep, blue sea ... (*point to children*) even you! God made every single person. That is definitely something to celebrate. Let's celebrate God by saying (*pat legs*) 'hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!' Ready?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "And (*point up*) God (*cross arms over chest*) loves us so much He gave us Jesus, His only Son. Let's celebrate again. Ready?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "And here is something else we can celebrate: Jesus wants to be our friend forever. He wants to help us be friends with God! Let's say 'hip, hip, hooray' one more time."

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now, let's stand up, and let's continue celebrating Jesus."

SONG: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

5 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Great singing, friends! Now, let's learn some words from the Bible. These are words that Jesus said. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

"I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends" (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15 (*open hands like a book*).

"Can you do that with me?"

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.

"Great job! Jesus calls us friends, and He wants us to follow Him. Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now, let's stand up, and let's celebrate Jesus!"

SONG: "I've Got a Friend" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Great singing, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "My Forever Friend" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

27 min

Bible Story Section (Stage)

3 min

Intro Sketch

What You Need

 Firefighter's hat for Host to wear

1

Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host wears a firefighter's hat. Host pretends to drive a firetruck and make the sounds of a fire truck siren and horn.

HOST: "Hi, friends!

Pretend to turn a steering wheel as you walk around the storytelling area.

(Like a fire truck siren, starting high and slowly lowering the pitch.)
"OOOOOOO-oooooooooh!

Honk the horn on your pretend steering wheel.

(Like a deep truck horn.) "Honk, honk!

"Happy Easter, friends! My name is [your name]. Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]!

"Can you guess what I'm pretending to be? *(Listen.)* Yes, I'm pretending to be a firefighter! Let's pretend to be firefighters together. Everyone, put on your firefighter's hat!

Lift your firefighter's hat and put it back on.

"Now, let's drive your fire trucks and make the sound of the siren.

Pretend to turn a steering wheel and mimic the sound of a fire truck siren by starting high and slowly lowering the pitch.

"OOOOOOO-oooooooooh! OOOOOOO-oooooooooh! Now honk the horn! *(Like a deep truck horn.)* Honk, honk!

"Great job! You would make such great firefighters!

"Firefighters are special people, aren't they? But did you know that you are special too?

"You are special because God made you! But sometimes we do wrong things, and that keeps us from being friends with God. So, God sent His Son Jesus to rescue US! Everybody, say: *(pat legs)* 'Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray!'"

CHILDREN and HOST: *(Pat legs.)* "Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray!"

8 min

Wonder Bible Story (Video)

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

Bible Story (live)

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Artificial or live plants	1
 4-6 cardboard boxes	1
 Hula-Hoop®	1
 Gray or brown butcher's paper	1
 Tape	1
 Option: Cardstock	1

HOST: "Jesus came to rescue us, and that's what we are celebrating on Easter. So, let's say 'hip, hip, hooray' one more time, and then [Storyteller's name] will come tell us the true story of Easter. Ready?"

CHILDREN and HOST: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

What You Do:

- Cut the top flaps off one large cardboard box, or simply fold them inside the box and secure with tape. This will be the tomb.
- Wrap all the boxes in butcher's paper.
- Wrap the Hula-Hoop in butcher's paper. This will be the stone covering the entrance to the tomb.
- Place the tomb box on its side so the opening faces the children.
- Stack the other boxes around and on top of the tomb box to build out the exterior of the tomb.
- Hide the Hula-Hoop behind the tomb.
- Place the plants on the opposite side of the tomb. This will be the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

There are plants on one side of the storytelling area to suggest the Garden of Gethsemane. On the other side, prepared boxes are stacked to create the tomb. The Hula-Hoop® "stone" is hidden behind the tomb.

Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible.

STORYTELLER: "Happy Easter, friends! My name is [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's story begins with Jesus, God's Son.

SLIDE: Story Image W1 01 (Jesus and disciples at Last Supper)

"One day, Jesus ate a special meal with His friends, the disciples. Let's pretend to eat dinner together, like Jesus and His disciples.

Pretend to eat dinner by holding up a "plate" and scooping up food with a "fork."

"Yummy! While they were eating, Jesus told His friends that He would soon go away. Jesus was going to die. It was terrible news! Can you make a sad face with me?"

Make a sad face.

"But Jesus said that after He died, He would come back to life! That is good news! Let's make some happy faces now.

Make a happy face.

"But the disciples did not understand what that meant.

SLIDE: Story Image W1 02 (Jesus is arrested)

"After they ate, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden to pray.

Walk to the plants and kneel, as long as the children in the back row can still see you easily.

"But a man named Judas, who was one of Jesus' friends, went and found the people who did not like Jesus, and he brought them to the garden! Soldiers took Jesus away, even though He never did anything wrong!

SLIDE: Story Image W1 03 (Mary at the cross)

(Simple and somber.) "They put Jesus on a cross, which hurt Him and He died. (Growing awe and excitement.) But ... Jesus is so powerful that when He died, the earth shook. It was an earthquake! Can you shake your body and say: (Shake your arms and legs.) "Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble!"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *(Shake your arms and legs.) "Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble!"*

STORYTELLER: "Great job! You can stop shaking now.

"All of Jesus' friends were so sad because Jesus died, but they didn't remember that Jesus said He would come back.

Walk to the "tomb."

"They put Jesus' body in a tomb, which is like a cave.

Pick up the Hula-Hoop stone from behind the tomb, and roll it in front of the tomb.

"A huge stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and *(stand tall like a soldier at attention)* soldiers stood nearby so no one could get in.

"Three days went by. Can you count to three with me?"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *(Hold up your fingers as you count.)*
"One ... two ... three."

STORYTELLER: "Then, on the third day, early in the morning, two women who were friends with Jesus went to the tomb. Before they got there, the earth shook again. It was another earthquake. Shake like an earthquake again!"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *(Shake your arms and legs.)* "Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble!"

STORYTELLER: "Great job! I need you to stop shaking because the next part of the story is SO amazing.

SLIDE: Story Image W1 04 (Angel rolls the stone away)

(Lean in and speak a little quieter, with awe and growing excitement.)
"The earth shook because an ANGEL came to the tomb, and the angel *(roll the Hula-Hoop stone away from the tomb)* rolled the huge stone away. The soldiers were so scared of the angel that they fell down!

Fall backward a few steps with your arms flailing a bit.

"Boom! And then, the angel SPOKE to the women.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus ... He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would!" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV)

(Excited.) "The angel said that Jesus is alive! *(Pat legs.)* Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive! Say that with me.

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *(Pat legs.)* "Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive!"

SLIDE: Story Image W1 05 (Excited women running)

STORYTELLER: "The women were so excited! They RAN to tell all of Jesus' other friends the good news.

"Stand up and let's run in place like the women. Run, run, run!

Run in place with the children.

"Okay, let's say: *(pat legs)* 'Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive! Ready?"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *(Pat legs.)* "Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive!"

STORYTELLER: "Great job! You can have a seat now.

"Jesus is alive! Friends, that's the best news ever! He loves all of us so much that He died and came back to life so we can be friends with *(point*

3 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Outro Sketch

What You Need

No supplies needed

up) God. Jesus rescued us ... all because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

"Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."**

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

Pick up and close Bible.

[Transition] "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to rescue us so we can be friends with you. You are the best, God. Thank You for giving us so much to celebrate at Easter. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! People hurt Jesus, and He died. But Jesus came back just like He said He would. Jesus is alive!

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN and HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"Jesus loves you so much. He wants to be your friend forever, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Happy Easter, everyone!"

Getting Ready | 3-5's Stage Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship, the Intro Sketch, and the Bible Story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (10 minutes)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advance preparation is necessary.

1. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got a Friend"—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "My Forever Friend"—available on store.thinkorange.com

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- "I've Got a Friend" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "My Forever Friend" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com

What You Do:

- Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
- Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

2. Intro/Outro

What You Need:

- Firefighter's hat for Host to wear

3. Bible Story**What You Need:**

- Bible
- Artificial or live plants
- 4-6 cardboard boxes
- Hula-Hoop®
- Gray or brown butcher's paper
- Tape
- *Option: Cardstock*

Large Group Visuals:

- Story Image W1 01
- Story Image W1 02
- Story Image W1 03
- Story Image W1 04
- Story Image W1 05

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with the *Wonder!* video so you can plug and play the way you need to each week. *Wonder! Look at God's Story* offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God's story.

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First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HipHipHooray

Supplies

Intro Sketch

- | | Quantity |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Firefighter's hat for Host to wear | 1 |

Bible Story (live)

- | | Quantity |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |
| 2. Artificial or live plants | 1 |
| 3. 4-6 cardboard boxes | 1 |
| 4. Hula-Hoop® | 1 |
| 5. Gray or brown butcher's paper | 1 |
| 6. Tape | 1 |
| 7. Option: Cardstock | 1 |