

# April Preteens | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

**Bible Story:** Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 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**

Opening Activity

## **Large Group (35 minutes)**

### **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

### **Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

## **Small Group (25 minutes)**

### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Picture Plates

Discussion Questions

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



## **Bible Story**

Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

## **Conversation Starter**

How do you celebrate Easter?

## **Bottom Line**

You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

## **Monthly Memory Verse**

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

No supplies needed



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain that you are going to play "Twenty Questions" with an Easter theme.
- Think of an Easter-related item (e.g., Jesus, cross, Peeps®, Easter egg, crown of thorns, sunrise, stone, chocolate bunny, jellybeans).
- Share that the kids can ask up to 20 yes or no questions to guess what you're thinking of.
- If they don't guess what you're thinking of in 20 questions, tell them the answer, think of a different item, and start another round.
- Let a kid who guesses correctly take a turn being the "thinker."

### What You Say:

"You guys are great detectives! You asked good questions to figure out the answer. In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus' friends had a lot of questions too. They were confused and sad. But then they discovered the answer that changed everything. Let's go dive into the story."



5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Picture Plates | Made to Create

### What You Need

-  Paper plates 1
-  Coloring supplies Several

### What You Do:

- Review the Bible Story (John 18–20:23) with the kids. Be sure to cover these main points:
  - Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to die on a cross.
  - Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb to seal it.
  - Jesus' friend Mary went to the tomb early Sunday morning. When she got there, the stone was rolled away, and the tomb was empty.
  - Jesus is alive! He appeared to Mary outside of the tomb, and she was so happy! She ran to tell Jesus' friends that He is alive!
- Give each kid a paper plate and place coloring supplies nearby.
- Ask kids to hold the plate upside down on top of their head with one hand.
- Tell them that they are going to use their other hand to draw the Easter story on the plate—while it's still on their head!
- Give the following prompts and allow kids time to draw each picture:
  1. Say: "Draw a cross."
  2. Say: "Draw a tomb with a stone."
  3. Say: "Draw a happy face because Jesus is alive!"
- Let them take the plates down and look at their drawings.
- Allow kids to talk about the Bible Story and add other details from the story to their drawing.

### What You Say:

"Those drawings are so unique! Even though the pictures turned out silly when you drew them without looking, they still remind us of the most important story ever: the true story of Easter!

"God sent Jesus to rescue us. Our sin pulled us away from God and kept us from being close to Him. But God wants us to be His close, close friends! So Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins to make a way for us to be close with God. But Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day, He came back to life! Jesus is alive! That's the best news ever! Jesus made a way for us to be friends with God forever. That gives us so much joy!

**[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"**

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Do:

Ask these questions:

- Why do you think Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested even though the soldiers fell down when He said, "I am he"? (John 18:6 NIV)

## What You Need

No supplies needed

- What moment in today's Bible story amazes you the most?
- What does the resurrection prove about who Jesus really is?
- Peter messed up, but Jesus still forgave him and used him. What does that tell you about how Jesus sees YOU when you mess up?
- How does knowing Jesus is alive change the way you face: Fear? Confusing moments? Mess-ups?




5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross that's taped to the wall at a kid's height 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- Create a "group" thank you note on a large piece of paper if individual writing is too daunting for the group.

### What You Do:

- Point out the large cross taped to the wall.
- Give each kid a sticky note and ask them to write a short "Thank You" note to Jesus on it. They can thank Him for dying for them, for being alive, for being their friend, or for something specific He has done in their lives.
- Invite them to go to the wall and stick their note on the cross.
- Gather around the cross and pray.

### What You Say:

"Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, and then He gave that perfect life to pay the price for our sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. Because the curse is broken and our sin is paid for, now we can be close to God forever! Jesus chose to endure the cross because God wants to be close to YOU. Seeing all these thank-you notes reminds us of how much we have to be grateful for. Let's pray together.

"Jesus, thank You. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the empty tomb. Thank You that You're alive right now! We are so grateful that we can know You and be Your friends. Please fill us with Your joy this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Supplies

Picture Plates   Made to Create		Quantity
1.	Paper plates	1
2.	Coloring supplies	Several

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer   Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	Prepared posterboard cross that's taped to the wall at a kid's height	1
2.	Sticky notes	1
3.	Writing supplies	1