

# March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus is alive! Easter • *Matthew 26:26–28:10*

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

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## BEFORE LARGE GROUP

### ACTIVITY 1: I Have Called You Friends

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Gather the children in your activity area. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together.

*During the Activity:* Lead children to sing the Memory Verse to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell". Repeat as desired.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bottom Line.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* Friends, come gather with me! Let's say our Memory Verse as we do the motions. 'I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends', (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!

*During the Activity:* Let's sing the verse together. Listen, as I sing it one time. Then, we can all sing together.

I have called you friends,  
I have called you friends,  
Jesus wants to be my friend,  
Jesus calls me friend.

Okay friends let's sing together. (*Repeat several times.*)

*After the Activity:* Great job, friends! Jesus calls us friends. Isn't that amazing? Jesus is the best friend ever. Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

**Materials:**

- No supplies needed

## ACTIVITY 2: Take Home - Trophy

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Write each child's name on their paper.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to decorate their trophy with markers and crayons. Then add their stickers.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* Come, sit down at the table with me, friends. Look at your paper. Trophies are rewards you get sometimes for doing the best at something.

*During the Activity:* Decorate your trophies with the markers, crayons, and stickers. *(Pause.)* Great! Add this special sticker! The words written on the sticker say: 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever', *(Pause.)* Great job!

*After the Activity:* Happy Easter, everyone! God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Jesus was having dinner with His friends, the disciples, when He told them He would have to go away. But He promised He would come back. After dinner, Jesus went to pray in a garden, when some angry people came, and took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus, and He died. All of Jesus' friends were so sad. They put Jesus' body in a tomb with a big stone in front of it. Three sad days went by. On the third day, Jesus' friends went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. Jesus was not there! JESUS came back, just like He said He would!! Jesus is alive! Jesus came to be our friend forever. That's what we celebrate on Easter! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

### Materials:

- "Cup Trophy Sticker" Activity Page (1/child)
- "Trophy" Activity Page (1/child)
- Stickers (5/child)
- Markers
- Crayons
- Permanent marker

**Jesus wants  
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## AFTER LARGE GROUP

### ACTIVITY 3: Jesus and the Children (Bible Story Review)

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Hang butcher paper on wall. Gather at the table.

*During the Activity:* Draw the following six objects from the Bible Story on the butcher paper while you review the story: heart, gingerbread man, food items, sad face, stone, and happy face.

*After the Activity:* Ask the children to draw one of the objects from the Bible story on the butcher paper. Review the Bottom Line.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* Come sit with me! We're going to use these markers to make today's Bible Story!

*During the Activity:* The first thing we're going to make is a HEART. We're making a heart because God loves us. *(Pause and look.)* Next, we're going to make JESUS. God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. *(Pause and look.)* Now, we're going to make some yummy FOOD. You can make whatever food you like! In our story, Jesus had a special dinner with His friends, the disciples. *(Pause and look.)* The next part of our story is very sad, so we're going to make SAD FACES. All of Jesus' friends were very sad and afraid when angry people came and took Jesus away. The people hurt Jesus so bad that He died. *(Pause and look.)* After Jesus died, His friends rolled a big stone in front of where He was buried. *(Pause and look.)* Okay, I am soooooo ready for the last part of our story, because it's the happiest part! That's why we're going to make HAPPY FACES! We're smiling because, on the third day, Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive! Hooray!

*After the Activity:* Let's all draw something from the story on our paper. *(Hand out markers to children.)* Let's look at the story we made one more time!

God loves us. *(Ask the children to point to the heart.)* God loves us so much, that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. *(Ask the children to point to Jesus.)* Jesus had a special dinner with His friends, the disciples. *(Ask the children to point to the food.)* Angry people took Jesus away and hurt Him so bad that He died. *(Ask the children to point to the sad face.)* A friend of Jesus rolled a

**Materials:**

- Butcher paper (1/class)
- Painter's tape
- Markers

stone in front of where He was buried. *(Ask the children to point to the stone.)* On the third day, Jesus came back, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! *(Ask the children to point to the happy face.)*

Yay! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

## ACTIVITY 4: I Spy Jesus! (Application)

### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to search their pages to find Jesus hidden in the picture and to circle Jesus when they find Him.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* Friends, come find a spot at the table!

*During the Activity:* There are lots and lots of things on your paper! But, somewhere, hidden among all these pictures, is a picture of Jesus! Can you find Jesus? When you find Jesus, circle Him with the marker. *(Pause.)* Hooray! You found Jesus in the picture! Way to go, friends!

*After the Activity:* When Jesus' friends went to the tomb, the stone had been rolled away, and Jesus wasn't there. Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive. He came to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

### Materials:

- "I Spy Jesus!" Activity Page (1/child)
- Washable markers



**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**  
Easter • Matthew 26:26-28:10

## ACTIVITY 5: Closing Activity (Storybook)

**What You Do:**

Gather the children and read the story book together. You can stop after the part in the story they are learning this weekend, or you can read the entire book and tell them what is coming!

**What You Say:**

Okay friends, I have a really fun story book for us to read! It's about a true story from the Bible! Let's read it together. (Read the story book together.)

**Materials:**

- Monthly Storybook