BIBLE WORDS

"I am alive for ever and ever!" **REVELATION 1:18, NIV**

Easter
MATTHEW 26:20-50;
27:1-2; 28:1-7

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

STORY TIME:

Act It

CRAFT TIME:

• Easter Sun

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STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible; "Dinner" Activity Page copied on cardstock; and Little People® Jesus or man figure

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you! I need your help telling our Bible story today. Today's true story from the Bible (hold up the Bible) is about the story of Easter! We celebrate Easter because Jesus (walk Jesus figure around in front of you) is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! (Walk the Jesus figure around to each child and tap them as you say their name.) Jesus wants to be [child's name], and [child's name], and [child's name]'s friend forever. Hooray!

"One night, Jesus had dinner with His friends, the disciples. (Hold up picture of the disciples at dinner and walk the Jesus figure to it.) Jesus told them that He had to go away but promised He would come back. (Put the picture down and walk Jesus behind your back or in your lap.) Count with me. One (hold up one finger), two (hold up two fingers), three (hold up three fingers). Jesus went away and on the third day, He came back, just like He said He would. (Walk the Jesus figure back in front of you.) Hooray! Jesus is alive. On Easter, we celebrate because Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever!"

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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Easter Sun" Activity Page; cardstock; yellow dot markers; baby wipes; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Easter Sun" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to fill in the sun with the yellow marker. Clean hands as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "On your paper is the picture of where Jesus was when He went away. There is a great big sun behind it. Fill in the sun with the yellow markers to make it shine bright. (*Pause.*) Super-duper friends!

"In our story, Jesus told the disciples He had to go away. Count with me. One (hold up one finger), two (hold up two fingers), three (hold up three fingers) sad days went by and Jesus came back just like He said He would. Jesus is alive."