

BIBLE STORY

Above All
Crucified and Risen
John 18:12-20:23

MEMORY VERSE

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourself.
Philippians 2:3 (NirV)

LIFE APP

Humility
Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

KEY QUESTION

What does Easter mean to you?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Activity: Take a Snapshot

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Ten balloons, permanent markers, Bibles, timer

What You Do:

- 1) Instruct your kids to **blow up** 10 balloons and tie them, if they can.
- 2) **Write** one of the following 10 names on each balloon; enlist the kids' help as you do this.
 - Jewish leaders
 - Caiaphas
 - Judas
 - Peter
 - John
 - Soldiers
 - High Priest
 - Townspeople
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Jesus
- 3) **Talk** briefly about each person/people from the Bible story and what they must have felt, and then pick one person to draw on the balloon a face and facial expression that matches the feelings of the character.
 - One side of the balloon will have the name written and the other side will have a picture of a face.
- 4) **Open** the Bible to John 18-20 so kids can use it to reference the Bible story.
- 5) **Mention** that balloons are usually a part of a celebration and ask what we have to celebrate today.
 - **Encourage** kids that although the beginning of the story is sad and tragic, the end changed all of our lives forever. Jesus changes everything!
- 6) **Play** a balloon drop game:
 - Everyone stands in a circle holding a balloon.
 - Pick someone to go first and tell them to get in the middle of the circle.
 - On your count of three, everyone throws their balloon UP and into the center of the circle and the one in the middle has to see how long they can keep all 10 balloons up in the air and inside the circle.
 - Keep time on your smartphone or watch. Stop time as soon as one balloon hits the floor or goes outside the boundaries of the circle.
 - Then let someone else give it a try.
 - The person that can keep the balloons in the air the longest wins!

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Gospel Moment

Jesus put us first and turned the whole world upside down on Easter. Ever since sin came in the world with Adam and Eve, we have had a huge problem we couldn't fix on our own. God's love for us didn't stop even though we have broken all of His rules. He made a way for our sin to be forgiven. He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him. He sent Jesus. Today we celebrate God's gift of a Savior."

[Make It Personal] (Share your faith story with the kids. When did you first hear that Jesus died for you? How did you come to put your faith in Christ?)

Discussion Questions

- 1) How did Jesus put His enemies first?
- 2) How did Jesus put you first?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus put us first?
- 4) What does it look like to follow Jesus?
- 5) So, what does Easter mean to you? If you've heard the Easter story lots of times already, what's something that stuck out to you today in particular? Is there anything you heard that you hadn't really thought about yet?
- 6) And if you've never really heard the story, what's something you want to know more about?

Prayer

God, we can't even begin to thank You for how You put us first. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, who came to pay the price for the sins of all humanity. Thank You that You loved us so much that You made a way for us to have a relationship with You forever. You know where each of us is in our faith journey today. Please guide us as we continue to learn more about You and how Jesus put us first. Thank You for today and the freedom we have to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Savior.