



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

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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.**

The extended toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos.

The extended toddler curriculum is designed to be used IN ADDITION to the monthly toddler curriculum.

STORY TIME

- Show It
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CRAFT TIME

- Love Jesus

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STORY TIME

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible and "Story Pictures" Activity Pages copied on cardstock

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad you are here today. Come sit with me. Today's TRUE story from the Bible is about Easter and why we celebrate.

"One night, Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were having dinner together. (Hold up "Story Pictures 1" and then place it on the floor.) After they finished dinner, they went to the garden to pray. (Hold up "Story Pictures 2" and place it on the floor next to "Story Pictures 1.")

"While they were in the garden praying, some really mean men took Jesus away and hurt Him so badly that He died. The disciples buried Jesus' body in a tomb and rolled a big rock in front of the opening. (Hold up "Story Pictures 3" and place it next to the second picture.)

"But then something AMAZING happened! On day three—count with me: one, two three (hold up "Story Pictures 4")—something AMAZING happened! Jesus' friends went to the tomb and it was empty! Jesus wasn't inside! Where was Jesus? **Jesus is alive!** Yay! And that is why we celebrate Easter. (Lay "Story Pictures 4" on the floor next to the other pictures.) **Jesus is alive!** Happy Easter!"

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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: "Jesus" and "Heart" Activity Pages, cardstock, glue sticks, scissors, and a pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Jesus" Activity Page onto cardstock and cut out (*one Jesus per child*). Copy the "Heart" Activity Page onto cardstock and cut (*one per child*).

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Retell the story. Encourage children to glue Jesus onto the heart.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today we learned that Easter is the special day we celebrate that **Jesus is alive**. Yay!"

"On your paper is a picture of a heart. Hearts make me think of love and how Jesus loves you and me and wants to be our friend forever. Glue your picture of Jesus to the heart. (Pause.) Perfect!"

"Jesus was taken away and hurt by some angry men. He was hurt so bad that He died. Jesus' friends put His body in a tomb. It was very, very sad. But on day three, something amazing happened! Jesus' friends went to the tomb and it was empty! Where was Jesus? **Jesus is alive!** And that is why we celebrate Easter. **Jesus is alive!**"