



# Easter

## **GOD STORY**

Resurrection

*John 20:1-18*

## **KEY VERSE**

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us.

*Ephesians 5:2a (NIRV)*

## **LEADER TIPS**

Expect more visitors as well as families that do not attend church regularly. Be sure to introduce yourself. Take the time to make everyone feel welcome!

## **My Story**

### **1 | CONVERSATION STARTER** (7 minutes)

To lead into the lesson, chat about the students' favourite seasons as well as things that come alive at springtime.

### **2 | INTRO ACTIVITY** (5 minutes)

Hold an Easter egg hunt, then explain the symbolism of Easter eggs. Introduce the Big Idea.

## **God Story | Life Story**

### **3 | WEEKLY VIDEO** (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

## **My Story**

### **4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY** (12 minutes\*)

Read John 20:11-18 and focus on Mary's physical movements. Review the passage together and tie in what Jesus means to the students.

### **5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY** (10 minutes)

Review 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, then write truths about our new lives in Jesus.

## **Our Story**

### **6 | DISMISSAL** (2 minutes)

\*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



## My Story

### 1 | Conversation Starter

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### LEADER TIP

- Use this quick activity to welcome everyone, build community, and set the tone for your group.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
  - What's your favourite season?
  - What are some things that come alive in the springtime?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

## My Story

### 2 | Intro Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Plastic eggs containing candies
- Timer

#### BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Hide the eggs all around your group's space before the students arrive.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Challenge everyone to find as many eggs as they can in a very short time period that you set.
- When they're done, explain that there are a variety of symbols we see at Easter. Most of them focus on new life. Easter eggs are one of the most popular ones.
- Highlight that symbols like Easter eggs remind us that Easter is all about new life.
- Explain that Jesus was dead, but he didn't stay dead. **Jesus is alive**—and he gives us new life, too!



## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

#### SUPPLIES

- Video file

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Resurrection, John 20:1–18)
  - Life Story (We revisit Cody's story to see how **Jesus is alive** in his life and in his work with people in need.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
  - What stood out to you in the Life Story? How about the God Story?
  - How do these stories connect with the Big Idea (**Jesus is alive**)?
  - What's the Key Verse for this series? (The first part of Ephesians 5:2)

## My Story

### 4 | Application Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Bibles

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up John 20:11–18.
- Encourage them to pay attention to Mary's physical movements as you read the passage. Explain that looking at her response helps us understand what Jesus rising again means for us.
- Read aloud the verses, pausing to discuss the questions below and doing the postures together:
  - Verse 11: Which posture did Mary take as she looked in the tomb? (Bent over) How do you think Mary felt at this point? What would life be like for you without Jesus?
  - Verse 14: Which posture did Mary take here? (Turned) What might she have been thinking? Have you ever examined Jesus because you were unsure who he really is?
  - Verses 16–17a: Which posture did Mary take? (Held on) How do you think Mary might've felt? What would it mean for you to hold on to Jesus?
  - Verses 17b–18: Which posture did Mary take? (Going) Why do you think it wasn't enough for Mary to stay with Jesus? Why is it important that we listen to Jesus and "go"?
- Individually or in small groups, ask the students to choose which posture they most identify with: Bent over facing away? Examining but not recognizing? Holding onto Jesus? Going and sharing?
- Challenge the students to take the next step in their journeys with Jesus!
- Keep the Bibles handy for the next activity.



## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Plastic eggs
- Slips of paper
- Markers

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Highlight that sometimes it's difficult to understand how Jesus' resurrection makes a difference for us. Some of the first-ever Christians were confused, too. A pastor named Paul wrote them a letter explaining the difference Jesus made in their lives.
- Guide everyone to look up 2 Corinthians 4:7-10.
- Read the verses together.
- Discuss:
  - Which object does this passage say that Christians are like?
  - What's more important: the container or its contents?
  - How are the hardships of life different for people who have Jesus inside them?
- Give each student a plastic egg, a slip of paper, and a pen.
- Ask them to write a truth about new life with Jesus (e.g., I will not be crushed, I will not despair, etc.).
- Direct everyone to place their papers inside their eggs to take home as a reminder of what you talked about today.
- Explain that even when they feel as fragile as an egg, Jesus' life in them will help them keep on going!
- Pray together. Thank God that **Jesus is alive** and that this season is full of new life for us.

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

#### SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.