

grace  
**KIDS**

**NURSERY**



# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

*Sing the following to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down" as you rock or change the baby.*

**Jesus wants to be my friend, be my friend, be my friend.**

**Jesus wants to be my friend.**

**Jesus loves [child's name].**

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**WORDS FOR BABY**

*"Baby, Jesus loves you so much, and He wants to be your friend forever.  
Jesus is alive!"*





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**KIDS**

**April 19, 2020**

**Toddlers/Early Pre-K (Ages 1-3)**

**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.

### **Parent Tip:**

This month we are concentrating on the story of Easter and Jesus being ALIVE! Tell the story below with excitement and ask your child lots of questions. Keep the story pretty simple (see below) and be interactive. The more you ask them to do as you tell the story, the better you will hold their attention. This lesson asks you to draw, but you don't have to be a great artist. Just do the best you can. Stick figures and simple sketches are all you need to do. What You Need: Preschool Bible, paper, and markers. You will also need to print out the last page for the craft if you would like to do that piece as well. For that activity you will need a yellow crayon or a yellow dot marker.

### **Story Time**

Find a comfortable place on a rug or in a specific area of your house to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning! Do your best to engage them.

"Today's TRUE story from the Bible is about Easter and why we celebrate. Our story begins with Jesus and His friends, the disciples, having dinner together. (Draw a table and stick people sitting around.) After they finished dinner, they went to the garden to pray. (Draw trees, flowers, bushes, and stick figure men.) While they were in the garden, some really mean men took Jesus away. (Draw angry face stick people.) Those mean men hurt Jesus so bad that He died. It was very sad. (Draw a sad face with tears.) Jesus' friends took His body and buried it in a tomb. (Draw a semi-circle tomb with an opening, and add a stick figure man lying down.) They rolled a big rock in front of the opening. (Draw a big rock

over the opening and color it in.) One, two, three days (write the numbers as you say them) went by, and when the disciples went to the tomb, the rock had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty. (Draw the empty tomb and the rock to the side of it.) [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Jesus came back just like He said He would. (Draw a stick figure man with a happy face.) [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! And that is why we celebrate Him!"

**[Bottom Line]** "Jesus is alive! And that is why we celebrate. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is alive! Yay, Jesus!

## **Craft Time**

What You Need: "Happy" Activity Page, yellow dot markers (or a yellow crayon), wet wipes

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print the "Happy" Activity page.

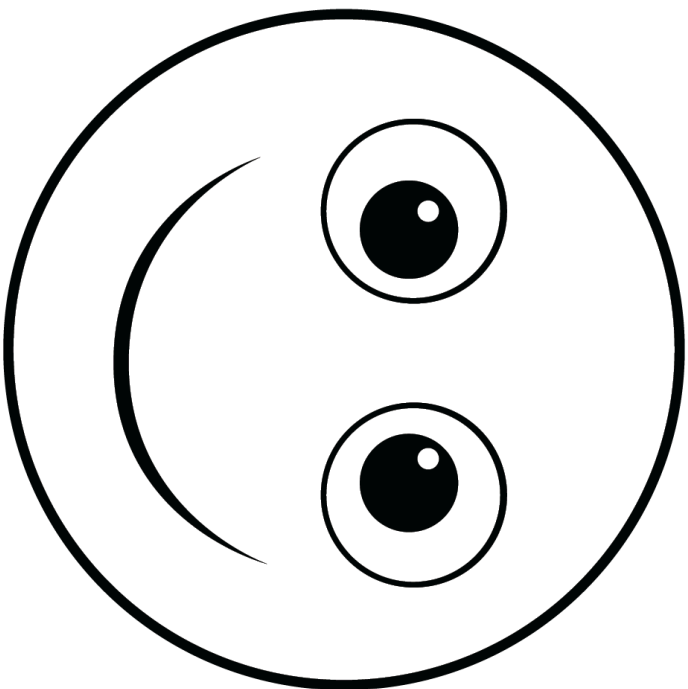
During the Activity: Retell the story. Encourage children to fill in the happy face with the yellow dot marker or the yellow crayon.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Today why we celebrate that Jesus is alive!

"What do you see on your paper? (Pause.) There's Jesus and a great big smiley face! Jesus wants to be your friend for ever and ever! Take your marker (or crayon) and fill in the happy face.(Pause.)

[Bottom Line] "Jesus is alive. Yay! [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! And that is why we celebrate Easter."



**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

grace  
**KIDS**

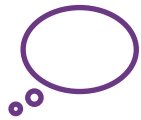
**PRE-K**



**WEEK THREE**

**JOHN 21:1-14**

Jesus made breakfast on the beach for the disciples after He came back.



**REMEMBER THIS:**

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



**SAY THIS:**

Who is alive?  
**JESUS IS ALIVE.**



**DO THIS:**



Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever. Please help us remember that Jesus is always with us and He loves us no matter what. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

**BASIC TRUTH:**

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.**

**FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT**

By Melissa Thorson

I've heard before that when feeling insecure in a new job you just have to "fake it till you make it." But I seem to have mixed luck with my attempts—especially in my role as a parent. Mostly, I just end up exhausted when I allow insincerity to take over.

The faking that comes with this role of being a parent can be entirely exhausting. I faked that many middle-of-the-night feedings weren't spent crying through lullabies rather than delighting in baby bonding. I faked that I wasn't sometimes envious when I'd see friends enjoying our "old life"—going out to dinner SPONTANEOUSLY or eating at restaurants without a bib, high chair, and pureed prunes in tow.

When our immobile blob baby became a tiny toddler tyrant, I got good at faking that I knew how to discipline and that I had grace under pressure. Inside, I was embarrassed, exhausted, and desperate for someone to give me the elusive how-to parenting book that everyone else seemed to have access to.

Our toddler is now a preschooler, and we've added two more to the mix, and there's more faking. I'm faking that the entire t-ball game is fun to watch and that I care about *Rescue Bots* and *Paw Patrol*. (For the record, I legit enjoy *Daniel Tiger*...my only parenting wins are because of his songs.)

I have found that faking it can sometimes be a good thing, especially when it comes to our attitudes, because we can actually become more confident, generous, and loving by faking it first. But what I'm experiencing as the biggest relief from the exhaustion of faking it is when I am vulnerable with other parents.

When we open up to others about what is really happening . . . We learn we are not alone—we are all fakers to some extent. We find encouragement from an outsider's perspective. We can learn ways to improve. Maybe they've found something that work better.

We can discover our own strengths and share what has worked for us.

Are you exhausted from faking it? Are you ready to be real? There is strength, encouragement and growth awaiting us when we can be vulnerable with each other. We don't have to walk this journey alone pretending we know what we're doing, because we all know that no parent really does. And that's precisely why we need each other.



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