

Easter Sunday

Preschool Schedule for Sunday, April 1st, 2012:
Jesus is Alive!, Matthew 28:1-10 and John 20:1-23

Supplies: Coloring Sheets, Storyboard/Craft Sheets, Ball

1. (45 minutes before service) **Prayer Huddle/Room Set-up**

Children will start arriving 15 minutes before the service.

Welcome / Free Play As the children come in, a helper should greet them and mark the alphanumeric code from their nametag on the class roll. Greet each child warmly as he or she comes into the classroom, and encourage him or her to “come and play.”



The Big Question Center (10-15 minutes) is designed to introduce and overview the week’s Bible story and provide a transition to Bible time. This learning center is designed to give an overview of the day’s lesson.

Big Question: Jesus died. Is he still dead?
Answer: No! Jesus is Alive!

Build up cardboard blocks like a tomb. Have one child lay inside and pretend to be dead. Count.... 1 day, 2 days, 3 days. Then, have the child burst up through the blocks alive.

Repeat this several times with the children:

Leader: *Christ is risen!* **Kids:** He is risen indeed!

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Worship Gathering (15-20 minutes). On a regular basis (varies by campus, the SojournKids music team will lead a prepared music service for preschoolers.



Story Circle (5-10 minutes)—Gather your class together for Story Circle. This is an interactive time. Read the “Triumphal Entry,” story #117 on page 235 of the *Gospel Story Bible*. Be sure to emphasize the main points:

- **God raised Jesus from the dead.**
- **Jesus has beaten death.**
- **Jesus is alive!**

Ask these review questions from the Bible storybook:

- What do you see going on in the picture?

- What happened to the soldiers who had been guarding the tomb?
- Why is Jesus resurrection so important?



Prayers and Response (10-15 minutes)—During the *Prayer and Response* time, children review a series of practical responses that usually includes coloring sheets and responsive prayers or action rhymes.

Coloring Sheet: Hand out the *He is Risen!* and *Easter* coloring sheets, and do the following review questions with the kids.

- Why were the women going to the tomb? *They were going to anoint Jesus' body.*
- What did the angel say to them? *He said, "Don't be afraid. He is not here. He is risen just as he said."*
- What is the most important event in the whole Bible? *Jesus death and resurrection.*

Let's Pray: Dear God, thank you providing Jesus for us as our Risen King. Thank you for sending him to die for our sins. Thank you for raising him from the dead so that we can have life.



Snack / Memory Work (15 minutes)—During the snack time, take time to pray with your class, and review the memory work from the *SojournKids at Home* sheet:

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

1 John 3:1 (ESV)

How did godly persons show their faith before Christ came? They offered sacrifices on God's altar. (Exodus 24:3-8; 1 Chronicles 29:20-25; Hebrews 9:19-23; 10:1; 11:18)

What did these sacrifices represent? Christ, the Lamb of God, who would die for sinners. (Exodus 12:46; John 19:36; Hebrews 9-10; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19)



Creative Centers (10-15 minutes)—At the *Creative Centers*, children engage in craft activities that fire their imaginations about how the day's lesson can be creatively applied.

Older Preschoolers (Pre-K & K) / Storyboard Craft Sheets: Older preschoolers can use the storyboard craft sheets to retell the story. Have the kids color the pictures, cut out the squares and paste them in order of the story.

Younger Toddlers (2s & 3s) / Let's Roll & Thank: Remind the children that when Jesus' followers went to the tomb on the third day, they found that the stone in front of the opening had been rolled away. The angels told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. Now show the children the **ball**. Roll it across the floor and tell them that when they roll it they can remember the stone that was rolled away. Have the children sit in a circle roll the ball to one child. Have her name something she wants to thank the Risen Savior for. Then, she rolls the ball to another child. Continue the activity until each child has had a turn to roll the ball and thank the Risen Savior.