

Mapped Out

Bible: Mapped Out (Easter Story) • *The Bible*

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive!

Memory Verse: “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” *Psalm 27:14, NIV*

Life App: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (4:30, 5:45) (7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

4:30, 9:00, & 11:30

Just For Fun

- Three inflated balloons (have additional balloons ready to inflate if needed)
- Cell phone with stopwatch

5:45, 7:45, & 10:15

Get Your Head in the Game

- Two pillows
- Two pillow cases
- Cell phone with stopwatch

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (4:45, 6:00) (8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (5:10, 6:25) (8:25, 9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

All Service Times

- Easter Response Cards (use those designated for your service time)
- Pens

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before your kids arrive, take some time to pray that they would come open to hear and understand the truth of the gospel displayed in the resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate today. Pray that they may be able to focus for just a couple of minutes on why we celebrate today..

4:30, 9:00, & 11:30

What You Need: Inflated balloons, stopwatch

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a wide circle.
- **Place** three balloons in the center of the circle.
- **Invite** the students to each take a turn keeping all three balloons in the air for 60 seconds.
- **Let** those with cell phones take turns setting the timer and giving the *Start* and *Stop* signals.
- **Explain** that it’s up to the person in the middle to keep the balloons in the air, but those around the circle can tap a balloon back in if it’s going out of that area.

Wrap Up and Say:

“You guys were able to put the balloons back in play and keep the game, or struggle, depending on how you look at it, going. Let’s go to Large Group to hear about how God ended our juggling of one particular thing.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

5:45, 7:45, & 10:15

Get Your Head in the Game

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Pillows, pillowcases, stopwatch

What You Do:

- **Select** two students and give each of them a pillow and pillowcase and have them place them on the floor in front of them.
- **Challenge** them to see who can be the first to stuff her entire pillow into their pillowcase then remove it and set it back on the floor.
- **Let** the winner choose another opponent and race again continuing until everyone has had a turn.
- For an added challenge, **ask** students to hold the pillows behind their backs as they stuff them into the pillowcases.

Wrap Up and Say:

“Let’s get ready to hear about something God emptied and never filled again.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Kid volunteers
- Story Cards (1-20)

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Happy Day”
- “Let It Be Known”
- “Oceans”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10-second countdown

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game (baseball opening day was March 29), movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. This, of course, is Easter. Host should make a big deal about welcoming any first-time visitors but not put them on the spot, as preteens don’t love that sort of thing. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.

Host transitions to Worship.

WORSHIP

SFX: “Happy Day”

SFX: “Let It Be Known”

SFX: “Oceans”

Power Praise team exits as Host reenters.

Opener

HOST: “This is one of my absolute FAVORITE days of the year, and not just because of the candy. I love Easter because it’s when we celebrate the best thing that has ever happened in the history of the WORLD. I’m talking about when Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus proved that He really is who He says He is: God’s one and only Son. Amazing! I think that’s worth celebrating, don’t you?” “Now, check this out. *(Point to the screen.)* We’re launching a massive road trip this month, starting with Easter. Let’s kick it off with an awesome road trip game!

SFX: “I’ve Been Everywhere” (starting at the chorus)

“Yes! I love it. Now imagine you’re going to visit your Aunt Cassie to have some Easter ham. Aunt Cassie lives pretty far away. She lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

CG: Map showing your city and Anchorage, Alaska

(Point to the map.) “Here we are in Richmond/Katy. Here’s Aunt Cassie in Anchorage, Alaska. How long do you think it would take to drive a car from here to Anchorage? I’m talking just drive time on the road—no stops or bathroom breaks.

“ALL of you get to guess. Here are your choices.

Turn the buckets around, one by one, revealing the signs.

“Do you think it would take less than a day, somewhere between one and two days, or MORE than two days?”

“Here’s how you’ll cast your vote: with Easter Peeps®! *(Hold up a Peep.)* Aren’t they so cute? Leaders, I’ll give you a second to pass them out to your kids.

Leaders open the packages and hand them out to their kids so each kid has one.

“Okay, let me see those Peeps. Hold them up high! Each of you should have one, right? When I say ‘Go,’ you’ll throw your Peep into one of these three containers.

“If you think it would take less than a day to drive to Anchorage, throw your Peep in here. *(Point to the ‘Less Than 1 Day’ trash can.)* If you think it would take one to two days, throw your Peep in here. *(Point to the ‘1-2 Days’ trash can.)* If you think it would take MORE than two days, throw your Peep in here. *(Point to the ‘More Than 2 Days’ trash can.)*

“Are you ready? GO!”

SFX: “I’ve Been Everywhere” (starting at the chorus)

As the Peeps are flying, comment on where the kids are throwing them.

“That was so fun! *(Looking at the Peeps in and around the different trash cans.)* Looks like the votes are in. But only ONE guess is the correct one. Let’s ask Siri to reveal the answer. I’ll need everyone to be super quiet so we can hear her, okay?”

Note: Either ask your phone on stage and hold up a handheld mic for Siri’s answer, or hook up a phone to your sound system and ask the question at the tech booth instead.

(Speaking into the phone) “Siri, how long would it take to drive from here to Anchorage, Alaska?”

SIRI: “Traffic to Anchorage is light, so I’m estimating 2 days, 20 hours, and 55 minutes via the Alaska Highway.”

HOST: “Wow! Two days, 20 hours, and 55 minutes of non-stop driving. (*Hold up the ‘More Than 2 Days’ trash can.*) If you guessed more than two days, you win! Your Peep has chosen correctly. Way to go!

“Now, if you see any Peeps on the floor around you, go ahead and toss them up here.”

“Now let’s move on. Please put your hands together for [Communicator’s Name].”

Host exits as Communicator enters.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Happy Easter! I’m so excited. And I’m so glad you’re here to celebrate together. And for those of you who are here for the very first time—welcome! We’re SO glad you made it! Now, when we say it is Easter, most of us know WHY we celebrate. We know that today is not about bunnies or eggs or even (*directed at Host*) Peeps! No, on Easter, we celebrate Jesus and the fact that He rose again from the dead!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “But have you ever wondered WHY? I mean, WHY did Jesus have to come back to life . . . and does it even matter?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, if you’ve been around The Base for a while, you know that each week, we take a look at A Bible TRUTH. But this week, we’re doing something crazy: to answer that question, why does it matter, not by just telling A Bible TRUTH . . . instead, we’re looking at the STORY of the BIBLE! Okay, so before you get too nervous, we’re not covering every single book or person, but the Bible carries one big theme, and I’d love for you to understand what that means. This might be insane . . . I’m up for the challenge but also will need some help!”

Communicator chooses volunteers to help him or her hold the cards that will be used to tell the Bible Truth.

“Here we go!”

“In the beginning, God made a magnificent world (*Card 1a*) filled with beautiful creation—land, sky, and sea . . . plants and trees . . . birds, fish, and land animals. Then God created man and woman and put them into His perfect world (*Card 1b*) to be in charge of and care for it all! That’s your first fill-in. God created man and woman and put them in charge of caring for it all!”

CG: Fill-in #1

“Everything was, well, perfect. God walked and talked with His precious creations. He set them free into his perfect world with one condition: don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (*Card 2a*). ALL OF THIS (*motioning around*) is yours, but this ONE TREE (*pointing to the card*) is not. Obey Me about the tree or you will certainly die.”

“Sadly, they were tempted (*Card 2b folded down*) to go against God’s instructions for them, and the perfect world was shattered (*Card 3a*) along with their relationship with each other, creation, and even their relationship with God.”

“And the sin that was introduced into the world spread from generation to generation. (*Card 3b folded down*) Selfishness. Violence. Pride. Hatred.”

“This was not God’s plan for his creation . . . or his people.”

“But God wasn’t done yet. Not at all. Many years after the sadness in the Garden, God chose a man named Abraham. (*Card 4a*) And God asked Abraham to leave EVERYTHING behind . . . but He made him an incredible promise in return. God said, ‘I’m going to make you into a great nation . . . a nation so big that your descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky! (*Card 4b folded down*). And I’m going to bless you and your family, and through you, I’m going to bless the whole world.’ (*Point to Card 1 – the world card*).”

“After lots of waiting, God’s promise to Abraham began to happen! Abraham had a son named Isaac who had a son named Jacob . . . whose name became Israel, yes, like the ‘nation of Israel.’ And Jacob, or Israel, had twelve sons, which later became the twelve tribes of Israel. And pretty soon that family with twelve sons grew to a large family and moved to Egypt because of a bad famine. Which means there wasn’t food available for everyone to eat. And during the few hundred years that this family lived in Egypt, they grew, well, as numerous as stars in the sky (*point to Card 4b*). But this made the king of Egypt scared, so he made the people his slaves. (*Card 5a*).”

“But God wasn’t done yet. Not at all. Instead, He sent a deliver named Moses to rescue his people—who we now call the Israelites—and bring them out of Egypt! (*Card 5b folded down*).”

“Once they left Egypt, Moses led them to Mount Sinai, where God would teach them what it means to be His people . . . his people that would bless the whole world . . . (*Point to Card 1*), just like God had promised to Abraham so long ago. (*Point to Card 4*).”

“After Mount Sinai, the next stop was supposed to be the Promised Land . . . (*Card 6a*), but the people refused to trust God (*Card 6b folded down*) and ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years. That’s your next fill-in. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, on their way to the Promised Land because they refused to trust God. It’s easy to criticize them for not trusting but I bet people would say the same thing about us if our entire life was laid out in front of them.”

CG: Fill-in #2

“The next generation got it right, though, and they trusted God and moved into the Promised Land. And I would like to say that once they were in the Promised Land, they lived happily ever after and worshipped God. (*Card 7a*) There were definitely times like this (*pointing to Card*). But sadly, there were just as many times, if not more times, like this (*Card 7b folded down*). The people replaced the

one true God with human kings . . . with foreign gods . . . even with their own wants and desires. And the world continued to break. (*Points to Card 3b*)”

“But guess what? God wasn’t done yet. Not at all. See, God still remembered all of His promises. And He still wanted to bless the whole world. And God knew the world couldn’t rescue itself . . . it was too broken. This time, God sent another star. (*Card 8a*) This star appeared in the sky and settled above a little town called Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. God had sent His very own Son into the world as a baby. And THIS baby was at the center of God’s rescue plan for the world. That’s your third fill-in.”

CG: Fill-in #3

“A baby was at the center of God’s rescue plan for the world.”

“As He, Jesus, grew, He taught the people how to love God and love one another. He spoke of peace, REAL peace. He healed the sick and befriended the outcasts. And throughout His life, He showed us what God is like. And through His death He showed us just how much God loved us. (*Card 8b folded down*) He showed us just how much God loves this broken world (*pointing to Card 3b*) and how He was willing to take all of the sin . . . all of the brokenness . . . and pay for it so that it could be healed . . . so WE could be healed.”

“But why would God do this? Why would God let Jesus die? Here’s why: (*Read from John 3:16a, NIV*) ‘God so LOVED the world that he gave his one and only Son...’ (*Emphasis ours.*) Jesus died for you and for me because of LOVE.”

“But here is where we need to stop. If Jesus is dead, doesn’t death win (*pointing to Card 8b*)? Doesn’t sin win (*Pointing to Card 3b*)? Doesn’t the enemy win (*pointing to Card 2b*)? And we have to wonder if all of that was for nothing.”

“But here’s where Easter comes in.”

“God wasn’t done yet. Another fill-in.”

CG: Fill-in #4

“It looked like the enemy won when Jesus died, but God wasn’t done yet.”

Not at all. Three days later, some of Jesus’ closest followers went to the tomb where He was buried. (*Card 9a*) They were there to say goodbye and to make sure His body was properly prepared for burial. But what they found changed everything . . . or maybe, I should say, what they DIDN’T find changed everything. (*Card 9b*) There was no body . . . there was no death . . . only life . . . NEW life, as Jesus had risen from the dead just like He promised he would!”

“And why does it matter? Because if Jesus rose from the dead, then death doesn’t win (*pointing to Card 8b*)! And sin doesn’t win (*Pointing to Card 3b*)! And the enemy doesn’t win (*pointing to Card 2b*)!”

“Through Jesus, God is taking this broken world (*Card 10a*) and is making it whole again (*Card 10b*)!”

“So . . . does it matter that Jesus rose again? Absolutely!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “And that’s the thing about Easter. It is not just a once-a-year celebration . . . just a date on a calendar. Easter is an event we can celebrate all of the time because this is a BIG DEAL! Jesus is alive, and because of that, we have hope for every single day!”

“Let me finish that verse I started reading before . . . *(Read from John 3:16, NIV) ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life!’* What an amazing promise, right?! Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is DEFINITELY a reason to celebrate!”

“Last fill-in”

CG: Fill-in #5

“Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God is making this broken world whole again.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to small groups, think about this:”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How do you celebrate Easter? For some of you, this might be the first time the amazing life of Jesus made sense to you. And if that’s you, you might celebrate Easter this year by trusting Jesus as your Savior for the first time! For the rest of you who have put your faith in Jesus, you can celebrate with a bigger idea of the hope and life we have because of Jesus! Think about it: how will *YOU* celebrate Easter, knowing that Jesus is alive? Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

Mapped Out

God created man and woman and put them **in charge** of caring for **it all!**

The Israelites wandered in the desert **for 40 years**, on their way to the Promised Land, because they **refused to trust** God.

A baby was at the center of **God's rescue plan** for the world.

It looked like **the enemy won** when Jesus died, but God **wasn't done yet**.

'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life!' John 3:16, NIV

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God is making this broken world **whole again**.

NEXT STEPS: God help me to...

...celebrate each day knowing that Jesus is Alive!

...remember that just like you never gave up on the Israelites, you will never give up on me.

...go to other believers, like my small group leaders with my questions about your Word.

...make choices that will honor the life of Jesus, the son you send to save me.

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Life App: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

All Service Times

Response and Prayer

What You Need: Easter Response Cards, Pencils

What You Do:

- Present the kids with a summary of the gospel message.
- Present the option for kids to pray to receive forgiveness and enter into God’s eternal family.
- Pass out Easter Response Cards that coordinate with your class and service time.
- Write the child’s **FULL Name** on the card and hand it to the child. Talk them through each choice on the card. Hand each child a pencil. Walk them through the choices again, as a group. Have them circle the option that fits them today. Place the completed cards back in the curriculum box.

What You Say:

“Today you learned the most important lesson you will ever learn—that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead to be our Savior. There is nothing that matters more than that! The amazing fact that Jesus died and then rose again was the most loving thing anyone has ever done. I mean, think about it, **Jesus is ALIVE!**”

“Adam and Eve brought sin into the world and that sin is still with us today. You sin, I sin, even your parents sin sometimes. But Jesus living, dying, and rising from the dead without ever sinning, was God’s solution to the sin problem. By the way, sin is anything that we say, think, or do that disobeys God.”

Raise your hand if you have sinned. *(Make a note of the kids that do not raise their hands. They will need more time and explanation, even if they “pray” a salvation prayer.)*

Raise your hand if you believe that Jesus is God’s son and died so that He could take the punishment for our sins. Remember, that punishment was to be separated from God, because He is holy and perfect and can’t be near sin.” *(Make note of the kids that do not raise their hands. They will need more time and explanation, even if they “pray” a salvation prayer.)*

If you believe that Jesus is God's son, and want to receive God's forgiveness for of your, and are ready to live your life with God as the one who leads it, I want you to pray a prayer with me. You will only every have to pray it one time. So, if you have already prayed a pray like this, you don't need to pray it again. If you still have questions about Jesus, sin, and forgiveness, then please do not pray this prayer. Instead, let's talk some more after this activity."

Again, if you understand that you have sin in your life that needs to be forgiven so that you can be with God for eternity when you die. If you Believe that Jesus is the son of God and was God's solution for our separation from God. If you want to follow Jesus for the rest of your life. Repeat after me."

"Dear father, thank you so much for sending your son, Jesus, to die on a cross for me. I want to ask him to forgive me of my sins. I ask you Jesus, to come into my heart right now. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and I promise to follow after you for the rest of my life. Thank you, Jesus. I love you. Amen."

"If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, guess what; you're a Christ follower now! That is so exciting! You don't ever have to pray that prayer again. From this point forward though, you need to be studying your bible and making decisions that resemble those of Christ. Ask yourself What would Jesus do? What does Jesus want me to do? Or even, what did Jesus do?"

"If you didn't pray that prayer because you still have questions, or you didn't feel ready, please, please talk to me, your parents, or any other grown up that believes, and we will answer as many of your questions as we can, or help you find the answers in the Bible.

"Now, we are going to fill out these cards together. First, I am going to write your name on the card so that everyone can read your name. (Hand each child their card) Now, we are going to read through this card together so that you know what you are going to circle when I give you your pencil.

- If today was the first time that you prayed the prayer to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, come into your heart, and be the boss of your life then you are going to circle the number One.
- If you already asked Jesus to be the boss of your life before today but you have not been baptized and you would like to do that, you are going to circle the number Two.
- If you already asked Jesus to be the boss of your life before today And you have been baptized then you are going to circle the number Three.
- If you are not ready to ask Jesus to be the boss of your life or if you have some questions about what that means, you will circle number Four.
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"Do you have any questions about the card? (Answer any questions that arise.) I am going to give you your pencil now and we are going to go through the numbers again and you will circle the one that talks about you. Good. Make sure that you hand the cards and the pencils back to me."