

WILD
BIBLE

JESUS
all about life



Two Easter Lessons for Preschool Children

Good Friday

and

Easter Sunday

Wild Bible Easter Lessons

Welcome to the Wild Bible Easter Lessons for Pre-schoolers. There are two lessons here for the Easter weekend. In this resource you will find suggestions for songs, games, crafts, prayer and Bible stories. There are also links to additional resources for the Wild Bible stories taken from the Gospel of Mark (CEV).

Use these activity descriptions as a menu to construct a productive, safe and special time for pre-schoolers to discover the good news about Jesus.

Good Friday Lesson for Pre-schoolers



BIBLE

Mark Chapter 15

GAMES

Balloon Bump

Prepare a number of balloons by inflating them (make sure there are plenty of balloons for the children to play with).

Challenge the children to keep the balloons in the air while the song is playing.

Play the song and release the balloons.

Stop the music and check by asking questions:

- *Is this easy or hard?*
- *Should we talk to each other more to help keep the balloons in the air? What should we say?*

If time, play the game again.

Stuck in the Mud

Play a game of **Stuck in the mud** with a slight modification – there is only one **rescuer**. One child or leader is the **tagger**. They must run around and try and tag others. When someone is tagged, they must stand still with their legs apart so the **rescuer** can crawl through their legs. The rescuer cannot be tagged. The game ends when everyone has been tagged. If time, play the game again.

Debrief questions:

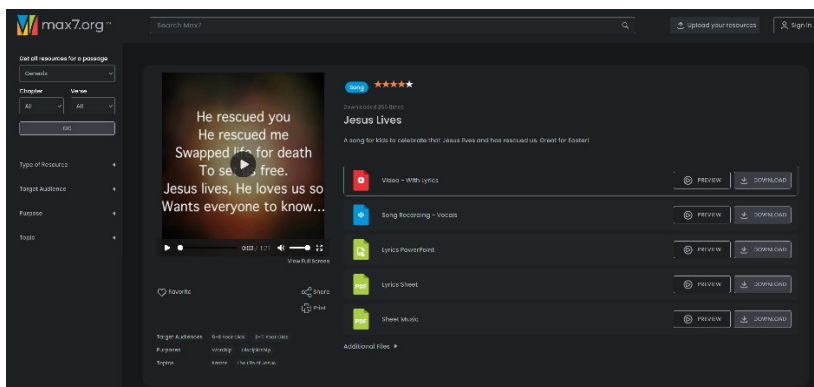
- *Did you like the game?*
- *How did you feel when you were waiting to be rescued from the mud?*

MUSIC

Choose 2-3 songs to sing and move to.

- **Jesus Lives** is a fun song for dancing and jumping around.

Download link: <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/jesuslives>



- **His Love is so Amazing** is a song exploring John 3:16.

Download link: <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/hisloveissoamazing>

STORY

Use your preferred children’s Storybook Bible or the story below.

Tell the sad story of Jesus’ death for us on Good Friday. Select and print the pictures from the Wild Bible Good Friday story

<http://www.max7.org/en/resource/wildbiblegoodfridayimages> to help you.



Story text from Mark’s Gospel - chapter 15 (CEV):

The chief priests and teachers of the law asked Jesus many questions. They sent Jesus to the Roman governor Pilate, who also asked Jesus many questions.

They all tried to trap Jesus – but He had done nothing wrong. It was a sad day.

Pilate wanted to free Jesus. “Kill him” the people shouted, “Nail him to a cross!” So Pilate gave the order for Jesus to be beaten and nailed to a cross. It was a very sad day.

The soldiers did what Pilate ordered. They took him to the hill called Golgotha and nailed him to a cross. It was an awful day.

People said terrible things about Jesus. His friends were sad and very upset. When Jesus died, it was a terribly sad day.

Jesus’ friends buried his body. They were very sad.

LEADER COMMENT

The day Jesus died was a very sad day. But we can thank God for Jesus because He died for us so that we could be friends with God forever.

Conversation questions for craft time:

- *What are you looking forward to about Easter?*
- *What’s the hardest/saddest thing for you about Easter this year?*
- *What can we thank Jesus for?*

CRAFT

Colour in and decorate your ChatMat to have at home (ChatMat is at the end of this document).

Run two other crafts the children enjoy:

- Dough modelling
- Decorate biscuits with sad/happy faces
- Play in a sand or water tray
- Building blocks

PRAYER TIME

- Invite the children to hold onto a circle of rope, yarn or string with both hands.
- Invite the children to share their prayer points: thanks, worries, needs.
- Ask if any children want to pray for those prayer needs.
- Pray together – thanking Jesus for his great love, dying on the cross for us.

Easter Sunday Lesson for Pre-schoolers

BIBLE

Mark Chapter 16:1–7 and Chapter 16:12–16 and 19–20

GAMES

Play one or two familiar and fun games. Repeat Balloon Bump if the children liked it on Friday.

Stuck in the Mud

Play a game of ***Stuck in the mud*** as you did on Good Friday. Then reset and play with a slight modification – when a child is rescued, **THEY** become a rescuer too. When the game starts, only one child or leader is the **tagger**. They must run around and try and tag others. When someone is tagged, they must stand still with their legs apart so the **rescuer** can crawl through their legs. The rescuer cannot be tagged. As soon as a player is rescued, they become an **untaggable rescuer**! The game ends when everyone is free except the **tagger**. Play again if there is time.

Debrief questions:

- *Did you like the game?*
- *How did you feel when you were waiting to be rescued from the mud?*
- *How does it feel to be an **untaggable rescuer**?*

MUSIC

Choose 2-3 songs to sing and move to.

- **Jesus Lives** is a fun song for dancing and jumping around.
Download link: <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/jesuslives>
- **His Love is so Amazing** is a song exploring John 3:16.
Download link: <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/hisloveissoamazing>

STORY

Use the Wild Bible video stories ... Mark 16:1-7 and 16-12, 19-20

<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/wild-mark-16-1to7>

<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/wild-mark-16-12to16and19-20>

Conversation questions for craft time:

- *Jesus is alive – did you know that was going to happen?*
- *What part of the story surprises you the most?*
- *What questions do you have for Jesus about this?*

CRAFT IDEAS

- **Make Empty Tomb chocolates!**
<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/2927f91a-e392-49fb-a1de-d39477bab1d8>
- **Decorate a banner** together that says **Jesus is alive!** Do hand-paint-prints, draw and colour together.
- **Decorate a Happy Face Mask** (paper plate) or puppet (paper bag) that says “Jesus is alive”. Pre-cut mouths for the faces before the lesson.

Enjoy a party to celebrate new life because of Jesus.

PRAYER

- Invite the children to choose a colour (you could provide small pieces of fabric or multi-coloured paper, or similar etc.).
- Invite the children to thank Jesus for something that makes them happy and throw their paper or fabric into the air.
- Finish the prayer by thanking Jesus for dying for our sins and rising to life again. Ask Jesus for help so we can all follow Him.

1 Retell the Easter story in ten words or less

2 What do you think is the most important thing about Easter?

3 Read Luke, chapter 23. People feel very differently about Jesus. Who do you think he is?

4 What have you learned from the last two years?

5 If you could ask Jesus to help you, what would you ask Him to do in your life?

6 Read about Jesus' trial and betrayal in Luke, chapter 22. What would you have done in this situation?

CHAT MATTERS

Roll two dice to select your question

10 What is your favourite Easter tradition?

10

8 Why do we celebrate Easter?

8

7 In Luke, chapter 24, there is a *miraculous* story. Jesus is alive!

7

If you had been there, how would you have felt about Jesus' resurrection?

12

Jesus said he came to **save** the people of the world because he **loves** us.

How has he shown his love?

11 Why is Jesus called "**the lamb**"? (John 1:29-34)

11

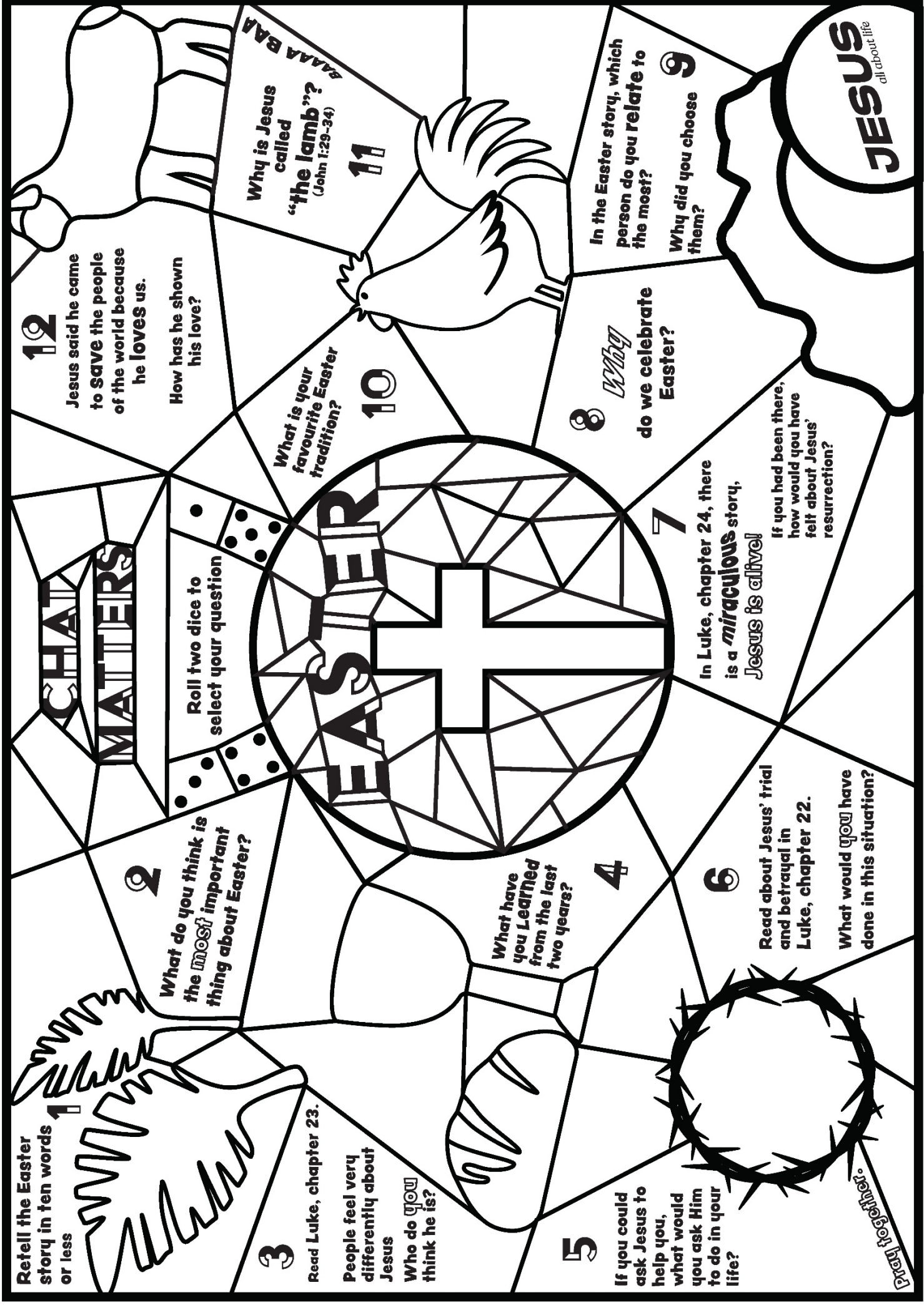
9 In the Easter story, which person do you relate to the most?

9

Why did you choose them?

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Pray Together



Activities

Sketches!

Draw a symbol of Easter, people have to guess what part of the story it is from.

Hiding game

1 person pretend to be an Easter Egg. Everyone else has to hunt for you and hide with you when they find you. Last person to find the Easter Egg becomes the next Egg!

Describe a movie or story where someone returns unexpectedly. What happens to their friends and family?

Make some festive Easter Bread*.
*recipes in Support docs.
(Greek and Russian recipes)

Tomb Guards (broken robots/sleeping lions)
Everyone lays really still on the floor.
The person who can be completely still for the longest, wins.

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BACK CHAT