

MAKE IT TRUE

After children have participated in Make It Fun, gather them on a rug or in the corner of the room.

Encourage the kids to have fun singing with you and then share the Bible Story.

Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

FIRST LOOK OFFERS A WEEKLY BIBLE STORY ON OUR DVD TITLED "WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY," WHICH YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE RATHER THAN A LIVE STORYTELLER THIS WEEK. THIS DVD IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT WWW.ORANGESTORE.ORG



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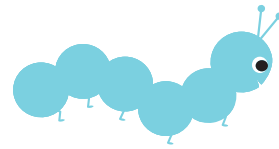
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MAKE IT TRUE

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

“Come, and follow me,” Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to be my friend forever.
Easter •
Matthew 26:20-30,
27:1-2, 28:1-2**

WHAT YOU NEED: CD player, this month’s worship song, “My Friend Forever,” downloaded from the Web site, and the motions for the song.

LEADER: “Hello friends! It’s time to sing and dance together. And hear a story about how much Jesus loves each and everyone of us. Tell me. It’s the best day ever because it’s Easter! Today we celebrate how much Jesus loves us! He loves us, and He wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** Yes, He’s the best! He wants to be our friend forever. Let’s sing about that!”

Lead children in singing “My Friend Forever.”

LEADER: “Way to go! You are all such amazing singers. Now, remind me. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** That’s right, friends. You better believe it!”

BIBLE STORY

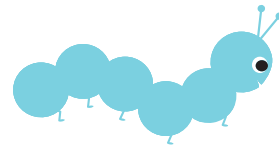
WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, Popsicle stick with sad face glued to one side and happy face on the other

LEADER: *(Lay Bible down in front of you.)* “Come here, everyone, and sit with me! It’s story time! Yay for story time! Our story comes from this very special book—the Bible! *(Hold up Bible, give it a big hug, and lay it down.)*

“We love the Bible because it has God’s stories in it. And God’s stories are always TRUE! *(Thumbs up.)*

“I want to tell you why TODAY is such an amazing day. No really, it is AMAZING! Are you ready to read the greatest book ever and find out more about why today is amazing? *(Pause.)* Great! Now I’m going to warn you, this true story from the Bible has some sad parts. Can I see your sad face? *(Pause. Make sad face.)* Oh, yes. You guys are good at those sad faces. Again, today’s story has some very sad parts. But I want you to remember the story ends with a really happy ending, so can I see your happy faces? *(Pause. Make happy face.)* Good. Oh, I like the happy faces better than the sad faces. How about you guys? *(Pause.)* Well, in today’s story, whenever there is something sad, and I need your help showing your sad faces, I will hold up this sad face. *(Hold up sad face.)* That means you’d give me your sad face because the story is sad at that part. Now, I bet you guys can guess what I’ll hold up when it’s a happy part. *(Pause and hold up happy face.)* Yep, it’s a happy face!

“Our story begins with Jesus and His friends eating a special supper together. Who loves dinner? *(Pause. Raise your hand.)* Me too! Jesus and His friends were eating a



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meal together and then Jesus stood up and said one day soon He was going away. That made them so (*hold up sad face*) sad. Oh, good job. The disciples were going to miss their friend (*hold up sad face*), but Jesus promised that He was coming back. Make a happy face! (*Hold up happy face.*) Oh, those are great happy faces! Good job. That night, Jesus and His friends went to a garden to pray. Suddenly some mean men (*hold up sad face*) came to where they were and took Jesus away. Oh no! Where were they taking him? (*Pause.*) Sad face! (*Hold up sad face.*) Those mean men hurt Jesus so much that He died. Oh, no! Make a really, really sad face. (*Hold up sad face very high.*)

“Jesus’ friends put His body in a tomb and closed it with a big rock. It was kind of like a cave. Can you guys show me your muscles? (*Pause. Demonstrate.*) Oh my, you all have some amazing muscles. BUUUUUT that rock they put in front of the tomb was VERY hard to move. It was so heavy that nobody could move it by themselves—not even your awesome muscles could move it! Okay, hands back in your lap and eyes up here.

“Three days went by. (*Hold up three fingers.*) Did you hear that? Three days! Can you count with me? (*Slowly count to three.*) Then Jesus’ friend Mary went to the tomb. When she got there, she saw that the big rock was moved and that Jesus was gone! Oh, no! Where did He go? (*Pause.*) Sad face! (*Hold up sad face.*) Mary began to cry, but then an angel appeared and told her: ‘Jesus is alive!’

“You guys, He’s alive!?! (*Pause.*) Happy face! (*Hold up happy face.*) He came back just like He said He would. Jesus kept His promise! Can you believe it? (*Pause.*) Jesus is alive! He kept His promise, He came back just like He said He would, He loves us more than we will ever understand, and He wants to be our friend forever. There’s no other friend like Him. Jesus wants to be our friend forever and He wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**

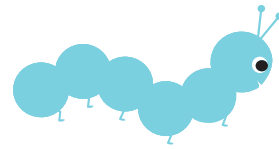
“You guys try it with me. I’ll ask, **‘Who can you follow?’** And you guys say, **‘I can follow Jesus!’** Ready?! (*Pause.*) **Who can you follow?’**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “I can follow Jesus!”

LEADER: “Great job! But I think you guys could say it a tad louder. Ready? (*Pause.*) **Who can you follow?’**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “I can follow Jesus!”

LEADER: “Excellent! It’s true, friends! Let’s pray.



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“Dear God, thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Help us to remember that we can follow Jesus. We love You, God! Amen.

“Great listening today, friends!”