



**APRIL THEME**

**GOOOOOAL!**

**BIBLE STORY**

John 18:12—20:23

Spark Story Bible |

The Day Jesus Died pg. 476-481

The Empty Tomb pg. 482-487

The Comeback | Jesus is Crucified,  
Buried and Resurrected

The Day Jesus Died + The Empty Tomb

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can put others first because Jesus  
put me first

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Don’t do anything only to get ahead.

Don’t do it because you are proud.

Instead, be humble. Value others  
more than yourselves.”

Philippians 2:3, NIV

**LIFE APP**

**Humility** | Putting others first by  
giving up what you think you deserve

**BASIC TRUTH**

I should treat others the way I want to  
be treated, and with God’s help...  
I can!

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **HUMILITY** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

**This WEEK:** We’re excited to celebrate Easter as we spend time in **John 18:12–20:23**. We’ll start with Jesus’ trial and end with celebrating the resurrection. The religious leaders are up in arms because Jesus has claimed to be God. Doesn’t matter that it’s TRUE; they’re still ready to dish out the ultimate punishment. And Jesus chose to give up everything and take that punishment, so that no one else has to.

**Bottom Line:** I can put others first because Jesus put me first. It cost Jesus everything to put us first. He gave up his life, so we could be with God forever. As we respond to God and his gift of salvation, we can follow Jesus’ example and put others first.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

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

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Take a moment to thank Jesus for the immense sacrifice he made for us on the cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you and your few a Christ-like humility and the strength to put others first continuously. Pray that kids would be encouraged to be like Jesus and put others first because Jesus put us first... first!

●● **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids about a time they got hurt:
  - What happened?
  - Who helped you?
  - Did you have to get a BAND-AID? A cast?

●● **STICK THE BAND-AID ON THE BOY**

**What You Need:** “Stick the BAND-AID on the Boy” activity page, BAND-AIDs, tape

**What You Do:**

- Tape the activity page to the center of your small group table.
- Give each kid a BAND-AID and help them remove the wrapper and tabs and throw them away.
- One at a time, have each kid close his eyes and spin him in a circle three times.
- Once you have spun the kid around, point him in the direction of the table and let him



try to put his BAND-AID on the skinned knees of the boy in the picture.

**What You Say:** “You guys did a great job of making this little boy feel better. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group Worship/WoW Family Worship, we are going to hear/we heard about someone who had to do something that he knew would hurt, but he did it anyway because he loved us so much.”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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

### ●● ONE DAY ON THE HILL OF CALVARY *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** “One Day on the Hill of Calvary” activity pages, glue sticks, scissors, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid an activity page.
- Help kids cut out the various scenes from the story, making sure to not cut out the strip of numbered boxes. *(Cut out a set of pictures for yourself to use for the story review.)*
- Give kids a few minutes to color the pictures after they’ve been cut out.
- Hold up the first scene (crown of thorns) and read the caption to the kids. Ask kids to find the first scene in their own pile of pictures and place it over the box numbered one in their strip of boxes.
- Then ask if they can find the second scene *(Jesus on the cross)*. Instruct kids to all find the second scene and place it over the correct box.
- Continue with the rest of the pictures.
- Then help kids glue the scenes onto the strip of boxes in the correct order.
- KEY:
  1. Pilate had a crown of thorns placed on Jesus’ head.
  2. Jesus was hung on a cross and died.
  3. Jesus was placed in a tomb with a stone in front of it.
  4. Mary found the stone rolled away.
  5. Jesus appeared to the disciples.

**What You Say:** “The story we heard today is the most important story in the Bible. It’s the reason we are here at church today. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he made it possible for us to go to heaven to live with him forever. When he died on the cross for us, Jesus showed us that **[Bottom Line]** I can put others first because Jesus put me first. Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and showing everyone that he is stronger than anything—even death. **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about an Easter tradition you have that helps you remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us.)* We should be thankful to Jesus because he went through so much for us.”

### ●● FLIP IT OVER *(application activity)*

**What You Need:** “Flip It Over Scenarios” activity page, crayons, paper plates *(2 for each kid)*

**What You Do:**



- Give each kid a crayon and two paper plates.
- Help kids draw a smiley face on one plate and a frowny face on the other.
- Collect all the plates and mix them up. (*Tell kids you're going to do this; some might be attached to their drawing!*)
- Put the plates face down on the table.
- Tell kids they will each take a turn selecting two plates.
- If they get two smiley faces, read a scenario from the Activity Page that is showing putting others first (*numbers 1-6*).
- If they get two frowny faces, read a scenario from the Activity Page that's not showing putting others first (*numbers 7-12*).
- If they do not get a match, their turn is over and the next kid takes a turn.

**What You Say:** "Jesus put us first when he went to the cross and died for our sins. He didn't have to die for us, but he chose to. **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell kids about how it makes you feel that Jesus put us first on the cross.*) When people choose to put us first, it makes us feel like they care about us and value us. Someone might even have a big smile on their face like the smiles on these paper plates when you put them first. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of showing love to others by putting them first. This week, remember that **[Bottom Line]** **I can put others first because Jesus put me first.** There are lots of things we can do in our everyday lives at school and at home that show others that we want to put them first—like sharing with friends or letting others go ahead of us in line. This week, try to remember to put others first every day."

•• **VERSE MOVEMENTS** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Review the memory verse (*Philippians 2:3; found on page 1 of this leader guide*) together as a group.
- Pair kids up. If you have an odd number of kids, pair yourself up with a kid. If the group number is even, use a pair of kids as your "puppets" while you teach the group the motions/movements for the verse.
  - "Don't do anything only to get ahead." (*Cross arms horizontally across your body and then draw them apart, like the "safe" motion in baseball.*)
  - "Don't do it because you are proud." (*Do the "safe" motion again and then stand tall with your chest puffed out.*)
  - "Instead, be humble." (*Bow your head slightly and wave your arm once across the front of your body in a "you go first" type of motion.*)
  - "Value others more than yourselves." (*Move yourself behind your partner.*)
- For the last motion, you can say this phrase twice, giving kids a chance to be in each position.
- As a group, say the verse a few times while doing the motions.

**What You Say:** "Those actions are a great way to remember the verse this week! You can even teach the verse to your mom, dad, aunt, uncle, or brother and sister, and use them as your motions partner! They are also a good reminder to us that it's our actions that matter, not just what we say with our mouths. We need to actually do what this verse is telling us to do—be humble and value others more than ourselves. Jesus came to earth to be an example to us of how to live a perfect life. That means that even though he was the most important person who ever lived, he was also the most humble. He put others first in everything he did, including dying on a cross. He showed us that **[Bottom Line]** **I can put others first because Jesus put me first.** Remember this week to make sure that your actions show others that you want to put them first."

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**PRAY AND SEND**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

