

## QUICK GUIDE: SESSION 22 - LET'S ENJOY NEW LIFE

### Calendar Event: Spring (March 20th - June 21st) & Easter (Late March or April)

**Goals:** Find out about Jesus's new life and the new life we can have. Explore new life in the season of spring, and the traditions associated with spring and Easter.

#### BIBLE STORY: JOHN 19-20

1. Recap the story so far – God created us to be His friend. He even sent Jesus to Earth to help everyone. Last session, Jesus put others first by washing His friends' feet!
2. For today's story, whenever you hear the words **'NEW LIFE'**, spring to life by jumping up!
3. Jesus had done lots of great things so far, like turning water into wine, calming a storm, making people better and loving everyone.
4. Jesus was perfect, but some people didn't like Him. They put Jesus on a cross, which was very painful, and He became very still.
5. The good news is Daddy God saved Jesus, and gave Him a **'NEW LIFE'**!
6. But how did Jesus have a **'NEW LIFE'**?
7. Jesus's body was taken to a tomb with 2 soldiers guarding it, along with a big stone.
8. An angel came down and rolled the stone away!
9. Guess what? The tomb was empty, Jesus wasn't there! His old body had gone, and Daddy God had given Him a brand **'NEW LIFE'**.
10. Remember Daddy God created us to be friends. The only way to be friends with Daddy God was for Jesus to go on the cross, to show how much He loves everyone.
11. It was part of Daddy God's plan! He gave Jesus a **'NEW LIFE'**, making a way back to Daddy God for every single person!
12. Everyone can have a **'NEW LIFE'** with God!

#### CRAFT:

#### GRAND GARDEN DESIGNS



**You will need:** Trays/plant pot saucers, plant pots, palm crosses/lollipop sticks, white cloth, Blu Tack/double-sided tape, decorative props, e.g., rocks, soil, flowers, twigs, moss/wheatgrass seeds/green shredded paper, leaves/branches.

1. Children become gardeners, creating their own Easter garden.
2. Stick a plant pot onto a tray side-on (representing the tomb).
3. Let children use props to experiment with and decorate.
4. Use a palm cross/lollipop sticks to make a cross for the garden.
5. Put a white cloth inside the pot and a rock at the front.
6. Chat about spring gardens, and the Easter story represented.
7. We'll find out more about **new life** in our Bible Buds story later.

#### PLAY: EGG ROLLS



**You will need:** Plastic eggs, plastic bottles/containers, paper boulder shapes, sticky tape.

1. Children can play the traditional Easter game of rolling eggs.
2. Encourage children to see how far they can roll their egg.
3. You could link this to the Easter story by making rocks out of plastic bottles, for children to knock over by rolling their eggs!
4. Rocks were rolled away to reveal a surprise, in the Bible Buds story later!



*Daddy God, thank you for the fun today. Thank you for friends, mummies, daddies and carers. Thank you for spring, Easter and the new life we have because of Jesus. Amen!*



## Conversation starters for the grown-ups!

- » **Testimony:** Share a testimony of the **new life** you have with God.

What difference has God made to your **new life**?

- » **Question:** What is your favourite part of spring and why?
- » **Chat:** Talk about how it feels to have given birth to **new life** or to have held **new life** for the first time. What do you find special about your babies? Chat about how awesome God is for creating **new life** through humans!
- » **Activity:** Share any Easter traditions, e.g., egg tapping (similar to conkers and taken seriously in the American state of Louisiana!) Why not have a friendly egg tapping competition together?!



Have fun planting some spring plants in your garden or inside. Enjoy looking at the colours and smells, or getting your hands dirty if planting bulbs! Chat about the signs of **new life** we see in spring.

Go on a trip to a hill for some egg rolling fun! First, you need to hard boil the eggs and then decorate them. Lastly, find a hill and let the rolling begin!

Check out any Easter activities going on at your local Church. The **new life** Jesus offers is worth exploring!

## Mission Opportunities

Enjoy a spring stroll, or a farm trip with non-Christian friends from toddler group. Enjoy **new life**, e.g., blossom, buds, daffodils, lambs, chicks, bunnies, etc. Chat about how this **new life** helps you to remember the **new life** Jesus gave you.

Invite a family over for an afternoon Easter tea party, with Simnel cake, hot cross buns and an Easter egg hunt! Chat about why we eat Easter eggs and hot cross buns, and how they point to the cross and **new life**.

Easter is such a great opportunity to share God's love and invite others into friendship with Him. Why not invite a family along to church on Easter Day? Be bold and go for it!