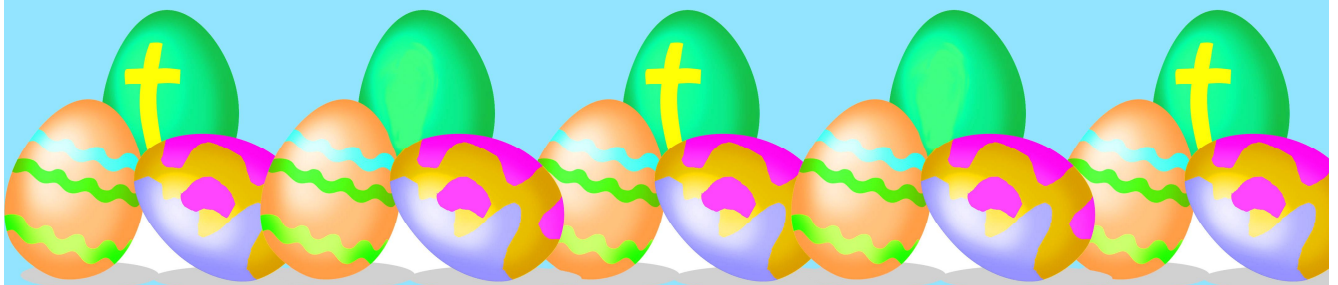


Building Blocks
Children's Activity Packet
Easter 2011



*This packet includes ideas intended to be used and adapted to encourage the real reason we celebrate Easter! Please note that the ideas, activities, books, etc. in this packet are to help foster the different learning styles of each child, and with that said please don't let the quantity overwhelm you, but rather choose one to two that would work well for you and your child and have fun teaching him/her the true meaning of Easter!

What is Easter?

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. As part of the Easter season, the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, always the Friday just before Easter. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Where to find the "Easter" Story in the Bible:

The biblical account of Jesus' death on the cross, or crucifixion, his burial, and his resurrection, or raising from the dead, can be found in the following passages of Scripture:

Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

However, please note that Jesus' foreshadowing of His death, burial, and resurrection occurred several chapters before each of the above references.

Easter Books:

What is Easter? by Michelle Medlock Adams

Tell Me About Easter, Board book from the Baby Blessings Series

The First Easter by Juliet David

Read and Share: The Story of Easter by Gwen Ellis/Thomas Nelson

The Parable of the Lily, 10th Anniversary Edition: The Parable Series #2 by Liz Curtis Higgs/Tommy Nelson

Related verses to the Easter story:

You could incorporate this into your breakfast, naptime, or bedtime routine...whichever works best for your family. Discuss or put them to tunes of "Row, Row, Row your Boat", or "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", "The Wheels on the Bus", or any other nursery rhyme and memorize.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

Matthew 28:6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. (NIV)

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (NIV)

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (NIV)

Romans 1:4-5 And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. (NLT)

Romans 6:8-11 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Philippians 3:10-12 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (NIV)

Songs:

Jesus Died For You and Me (Tune: 'London Bridge')
By A. Hubbard

Jesus died for you and me.
You and me. You and me.
 Jesus died for you and me.
He loves you and me!

Jesus rose up from the grave.
From the grave. From the grave.
Jesus rose up from the grave.
He loves you and me!

Jesus Died For All the Children (Tune: 'Jesus Loves the Little Children')
from: everythingpreschool.com

Jesus died for all the children.
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Jesus Saved Me (Tune: 'Jesus Loves Me')
By M. Hubbard

Jesus saved me, this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Nailed to the cross for my own sins,
died, and buried, and raised again!
Yes, Jesus saved me!
Yes, Jesus saved me.
Yes, Jesus saved me.

He saved me from my sins.

Activities/Food Ideas:

Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients:

- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Rolls□
- 8 large marshmallows□
- Melted butter□
- Cinnamon and Sugar mixed together
- Bible

Directions:

1. Give each child one rectangle section of dough. This will represent the cloth wrapped around Jesus' body
2. Give each child one large marshmallow. This represents Christ's body.
3. Let each child roll his/her marshmallow in the melted butter. Then, dip the marshmallow into the cinnamon sugar mixture. This represents the oils and spices that prepared Christ's body for burial.
4. Have each child place the marshmallow on their section of dough and carefully wrap it.□ Make sure all edges are pinched tight!
5. Place the rolls in the oven. Tape the door shut and place a guard - stuffed animal or child. The oven represents the tomb.
6. Bake the rolls, following the directions on the package.
7. Open the tomb/oven. Only the cloths remain! Christ's body is no longer there!

***Read accompanying passages from Scripture, such as John 19: 38-42 and John 20.*

Easter Story Cookies

(Make these the night before Easter Sunday. □They do not taste the best, but the lesson is memorable!)

Ingredients/Materials needed:

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- pinch of salt

- 1 cup sugar
- ziplock baggie
- wooden spoon
- tape
- Bible

Directions (for Easter Story Cookies):

* Preheat the oven to 300 (this is important-don't wait until you're half-done with the recipe)

1. Place the pecans in the ziplock baggie and let the kids beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into pieces.

(Read John 19:1-3 and Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers.)

2. Put the vinegar into a mixing bowl. Let each child smell the vinegar.

(Read John 19:28-30 and Explain that when Jesus was on the cross and He became thirsty, He was offered vinegar to drink.)

3. Add the egg whites to the vinegar. The eggs represent life.

(Read John 10:10-11 and Explain that Jesus gave His life so that we could have life.)

4. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand and let them taste it. Put the rest into the bowl.

(Read Luke 23:27 and Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin.)

5. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar.

(Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16 and Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know, belong, and follow Him.)

6. Beat the egg whites (along with the other ingredients) with a mixer on high speed, until stiff peaks form.

(Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3 and Explain that the color white represents the

purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.)

7. Fold in the broken nuts. Then drop by teaspoons onto a cookie sheet.

(Read Matt. 27:57-60 and Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus body was laid to rest.)

8. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

9. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the door.

(Read Matt. 27:65-66 and Explain that Jesus tomb was sealed.)

10. Go to bed.

(Read John 16:20-22 and Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight and that Jesus followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.)

11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite...the cookies are hollow!

(Read Matthew 28:1-9 and Explain that on the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find His tomb empty. He is Risen!)

Resurrection Eggs

Materials Needed:

- 12 plastic Easter eggs
- egg carton
- 12 strips of paper
- pen/markers
- specified items (see below)
- Bible

Directions:

Purchase 12 plastic Easter eggs, the kind that you can open and fill. I would recommend the size that can fit in a Styrofoam or cardboard egg carton (this makes for easy storage so that you can use these many times without losing any of the bits and pieces). On the outside of each egg,

write a number (1-12) and fill each egg with the corresponding message, scripture passage, and item. (SEE Handouts)

***helpful tip: write the “message” on the front of the strip of paper and the corresponding “scripture passage” on the back of that same strip of paper.**

Open one egg each day, starting 12 days before Easter. Read the message aloud to the family, look up the scripture passage in the Bible, and reveal/discuss the item included in the egg. Pray together, thanking the Lord for that particular aspect of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Egg #1:

Message -- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches.

Passage -- Matthew 21:1-11

Item -- piece of palm branch or anything that resembles a small palm branch leaf

Egg #2:

Message -- Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet.

Passage -- John 12:2-8

Item -- small perfume sample, cloth with perfume, or a piece of cotton with cologne on it

Egg #3:

Message -- Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples.

Passage -- Matthew 26:17-19

Item – a piece of Chex cereal; or take clay and make a small bread-like shape

Egg #4:

Message -- Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Passage -- Matthew 27:3

Item -- 3 dimes or plastic “silver” money

Egg #5:

Message -- Jesus carried His own cross.

Passage -- John 19:17

Item – small plastic cross or use toothpicks/popsicle sticks cut and glued in a cross form

Egg #6:

Message -- Soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head.

Passage -- John 19:2

Item -- small thorny branch or a large thorn all by itself

Egg #7:

Message -- Soldiers parted Jesus' garments and cast lots for His coat.

Passage -- John 19:23

Item -- swatch of burlap and a nail (or miniature dice)

Egg #8:

Message -- Jesus was nailed to a cross and pierced in His side.

Passage -- John 19:18,37 & John 20:25-29

Item -- a nail

Egg #9:

Message -- They gave Jesus vinegar mixed with gall on a sponge to drink.

Passage -- Matthew 27:34

Item -- a small sponge

Egg #10:

Message -- Spices to prepare Jesus for burial.

Passage -- John 19:40

Item -- 7 or 8 whole cloves, or other whole spices

Egg #11:

Message -- The stone covering Jesus' tomb was rolled away.

Passage -- John 20:1

Item -- a small rock

Egg #12:

Message -- The napkin around Jesus' head was lying separately from His linen cloths. He was not there. He has risen!

Passage -- John 20:6-7

Item -- a scrap of linen-type fabric

Note: These can be done slightly different, using slightly different items. If you have to substitute and use different items, that's OK. The point is to get the story across from the point that Jesus rides into Jerusalem riding on a donkey (now celebrated as Palm Sunday) to when it is discovered that He is no longer in his tomb but has Risen (Easter Sunday, also known as Resurrection Day).

