

Lesson: Easter

Lesson

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Can you tell me why we celebrate Easter?

Say:

- Easter is a time that Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

Read: Mark 16:1-7 (NIV) “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ‘Don’t be alarmed,’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Say:

- Jesus lived a perfect life without sin.
- When Jesus was put on the cross, he was punished for our sins.
- When he rose on the third day, he defeated death.
- Jesus, being willing to take the punishment for our sins, allows us to be righteous if we believe in Jesus, ask Him to come into our hearts, and ask for forgiveness of our sins.
- This is why Easter is such a big deal.
- He took our place for the punishment of sin.
- All Christians celebrate Easter because of what Jesus did for all of us.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What are some ways you celebrate Easter?
- Have you ever participated in an Easter egg hunt?
- Were the eggs decorated with different colors?
- Do you know why people color eggs as part of an Easter celebration?

Say:

- Some people say the egg is a symbol of new life, since baby birds can hatch out of eggs.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Do you think coloring eggs is a good way of making you think about the new life Jesus gives you if you ask Him to come into your heart?

Say:

- Some people believe the eggs are a symbol of the stone that was rolled away from the tomb that Jesus’ body was in.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Do you think eggs are shaped like a stone?
- Do you think they are a good reminder of the stone that was rolled away from the empty tomb that Jesus’ body was in?

Say:

- It has been said that long ago people colored the eggs red as a symbol of Jesus’ blood that was shed.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Do you think coloring all of the eggs red is a good way to symbolize Jesus death?
- What are some other symbols we might use to help us think about what Easter means?

Say:

- Regardless of why we use eggs or any other symbols at Easter, we all know the real reason for our celebration is Jesus dying for our sins on the cross and rising on Easter.

Final Thought: Jesus gave us the opportunity to accept His wonderful gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins. It is the best gift anyone could have ever given us. When you are celebrating with your family, remember to pray and tell Jesus thank you this Easter.

Activities: Easter

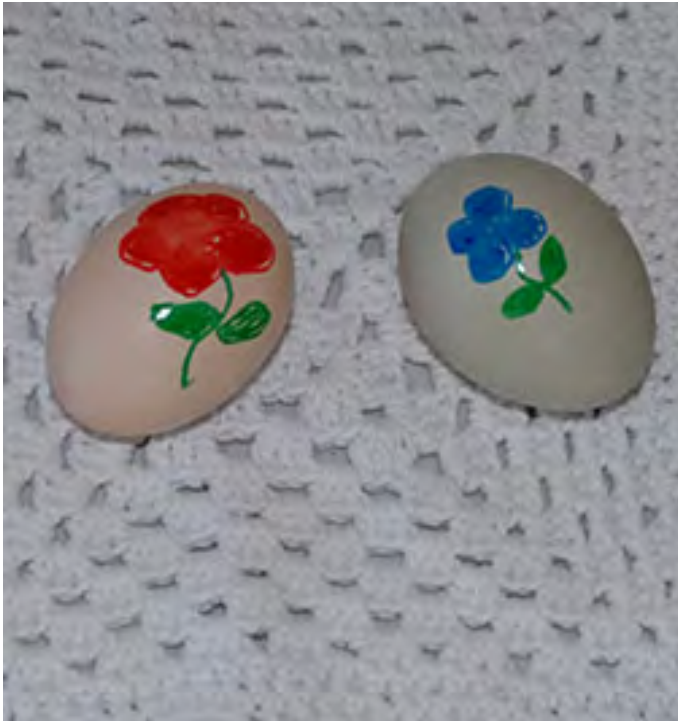
Craft: Coloring Eggs

Items Needed:

- General: Markers or an Egg Dying Kit and Eggs
- Per Child: Aprons (to protect children's clothing)

Instructions:

- Give each child several eggs.
- Have them decorate the eggs in a way that is a symbol of Easter.
- Explain to them that they can share the eggs and the Easter story with their friends and family.



Indoor Activity: Easter Egg Hunt

Items Needed:

- Eggs (ones used in craft or plastic ones), Baskets or Bags (one for each child)

Instructions:

- Have someone hide the eggs in an area where the children can't see where they are being placed.
- Give each child a basket or bag in which to place the eggs they find.

Outdoor Activity: Easter Egg Hunt

Items Needed:

- Eggs (ones used in craft or plastic ones), Baskets or Bags (one for each child)

Instructions:

- Have someone hide the eggs in an area where the children can't see where they are being placed.
- Give each child a basket or bag in which to place the eggs they find.