



THE GOOD NEWS - EASTER! – APRIL 12

In this Easter Sunday lesson, your child will learn why the Easter season is filled with such good news of hope and joy— because we remember the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. However, three days later He miraculously rose from the dead. His death and resurrection give us of hope for eternal life. This Good News is why we celebrate Easter.

Supplies:

- Plastic eggs (1 for each of your children)
- A piece of card stock or a file folder will work
- Colored pencils or marker
- Plain white paper

Lesson:

Explain: Jesus has died, and his body has been put in tomb. A big rock is rolled in front of the door to the tomb and guards are placed outside it to make sure no one can steal the body. Listen carefully as I read the rest of the story from God's Word, the Bible.

Read the story about Jesus' resurrection using Luke 24: 1-12 (Jesus Has Risen).

After viewing & reading ask the following:

- Who were the first disciples to visit the tomb? (*Women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and others.*)
- When did they go to visit the tomb? (*Early on the first day of the week – explain that the first day of the week is Sunday morning, even though we often think it is Monday since that is the first day of work/school.*)
- What did the women see as they approached the tomb? (*The rock was rolled away from the door and the tomb was empty.*)
- Who did they see at the tomb? (*two men in gleaming clothes*)
- What did the two men ask the women? (*Why are they looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, he has risen!*)
- What did the women do when they heard this Good News? (*They hurried to tell their friends*)
- Did the others believe the women? (*No*)
- What did Peter do? (*He ran to the tomb to see for himself and when he got there, he saw that what the women said was true!*)

Object Lesson “On a Roll” Easter Game:

Explain: In our Bible story today, things didn't go the way Jesus' friends thought they should go. Jesus died, and when they went to his tomb, they couldn't find his body! I'll give you a chance to experience a little of that feeling with this wild game.

Give each of your children a plastic egg and file folder or piece of card stock. Have them stand on one side of the room. Tell him/her that when you say “go,” they will use the card stock (folder) to fan the egg straight across the room to the other side. They can’t touch the egg unless it rolls into a wall or gets stuck.

When he/she has finished rolling the egg, ask:

- Did the egg do what you wanted it to do or what you hoped it would do?
- How did that make you feel?
- In real life, how do you feel when things don’t go the way you’d hoped?

Explain: When Jesus died, his friends may have felt [repeat some of the words your child shared, such as frustrated, disappointed, or afraid]. Things seemed out of control for them. But even though Jesus’ death and resurrection seemed out of control to Jesus’ friends, the ending was better than they could’ve imagined! Jesus is alive! Today we learned that Jesus died. But we also learned that he came back to life so we can live forever! When you believe in Jesus, you can know for sure that you’ll live in heaven with Jesus forever. That’s something to look forward to!

Tell your child about something you’re looking forward to in the next month or so. Ask him/her to tell you about something they are also looking forward to. Explain: Today is Easter! It’s a day to celebrate that we can look forward to living forever in heaven because Jesus is alive!

Drawing Activity:

Grab some colored pencils (markers) and paper. Help your child draw a simple floor plan of what his or her ideal house would be like in Heaven. Ask your child which rooms he or she would include, and what he or she would like to do in each room. Let their imagination run wild! Then, explain that even our best idea for a place to live is nothing compared to what Jesus is preparing for us in Heaven.

Video (optional): God’s Story: Easter 4.36 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ4gQniUVO8>

Closing Responsive Victory Prayer:

Read the following prayer. After each statement in bold, have your child respond as a shout to God, “you win!”

Dear God, **We have hope because** (child responds), **we have the promise of eternal life because** (child responds), **we celebrate because** (child responds), **we have purpose because** (child responds), **we have faith because** (child responds), **we have victory over sin because** (child responds), **we have victory over death because** (child responds). **Thank you that** (child responds)! **In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Also let your child add his/her own prayer and respond with “you win!”