

Easter at Home

EAHs04

The aim of this session is to show the importance of Easter.

Mix It Up

Getting Started

10 mins

Illustrations

Begin with your bottle half filled with water. Say that in the beginning, God created the world and people and everything was good. Just like this water is clear and pure, there was no wrong in the world and God and people lived together as friends. In fact, this water is a bit like God - he is completely pure and clear and good. There's nothing wrong about him and he never does bad stuff. But pretty soon, people started to do wrong things. (Pour a couple of centimetres of oil into the bottle and close the lid again.) Ask the children what the oil has done. It's messed up what was in the bottle, but can they see what has happened? The oil is just floating on top of the water - it's not mixed with the water. The oil is a bit like the bad things in the world - they can't mix with God. You can shake the bottle and show that the oil always floats to the top. This means that, because we all do stuff that is wrong, we can't mix with God anymore.

Say that God hates that this is the case. He wants to be friends with us and mix together like we did at the beginning. In fact, God hates this situation so much that he decided to make a rescue plan to fix things. Read the Easter story from a children's story Bible.

Say that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for every bad thing anyone has ever done. Pour a centimetre or so of washing up liquid into the bottle and replace the lid. Give the bottle a good shake. Ask the children what has happened. All three liquids have mixed together. That's what Jesus does - he lets us mix together with God again.

The Point: To show why the Easter story is important.

Equipment

Plastic bottle (transparent), water, oil, washing up liquid, children's story Bible.

Egg Painting

Warming Up

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

To blow the eggs, make a small hole at each end of the egg using a sharp needle or the point of a pair of compasses.

Blow gently through the top hole so that the egg comes out of the bottom.

Give each child a blown egg and make sure that they have access to a selection of paint colours.

Let the children paint Easter scenes onto their eggs.

You could provide egg box compartments for the finished eggs to dry in.

The Point: Just for fun.

Equipment

Blown eggs for each child, paints and small brushes.

Jesus Dies

Digging In

10 mins

 Story

Tell the story of Jesus' death outlined below using props to illustrate as you go.

Before Jesus was killed, he had to suffer other things.

First, He was whipped. *(Use a length of rope and whip it against the floor.)*

The whip would have had bits of bone and stone in it as well so that it hurt more.

When Jesus had been whipped, many times, he had a crown of thorns put onto his head and a cloak round his shoulders. The soldiers mocked him and pretended to worship him. *(Show a long thorn – ask the children how they would like to have something like that on their heads. Show a cloak.)*

After that, Jesus was taken out of Jerusalem. He climbed a steep hill to a place called Golgotha, where He was crucified. *(Show a piece of rough wood.)*

Jesus' back was already bleeding from being whipped. The wood of the cross was rough, like this, not smooth.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. He was nailed in his hands and his feet.*(One of the leaders stands with a long piece of wood resting on their shoulders and supported at either end by their outstretched arms. Another leader bangs a hammer onto the floor or another piece of wood.)*

When he was crucified, he couldn't breathe properly because his chest felt squeezed. His arms weren't strong enough to hold his body up, and his feet hurt from the nail in them. It was hard work to keep breathing, and he was tired from the heat of the sun.

Jesus called out, "My God, my God, why have you left me?"

He felt completely alone. Only one of his Disciples was with him and some of his female friends. His mother was there as well.

At mid-day, the sky went black. *(If you can, make the room dark.)*

Finally, Jesus called out, "It is finished!" and he died.

At that moment, there was an earthquake and, in the temple, the curtain that hid the holy place was ripped from top to bottom. (*Rip a curtain. This will be easier if you have joined two pieces of fabric together with Velcro or sellotape in advance.*)

When the soldiers came to check, they were surprised that Jesus was dead already. One of them stuck his spear into Jesus just to make sure. Blood and water poured from the wound. They knew that Jesus was dead.

His Disciples were devastated, and didn't know what to do, but one of Jesus' secret followers, who was rich, took Jesus' body and put it in a tomb in his garden.

Ask the children why they think Jesus died. Explain that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. When He died, He took the punishment for everything we do wrong. Jesus takes the consequences for our sin upon himself. It's as if we're in the dock in a courtroom having committed a crime. The judge passes a sentence – our punishment. Then Jesus steps in our place and takes the sentence for our crimes.

The Point: To tell the story of the crucifixion and show that Jesus died for us because He loves us.

Equipment

Various props to help tell the story, e.g. rope, some thorns, a cross, a purple cloak, a large plank of wood, a piece of wood with lots of splinters in it (can be very small), a curtain that can be ripped and a hammer.

Where's The Body?

Digging In

20 mins

 Story

Give each child a piece of paper and some pens/pencils. Also have some round pieces of paper/card ready to give each child at the appropriate point. Alternatively, you could bring in some suitably sized clean stones, one per child. Also have some small pieces of material if possible, or pieces of toilet tissue, to represent the cloth.

As you tell the story of Jesus' resurrection (see below; based on [Matthew 28](#), [Mark 16](#), [Luke 24](#) and [John 20](#)), ask the children to draw various items as indicated:

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, some women who had been Jesus' close friends went to the tomb where he had been buried. The tomb was cut in stone in a garden near to where Jesus was crucified on the cross.

(Ask the children to draw a garden with a hill at the back, with a hole cut into the stone in the hill. The cross could be drawn nearby)

On the way to the tomb, the women were worried about how they were going to move the stone in front of the tomb. It was big and heavy, and it had been sealed shut by the government in case someone tried to steal Jesus' body.

(Give each child the circle of paper/card or stone and ask them to put this over the hole they've drawn)

But when they got to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and they could see into the tomb.

(Roll the stone away from the hole)

But Jesus wasn't there. They couldn't see him at all. Instead, an angel appeared and spoke to them, saying, "Jesus isn't here. He has come alive again, like He told you He would. Don't be afraid, but go and tell His disciples."

(Draw an angel next to the tomb)

The women ran to the place where the disciples were staying. They told them that Jesus' body was gone and that the angel had told them that Jesus was alive. The disciples didn't know what to think. Peter and John rushed to the tomb. John got there first and waited outside, but Peter ran straight in when he arrived, and John followed. Jesus was gone. The cloth that He had been wrapped in was there, though. It was folded up neatly on the stone bench that Jesus' body had been left lying on.

(Give each child a piece of material/tissue and ask them to fold it and put it in the tomb)

Peter and John went home, confused. But Mary, who had followed them back to the tomb, stayed behind. She was terribly upset. She didn't really understand what the angel had told her, and she loved Jesus. All she wanted was to know where His body was. While she was crying, someone came to her and asked why she was crying. She thought he was a gardener, so she said, "They have taken away the body of my Lord and I don't know what they've done with it! Please, tell me where it is."

The man said one word, "Mary," and she instantly recognised his voice and realised that Jesus was talking to her. She looked up and saw Jesus, alive and well, but still with the hole in his hands where the nails had been.

"Teacher!" she exclaimed.

(Draw Jesus and Mary in the garden)

Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples that He was alive.

Mary ran back to the room where the disciples were and told them that she had seen Jesus. They were happy, but still a bit confused. Mary might be telling the truth – but she might have imagined it. Then they remembered that Jesus had said that He would come alive again after 3 days, only they hadn't understood what He meant at the time.

Suddenly, they looked up and Jesus had come into the room even though the doors were locked. He told them not to worry and ate with them. The disciples were glad.

Jesus is alive!

Ask the group the following questions:

How do you think Jesus' friends felt when His body was put in the tomb?

What thoughts might they have had when they saw that the stone wasn't covering the tomb?

Do you think they found it easy to believe that Jesus was alive again?

How do you think they felt when Jesus appeared to them?

Why was it important that Jesus rose from the dead? *(If Jesus didn't defeat death, how can we? Jesus was who He said He was. The resurrection shows that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was accepted and our sins are forgiven) (also see 1 Corinthians 15:17; Romans 10:9; Isaiah 53:10-12; Romans 6:23)*

If the disciples hadn't seen Jesus alive, what do you think would have happened? *(They were to go and make disciples of all nations based on the fact that Jesus is risen; if they hadn't seen him, would they have been able to preach the gospel with certainty? Would Christianity exist today?)*

Explain to the group what the resurrection meant: that Jesus had taken the punishment for sin and had conquered death. And now, because Jesus has been raised from the dead, He promises that those who believe in Him will equally one day enjoy life after death with Him for all eternity.

The Point: To tell the story of the resurrection and what it means.

Equipment

Piece of paper for each child, as well as something to lean on if necessary; pencils/pens; circles of paper/card or stones; pieces of material or toilet tissue; questions (see main description/PowerPoint).

Old Time Egg And Spoon Race

Warming Up

10 mins

 Game

Split your group into even teams. Explain that you are going to have an old fashioned 'egg and spoon' relay race... with a slight twist. Instead of using wooden eggs, you're going to use the real thing!

Hand out the spoons and the eggs and let the race begin...

You may like to lay plastic sheeting on the floor throughout this game – it can get messy!

The Point: Just for fun.

Equipment

Eggs, spoons, plastic sheeting.

Happy Easter

Take Away

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

You are going to make Easter cards for the children to give to their family or friends. Help the children to think about what Easter really means as they make the cards. You can buy bags of small, coloured foam shapes from supermarkets/craft shops which look lovely on cards. Also, check out www.yellowmoon.org.uk for arty bits and pieces to do with Easter.



The Point: To help the children celebrate Easter with family and friends.

Equipment

Card, envelopes, felt tips, foam shapes, other odds and ends, glue, scissors.

He Gave His Son

Response

5 mins

 Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Put the individual words from the memory verse into balloons and blow them up. Ask the children to pop the balloons and retrieve the words from inside.

Then put the words into the right order. (They may need Bibles for this.)

You could make the activity competitive by dividing into 2 teams and providing two sets of balloons and verses. Make the activity into a race!

The Point: To encourage young people to learn the Bible.

Equipment

The words of the memory verse written out on separate pieces of paper and hidden inside balloons. (Two or three sets if you have a large group.)
