



Week 4 – Holy Week & Easter

With each section, there will be an 'age rating'. This is in no way meant to be a deterrent for trying it with kids who aren't in that age range. Please feel free to do any of the activities with any age group. This is just the general age in mind while writing that section.

Age Rating Guide:	Young: Lambs-TK	Middle: 1 st and up	Old: 3 rd and up
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****You by no means have to follow the order I put these activities/sections in. There's no right or wrong order to do them-I really have to rhyme or reason behind the order I listed them!**

So & So Show Video: (all ages)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg3XQduUqDo>

Video Question: What does Easter mean to you?

Story: Easter Story (Mark Chapters 14, 15, & 16)

Here's a video story if you'd rather watch it than read it from a Bible as this is quite a long passage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

Story recap: (all ages)

I always find that having kids try to retell the story after hearing is a great way to help them remember it. Try asking them to summarize!

Discussion: (middle)

- What is Easter? What do we celebrate? Why do we celebrate?
- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross for us?
- If Jesus died, why do we celebrate so much? (Because he rose again!)
- What does it mean for us, Jesus dying for our sins and raising again?

Digging a bit deeper: (middle/old/could be all ages)

-Dig into the Genesis creation story and The Fall (Gen 2 & 3).. Read about Adam and Eve being created, their time in the garden, their temptation and eventual introduction of sin into the world.

In following the serpent's advice and eating the fruit, Eve and Adam had disobeyed God. The perfection that had been in the world was destroyed. People had brought sin into this world. Sin took away the good relationship that Adam and Eve had with God. Sin separates us from God. It creates this great distance between us – a gulf, a chasm. For thousands of years, people have tried to cross that distance. But we can't do it. That's the bad news.

But here's the good news. We may not be able to cross the distance, but God can. And he did. God loves us so much. He wants to have a good relationship with us, like he had at the beginning with Adam and Eve. He doesn't want our sin to keep us away from him.

So the Father sent his son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus left heaven. He came to earth so that he could make a way for us to have that good relationship with God again. But how could he do that? Remember back in the garden? God had told Adam and Eve that eating of the tree would cause them to die. Sin brings death and separation from God. Jesus came to take our death for us. The word for that is sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is alive! He conquered death. He destroyed sin.

Jesus is alive! If we put our trust in Jesus, he will give us new life with him. He will take away our sin. He will give us back that good relationship with God.

Remember that Easter is a time to celebrate what Jesus did for us. Actually, you can celebrate that all of the time, wherever you are. This news is too good not to celebrate all of the time. And to share with others.

If you haven't met Jesus yet, but you want to know him. Consider praying to him. Ask him to come into your heart. Ask him to take away your sin. Ask him to help you have a relationship with God. God loves us and more than anything, God wants us to have a strong relationship with him. He sent Jesus to die for us and take away our sin. Jesus rose from the dead. This is such amazingly good news. This is Easter.

Songs (all ages)

1-2-3, Jesus is Alive <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlf9jv4pVTM>

Happy Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcK6g8fPiZ4>

He's Alive, He's Alive <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N29pfecliYE>

Activities: (young/middle/all ages)

Water-Sin Experiment

This activity to be done by parents with kids watching

Supplies Needed: -Three clear glasses -dark food coloring -water -liquid bleach	Set up: -One jar should be 1/2 filled with all water and labeled “us” -One jar should be about 2/3 filled with equal parts water and liquid bleach and labeled “Jesus” -one jar should be 1/3 filled with water and food coloring so that it is as dark as possible.
Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explain what each jar represents (their labels), and then begin talking about sin. Explain sins, ask the kids for examples of sins (could talk about 10 commandments, etc.)- Explain that the food coloring represents sin. That every time you sin, imagine a drop of dark water making your unclean. Give examples like “if you lie, a drop goes in” etc... give a few examples/put enough food coloring in that the water in the ‘us’ jar.- Then talk about Jesus’ sacrifice. That because he died so that we could be forgiven and be made clean. Take all the ‘sin’ and pour it into ‘Jesus’ and watch the sin all disappear.- Bring the focus back to the ‘us’ jar. Jesus made the sacrifice but we’re still unclean. What do we do now?- When we say ‘yes’ to Jesus, to believing in and worshipping him, we’re able to ask him to fill us with his power and spirit, we’re able to be made clean over and over again. Jesus never runs out.- Pour ‘Jesus’ into ‘us’	
Alternatively: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z_SMrnEial Here is a link to a video version of this. I think it’d be a really cool, meaningful experience to do this activity yourselves, but if you’d rather watch the video that is always an option! You could also simply watch the video to further understand how to do it and to get ideas of what else to say.	

BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION:

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-bridge-to-life/>

This is a really cool illustration you can do with your family to help explain what Jesus' sacrifice was and why it needed to be done. Follow the link for instructions on how to do it!

There are various videos on the internet that do an okay job explaining it, but I thought giving the instructions would be the simplest way to do it.

Resurrection Eggs & the Easter Story

<https://lifeyourway.net/diy-ressurrection-eggs-easter-story-book-printables/>

Here's another activity you can do with the family to help explain Easter. Go to the link for a list of supplies and the how-to.

Coloring Pages: (all ages)

If you are able to print, here is a link to some free coloring pages!

<https://coloringhome.com/free-printable-easter-coloring-pages-religious>

Prayer: (all ages)

It's important to always be praying- individually and together. Take some time to pray with and for each other. For more ideas on how to pray in different ways, click the link below or go to the children's ministry page on our website!

www.3cross.org/children

CHALLENGE! CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

Having trouble figuring out what to do all day? Need something to help you be creative?

Why not make a video!

Choose a song or Bible story as a family and perform it! Maybe it's a song you guys really like and want to create actions for... Maybe it's a Bible story you love and want to act out as a skit. Maybe you want to make some sock puppets and do a puppet show!

Send me your videos and I'll work on sharing them with our Church on Youtube and who knows... maybe it'll even make it's way into one of our services! :)