



10 EASTER OBJECT LESSONS

PALM SUNDAY

Items needed:

A green plant growing in a pot

Show the plant to the kids, and see if anyone can identify it. Ask if they've seen any flowers or other plants like this sprouting in the early spring.

Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal. As the weather begins to warm, the plants that died off in the fall spring back to life. The green in the grass and the leaves tells us that spring is coming, and we all welcome it with open arms.

Green is also the color of Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem. When we read the Palm Sunday story, we remember that Jesus came to Earth to die for our sins. Jesus would fulfill his destiny in Jerusalem on the cross, but three days later, he would rise to new life.

Jesus came to Earth to pay the price for our sins. Because he died, he is able to give us new life, here and in the next world.

The triumphal entry reminds us why Jesus came. It also reminds us to welcome Jesus into our hearts. As the people of Jerusalem waved their palm branches, we need to open our hearts and make Jesus the Lord of our lives. Let's thank Jesus for all he has done, and let's open our hearts to him this Easter season.

BRING A FRIEND

Items needed:

A hollow chocolate bunny

How many of you are looking forward to one of these in a few weeks? I don't know anybody who doesn't love chocolate bunnies. The only question is, will you get a solid bunny...*Break the bunny open*. Or a hollow one? Solid bunnies are heavy, jammed full of chocolate. Hollow bunnies look bigger and grander, but they're empty inside. They're just a thin chocolate shell around a big empty space with nothing inside. Kinda sad, isn't it? Caiaphas and the Pharisees were a lot like a hollow bunny. They looked good and religious on the outside, but they were empty inside. They cared more about the law than about God, and they failed to recognize the Son of God when they met him. As Christians we need to be careful we don't fall into the same trap. We need to love others the way Jesus did - as they are, where they are. It's not up to us to clean people up and bring them to Jesus. It's up to us to love them and bring them to Jesus. Period.

This is a great time of year to invite your friends to church. Pray about it, and if God puts someone on your heart, invite him to Easter Sunday. Bring them as they are, and welcome them the same way Jesus did, with open arms.

SHARE THE NEWS OF EASTER

Items needed:

Twister game

Pick one kid to come up and play a game of Twister by themselves. Go through about 6 or 8 spins.

Are you having fun? Are the rest of you having fun? This is fun, isn't it? Or is it missing something?

Some things are better when they are shared, aren't they? A game of Twister is far more fun with friends than it is by yourself. The same can be said of good news. The only thing better than receiving good news is sharing it with someone else.

In a few weeks, we will be celebrating the good news that Jesus is alive. I want all of you to think of a friend who needs to hear this good news and invite them to church.

There's no better thing you could share with a friend than the good news of Jesus. Share that news with someone this Easter. Bring a friend to church.

OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Items needed:

Smooth plate

Clear drinking glass

Penny

Votive candle

Colored water (water with a few drops of food coloring)

Set the plate down.

For some of us, it might be hard to really understand what happened when Jesus died on the cross. What does that mean for you? Let's look at it this way: Imagine this is you.

Bring out the penny. Set it on the plate.

No matter how hard we try to be good, all of us have done bad things. We call this sin.

*Pour the colored water into the plate.**

Sin covers us up. We're drowning in it. There's not way out for us on our own. But then God sent his son, Jesus.

Place the lit candle onto the plate. The candle needs to be setting in the water but not covering the penny.

Jesus came to be a light. He lived a perfect life. And then he died on the cross.

Place the drinking glass over the candle. (After a few seconds, the light will go out and then the water will soak up inside the glass.)

That amazing act of love takes our sin away. If we accept Jesus and ask for his forgiveness, he will forgive us of our sins. They are gone forever.

That's what Easter is all about.

**To ensure success, you need to practice this object lesson beforehand, experimenting with different amounts of water and making sure the plate has an even surface. To see what this lesson is supposed to look like, go to: <http://anotherdayintheministry.blogspot.com/2011/04/easter-object-lesson.html>*

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

ITEMS NEEDED:

Hard-boiled eggs

Easter egg dye (prepped and ready to use)

Spoon or egg dipper

Paper towels

How many of you dyed Easter eggs in the last couple of days? I wanted to dye a few with you all this morning, but I need you guys to walk me through this.

Let the kids walk you through how to dye Easter eggs and dye one or two with them. With one egg in the dye being colored, resume the lesson.

Dyeing eggs is a lot of fun, but it's also a reminder of the meaning of Easter. Like these Easter eggs, Jesus was laid to rest.

Put another egg in the dye.

He was in the tomb for three days. Then on the third day -

Pull out the dyed egg.

He rose from the grave. Because Jesus lives, he can also give us a new life. The first step is to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Then the next step is to be baptized. And just like the Easter egg, we go under the water, and we come out brand new.

Pull out another egg.

Easter is about renewal. It's about being forgiven and being given a second chance. Let's thank the Lord for sending Jesus to die for our sins. And let's thank him for giving us a new life in Christ!

EMPTY TOMB

ITEMS NEEDED:

An empty plastic Easter egg

A few Easter eggs with candy in them

Begin this lesson with a game. Pick one of the eggs with candy in it. Shake it. Ask the kids what candy they think it is. Open the egg, and give the candy to someone who guesses correctly. Do this with all the filled eggs. Then pick up the empty egg and shake it.

There's no rattle in this egg.

Open the egg.

And there's nothing inside either. I bet if this egg was in your Easter basket, you'd find that disappointing.

On the other hand, we wouldn't have Easter if it weren't for an empty tomb. It's because the tomb is empty that we are here, celebrating the awesome power of Jesus.

Jesus died for our sins, but the grave could not hold him. On Sunday morning he rose from the grave. He is alive today, and because he lives, we can have our sins forgiven and enjoy eternal life.

As you eat and enjoy your candy, remember the empty tomb. When you come across an empty egg - one you've already opened and enjoyed - remember that Jesus' tomb is empty. Remember, and thank God for the awesome power he gave to Jesus.

NOTHING SWEETER THAN JESUS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Peeps

When we think of Easter, many images come to mind. Easter has softer colors than other seasons. Where Halloween is dark and scary and Christmas is bright and bold, Easter is softer. The colors are pastels of purple, yellow, pink, green, and blue. Easter also makes us think of bunnies and chicks. It makes us think of candies we only see once a year: chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies, and Peeps.

Easter is indeed a sweet season, but whether you think Easter or Halloween is the “sweetest” season, there’s no denying what the sweetest part of Easter is. God sent us a Savior who died for our sins. When Jesus rose from the grave on Easter Sunday, he conquered sin and death. Now everyone who believes in Jesus can have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life.

As you guys enjoy your Easter candy this year, let every sweet taste remind you of our sweet Savior. Jesus died to give us new life. There’s nothing sweeter any of us will ever receive.

JESUS IS ALIVE!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bowl

An egg

Before this activity, hollow out the egg and drain the egg so it is empty.

On the first Easter Sunday, a group of women went to the tomb of Jesus. They did not have time to properly prepare his body for burial on Friday because Saturday was the Sabbath, a day of rest. They brought the burial perfumes and spices on Sunday morning, and they expected to find Jesus still inside the tomb. But what did they find instead?

Let the kids answer.

What an amazing moment that had to be. These women fully expected to see Jesus' body in the tomb. When they found the tomb was empty, that had to be astonishing. That would be like me cracking this egg and nothing coming out.

Go ahead and crack the egg.

Surprised you, didn't I?

Easter Sunday is a bright, sunny morning. It's the morning we celebrate the empty tomb. Jesus is alive, and he wants to have a personal relationship with all of us. Let's thank God for Jesus, and let's tell the world what Easter means for us and for them!

HE'S NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A dozen eggs

We all know that on Easter, there are eggs hidden everywhere for kids to find. Eggs filled with candy, eggs with money, and a few decorated hard-boiled eggs. But if I wanted to make myself some scrambled eggs on Easter Sunday, where would I look for those eggs?

Raw eggs go in the fridge. That's where we put them to keep them fresh. You wouldn't look for these eggs in the yard or in the living room because that's not where they belong.

The angel's question about Jesus on that first Easter was confusing to those who heard it. They saw Jesus die on the cross. They saw his lifeless body wrapped and buried in a tomb. Why would they be looking for Jesus among the dead? Because they thought he was still dead!

Jesus is not dead, as we all know. He is alive, and he lives in the hearts of all believers. Let's pray that people will see Jesus in us so that they too will know that Jesus is alive!

THE RESURRECTION

ITEMS NEEDED:

An egg

How many of these do you think you have around your house today, real or plastic?

I imagine we'll all see hundreds of eggs before the day is out. Eggs are a symbol for new life. When we see eggs, we think of baby chicks. We think of new beginnings. It's the perfect reminder of the new life we can have in Jesus.

On Easter Sunday, we remember the resurrection of Jesus. Because Jesus died and rose again, he alone can forgive our sins. What's more, Jesus can give us eternal life and a new life here on Earth.

Today can be a new beginning for you as well. If you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior, now is the perfect time. Jesus can wipe away your sins, and he can give you a new beginning. That's a far better gift than any Easter candy or bunny you can receive.

Today we celebrate new life and new beginnings. Today, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!