

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

The sweetest part of Easter is knowing Jesus can save us from sin.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will be able to share that Jesus died for their sins.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Mark 16:9-20, The Resurrection

### **INTRO:**

I think it's fair to say Easter is one of the greatest days of the kid year. It's one of those special holidays kids can't wait for. It's not just a medium level holiday like Labor Day, St. Patrick's Day, or even the 4th of July. Easter is one of the big ones. It's right there at the top with Christmas. It's a day kids get candy.

Easter might even be the greatest of the candy holidays. Easter is better than Halloween because you don't have to work for it. You don't have to wear a silly costume and go door to door. The candy is delivered first thing in the morning. Candy comes first thing in the morning on Christmas as well, but let's be honest: you just can't fit as much candy in a sock as you can in a basket. You might get some candy canes or Lifesavers in the stocking, but that basket is jammed full of Peeps, Cadbury eggs, Reese's eggs, jelly beans, Robin's eggs, and more.

Easter brings candies you don't get the rest of the year. The chocolate bunnies, the Peeps, and the Cadbury eggs are especially unique to the springtime candy fest. I know, there are Reese's Christmas trees and even Christmas Peeps, but it's just not the same as the Easter versions.

Candy is a great way to celebrate this special day. It's a reminder that something very sweet happened on the first Easter. It's the sweetest news in history, and it came straight from the Lord. It's the good news that Jesus is alive!

The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Jesus is God's son. He is both God and man, but he was the only man who never sinned. Jesus died on Good Friday and was buried in a tomb. But Jesus did not remain in the tomb. Let's revisit what happened on Easter Sunday.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## READ MARK 16:9-20

### MAIN POINT:

The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death, but on Easter morning, Jesus conquered sin and death for good. He appeared to his friend and follower Mary Magdalene, and after she told his disciples, he appeared to them as well. The book of Luke tells us he appeared to two men walking to the town of Emmaus and explained to them why he had to die.

Jesus died to forgive our sins. He also died to give us new life. If we give our hearts to Jesus, we will be forgiven and we will receive that new life. The Holy Spirit will come to live in our hearts, and when we leave this world behind, we will be in Heaven with Jesus - Forever!

The sweetest gift anyone ever gave is God's Son Jesus. The sweetest news ever spoken is the good news that Jesus is alive. God wants us to make Jesus our Savior, and he wants us to share that sweet, sweet news with everyone we meet. Jesus is not dead; he is alive!

### DRIVE IT HOME:

As much fun as it is to hunt for Easter eggs and count our jelly beans, these can be a distraction from the real meaning of Easter. Just like the Christmas candy and Christmas presents can sometimes distract us from the good news of Jesus' birth, all the candy of Easter can distract us from the sweetest part of this special day.

Kids, we would not be here in this church without Jesus. We would not be enjoying baskets of candy without Jesus. The candy eggs and the chocolate bunnies were not God's idea, but they can be sweet reminders of what this day is all about. When you take a bite of a Peep, when you bite the ears off a bunny, when you savor the creme filling of a Cadbury egg, remember why we have these things. We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, we want to invite you to receive him today. Jesus wants to forgive your sins and give you his Holy Spirit. He wants to give you eternal life. Jesus is sweeter than any candy, and he's waiting for you to invite him into your heart. If you want to ask Jesus to be your Savior today, please talk to any of the leaders here today after this service or your parents.

If you already know Jesus as your Savior, today is the day to remember your salvation and thank Him for the sacrifice he made for you. God wants us to celebrate this day and to share the sweet news of Jesus' resurrection with everyone. Jesus' final request was that we go and tell everyone what he did for us. Let's make him proud, and let's make disciples of our friends.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jesus is the sweetest gift ever given. He is far greater than candy. Let's celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and let the world know why Easter is the sweetest of holidays.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the sweet news that Jesus is alive!*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*