

Easter EGG HUNT

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Jesus is alive and be able to share how they can invite Jesus into their hearts.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 24:1-12, the empty tomb

INTRO:

Good morning and happy Easter! How many of you have already enjoyed some Easter treats today? Where did you find those treats? Where did you find your baskets?

How many of you are going to hunt for eggs later today? Do you know where you'll be searching? Anyone have any tips for finding eggs?

Easter egg hunts are a fun part of the Easter celebration. The eggs are a reminder of new life, and the candy inside is a reminder of the sweet, sweet news that Mary Magdalene and the disciples received on the first Easter morning.

Easter Sunday didn't start out as a happy morning. That morning, Mary and two friends went to the garden of a man named Joseph to tend to the body of Jesus. Mary was one of the few friends who followed Jesus all the way to the cross, where he was put to death in front of an angry mob. She saw him taken down from the cross. She may have even touched his body before he was wrapped in linen and carried to the tomb. She was witness to his burial, and on Easter Sunday, she returned to finish preparing his body, as was the custom of the Israelites.

Mary didn't find Jesus in the tomb. You know why? She was looking in the wrong place! Mary thought she would still find Jesus among the dead, but an angel of the Lord was waiting to redirect her with the greatest news she would ever hear!

READ LUKE 24:1-12

LARGE GORUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

It's hard to imagine how shocked and surprised Mary, Peter, and the others must have been to hear that Jesus was alive! They had seen Jesus raise people to life, including his friend Lazarus and a little girl, but who could possibly raise Jesus from the dead?

Jesus' followers did not yet fully understand who he was. He was the Son of God. He was Immanuel - God with us. He didn't need anyone to conquer death for him because he already had power over death.

Death is the punishment for our sins, but because Jesus never sinned, never did a single thing wrong, his sacrifice paid for the sins of the whole world. He died for every lie we've ever told, every hurtful thing we've ever done. Because he lives, he can forgive our sins and give us new life!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Later today, your families may take you out for an egg hunt. They'll direct you to the back yard, to the garden, to wherever those eggs have been hidden. If your parents lead you into the garden, none of you will head inside to look in the kitchen. You'll look for the eggs where the eggs can be found.

For centuries people have looked and failed to find the body of Jesus. There is some speculation as to where his tomb may be, and perhaps they are right. But if you visit that tomb, you won't see Jesus. He is not dead. He is risen.

Shortly after Jesus rose from the grave, he returned to his home in Heaven. Not long after that, he sent his Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of those who believed in him. Anyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God who died for sins, can receive the Holy Spirit. As the angel said, Jesus is among the living. He lives in the hearts of his people, and he is still changing and saving lives today.

If you've never "found" Jesus for yourself, then maybe today is your day. Jesus is alive, and he is knocking on the door of your heart. If you're ready to make Jesus your Savior, tell an adult before you leave today so that we can help you discover Jesus.

Jesus is not dead. He is alive, and he lives in the hearts of those who love him. I hope all of you find lots of eggs and tons of candy today, but more importantly, I hope all of you find Jesus and welcome him into your hearts!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus to die for us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*