

LESSON SNAPSHOT

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

MEMORY VERSE:

"He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone." Mark 16:15 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

The best thing about Easter is not the sweet candy in our baskets, but the sweet news that candy reminds us of. It reminds us that because Jesus rose from the dead anyone who believes and accepts him as their Lord and Savior can be saved and spend forever with God.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the sweet news that Jesus is alive!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15 (NIV)

"He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone." Mark 16:15 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SKIT

WHICH IS GREATER?

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two baskets of Easter candy

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2F

CHARACTERS:

Tina and Rachel - Two candy lovers

Tina and Rachel enter with their baskets of candy.

TINA: Come on, over here!

RACHEL: What are we doing out here with this candy?

TINA: We can't eat it inside! Mom will catch us and say, "That's enough!"

RACHEL: But if we eat it out here in this sun, all that chocolate is gonna melt!

TINA: Not if we eat it fast enough!

RACHEL: You have a good point! Let's pig out!

They both sit on the edge of the stage and dive into their candy.

TINA: Oh I love Easter candy. It is the best!

RACHEL: Really? You think so?

TINA: I'll take Easter candy over any other holiday. It is the greatest!

RACHEL: Greater than Christmas?

TINA: Greater than Christmas, greater than Valentine's, greater than Halloween.

SKIT

RACHEL: (*gasps*) Tell me you didn't just say that!

TINA: I said it and I meant it!

RACHEL: Okay, but what's the greatest of all the Easter candies?

TINA: Oooh, that's a tough one.

RACHEL: Okay, let's try this. Jelly beans, or Peeps?

TINA: Are you kidding? Get out with that question! The Peeps are better!

RACHEL: Okay. Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs or marshmallow creme eggs?

TINA: I love a Reese's, but give me the marshmallow any day.

RACHEL: Hollow chocolate bunnies or solid?

TINA: Call me crazy, I'll take the hollow. I dunno, there's just something better about 'em.

RACHEL: Okay, how about this. Chocolate bunny or Cadbury egg?

TINA: Cadbury all the way.

RACHEL: Cadbury or Marshmallow creme?

TINA: Cadbury!

RACHEL: Cadbury, or Peeps?

TINA: Rachel, that's like asking me to choose between eating and breathing.

RACHEL: What if you could only have one in your basket for the year? Which one would you choose?

TINA: I wouldn't want to live in a world where I have to make that choice.

RACHEL: But if you had to!

TINA: Okay, fine! The Peeps. But the following year, I better get a whole mess of Cadbury eggs!

SKIT

RACHEL: All right, fair enough. *(pause as she eats candy)* Peeps... or Jesus?

TINA: Or Jesus?

RACHEL: If you had to choose. A basket full of Peeps, or Jesus?

TINA: Rachel, I love Peeps. I love 'em regular, and I love how they blow up in the microwave.

RACHEL: Oh I love that too.

TINA: But they can't take the place of Jesus. Jesus is the whole reason we have Easter to begin with. And let's not forget the sweetest part of Easter. He died to save us.

RACHEL: Yeah. What a sweet guy.

TINA: He's the sweetest. He's the best. Rachel, I tell ya, I love Peeps. I love everything about Easter. But I'll never choose anything over my Jesus. He's greater than Peeps. He's sweeter than Peeps. And he's the best thing that ever happened to me.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Peeps

When we think of Easter, many images come to mind. Easter is more colorful than many other holidays. The colors are pastels of purple, yellow, pink, green, and blue. Easter makes us think of eggs, bunnies and chicks. It makes us think of candies we only see once a year: chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies, and Peeps. Easter also makes us think of a cross, an empty tomb, and a sunrise miracle.

Easter is indeed a sweet season, but whether you think Easter or Christmas 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.

LARGE GROUP GAME

PEEP FACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A package of Peeps
Smocks or art shirts
Baby wipes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game and put both of them in smocks or art shirts to keep their Easter clothes from getting messy.

Give each player a set of four Peeps. The players will race to see who can get all four Peeps stuck to their face by licking them and sticking them to their face. The first to get four Peeps stuck to their face wins.

Use the baby wipes to clean their faces afterward.

VARIATION:

This can also be a minute to win it game, with one player trying to get four Peeps stuck to their face in a minute or less.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Easter candy is sweet, but Jesus is even sweeter!

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*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the sweetest candy you found in your basket today?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Mark 16:15

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a shortened Easter version of 20 questions. This can be done in pairs of two or as a whole group. One child will think of their favorite Easter candy and whisper it to the leader. Then the other kids will get 5 questions to try to figure out what that candy is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 16:9-20

Why did Jesus die?

Who was the first to see Jesus alive?

What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

How is Jesus sweeter than candy?

What do we need to do to receive Jesus as our Savior?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us enough to die for us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the sweetest candy you found in your basket today?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Mark 16:15

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a shortened Easter version of 20 questions. This can be done in pairs of two or as a whole group. One child will think of their favorite Easter candy and whisper it to the leader. Then the other kids will get 5 questions to try to figure out what that candy is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 16:9-20

Why did Jesus die?

Why did Jesus tell his followers to tell the world about him?

How is Jesus sweeter than candy?

What do we need to do to receive Jesus as our Savior?

Is anyone ready to make that commitment to Jesus today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us enough to die for us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

WORD JUMBLE

Unscramble the four words, all Easter candies, then use the underlined letters to answer the final question.

Q: EESPP

A: PEEPSP

Q: LJEYL ENSBA

A: JELLY BEANS

Q: CYBRUDA GESG

A: CADBURY EGGS

Q: SERESE SGGE

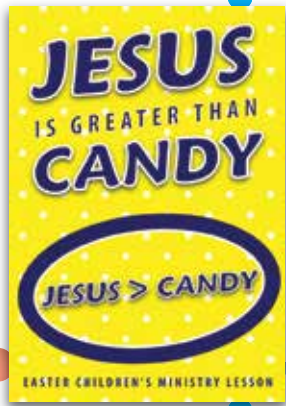
A: REESE'S EGGs

Final Question:

What is the sweetest thing about Easter?

S J S U E

Answer: JESUS



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Jesus is Greater Than Candy Lesson

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JESUS IS GREATER THAN CANDY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The best thing about Easter is not the sweet candy in our baskets, but the sweet news that candy reminds us of. It reminds us that because Jesus rose from the dead anyone who believes and accepts him as their Lord and Savior can be saved and spend forever with God. Mark 16:9-20, The Resurrection



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Enjoy some Easter candy with the kids. When you do, ask the kids why Jesus is sweeter than the candy you are enjoying together.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What happened on the very first Easter morning?
- What is sweeter: Jesus or candy? Why?
- How can we share the good news of Jesus with others?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone." Mark 16:15 (NIRV)

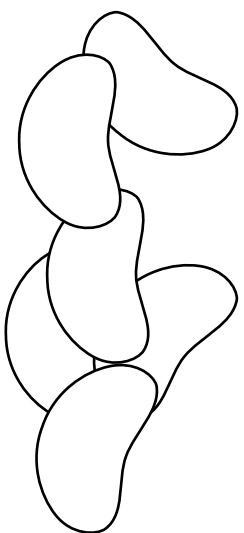


PARENT TIME:

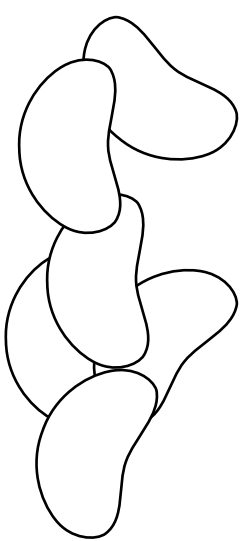
What you need to know:

Jesus is the reason for Easter. Without him there is no Easter - and no Easter candy.

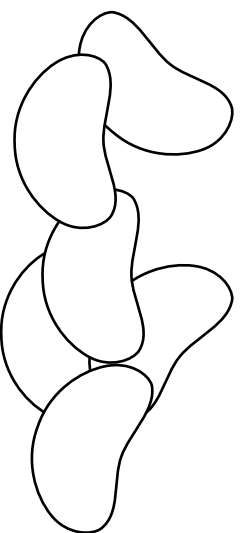
Thank God this week for the gift of Jesus, and pray that all of our kids will accept Jesus as their Savior.



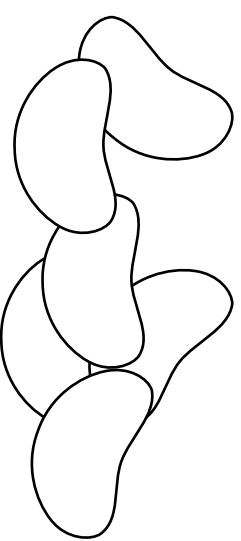
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

On a sheet of paper, write the words “Jesus is Greater than...” Then have the kids do a collage below with candy or empty candy wrappers, taping or gluing some Easter candy below to show that Jesus is the greatest and sweetest part of Easter.