

Beach House Easter Message

Victorville and Apple Valley Campuses

Supplies Needed:

- 1 egg (per service)
- 1 orange
- 1 straw
- An Easter basket
- Four big plastic eggs
- A cross (needs to fit in the egg)
- Three nails (needs to fit in the egg)
- A stone (needs to fit in the egg)
- A clear of clear water labeled "Us" (big enough to see from stage)
- A container of iodine labeled "Sin"
- A container of bleach labeled "Jesus"

Introduction – 5 minutes

Before kids arrive, poke a small hole in each end of a room-temperature egg and blow out the contents. Choose of the children to help you. Give them the orange and ask them what will happen if they drop it. Have the child drop the orange. Do this with a couple of other objects if you wish. Then pull out the egg. Ask the children what will happen if you crush it over the child's head. After they answer, break it over their head. Ask the children if they were surprised. Then tell the children that in today's Bible lesson some women went to Jesus tomb expecting to find Jesus' body, but when they got there they found it empty.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Also use this video clip: <http://sandbible.com/?p=21>

How many of you plan to have an Easter egg hunt today? As you can see, I have my Easter basket ready. When I was a kid, we used real eggs, which we decorated ourselves. I guess some people still do that, but I think most people use plastic eggs like these. Usually, there is a piece of candy or perhaps a small toy inside. The eggs in my Easter basket are very special, because each of them will teach us something that will show us exactly what Easter really means.

Note: For each egg have a child come up on stage and hold the egg. After you reveal what is inside the egg have the child hold it up while you tell the story. Once you are done be sure to dismiss the children back to their seats.

Inside the first egg is a cross. The cross reminds me that Jesus willingly carried his cross to Calvary to die for my sins. No one told him he had to do it; he did it because he knew that was the only way that I would ever get to heaven. God loved me so much that He sent His only Son so that I could have everlasting life.



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Inside the second egg are three nails. They remind me that Jesus was nailed to the cross. The nails that they used to nail Jesus to the cross weren't little nails like these. They were great big nails. Can you imagine the pain he must have felt? He suffered great pain as the nails were driven into his hands and feet. He suffered the pain to pay the price for my sins.

Inside the third egg is a stone. The Bible tells us that after Jesus died, they placed his body in a tomb and put a huge stone over the entrance. On Sunday morning, two women went to see the tomb and the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was open. The stone reminds me that even a huge stone could not keep Jesus in the grave.

That brings us to the fourth egg. The fourth egg is empty. The Bible tells us that when the two women went inside the tomb, it was empty. Jesus was not there. At first the women thought that someone had stolen the body of Jesus. But inside the tomb was an angel who told them, "He is not here. He is risen, just as he said he would. Come, see the place where he lay." The empty egg reminds me that Jesus' tomb is empty. He is risen, just as he said he would.

Jesus didn't just come to teach and perform miracles. He came to die for our sins. Jesus was arrested. They put Him on trial for crimes that He hadn't committed and they had Him severely beaten. Jesus had never done anything wrong and now the people wanted Him killed. *(pulls out nail)* They wanted to crucify Him...and they did. They made Jesus carry a heavy wooden cross up a hill and then they put nails through his hands and feet. They raised Him up on the cross and spat on Him and made fun of Him. They didn't understand that He was dying for them and dying for us. Eventually, Jesus stopped breathing and His heart stopped beating. He was dead. The soldiers stuck a spear in His side to make sure he was dead. They took His body down and buried it in a tomb. The Jesus we serve willingly took up his cross, but he could not be held on the cross by the nails and he could not be kept in the tomb by a stone. He is risen and lives in heaven with God, his Father. The Bible tells us that everyone who believes in Him, will join him in heaven with the Father.

Explanation – 5 minutes

Note: Don't over fill the containers, or they will spill when you mix them. It is important that you practice this in advance to make sure you add the correct amount of iodine and bleach.

To introduce this activity, say the following:

1. Today we're learning that Jesus showed that He loved us by taking away our sins.
2. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to forgive us for our sins.
3. Who can tell me what a sin is? *(Lying, disobeying parents, etc.)*
4. Even if you only did one of these things once, you have sinned.
5. The Bible says we all sin, and because we sin we deserve punishment.
6. How can we deal with our sin problem? *(By asking Jesus to forgive us.)*
7. I want to show you what happens to us when we sin.



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During the activity, say the following:

1. This container, labeled "Us", represents you and me.

Point to the container labeled "Us". Then hold up the container of Iodine.

2. This container of iodine represents sin.

3. Watch what happens when I pour the iodine into the water.

Add Iodine to the water.

4. It's not very clear, is it? It makes it dark.

5. What happens if I try to add more water to it?

6. The water cannot become clear again on its own. That's what happens when we try to fix our sin problem on our own. It stays dark. *Show children the bleach container.*

7. This container of bleach represents Jesus.

8. Watch what happens when I pour in the bleach.

Add enough bleach to change the water back to clear.

9. The water is clear again.

After the activity, say the following:

1. What cleared up the iodine? (*Bleach.*)

2. And what did the bleach represent? (*Jesus.*)

3. Just like when we put the iodine in the water and it turned the water dark, sin turns our lives dark too.

4. We can't change or get rid of our sin.

5. But Jesus died and rose again so that He could take away our sin.

6. If you ask Him to, Jesus will clear your life of sin, just like the bleach cleared the iodine out of this jar of water.

Summary: Just like the bleach took the darkness out of the water, Jesus takes the sin out of our lives. Jesus loved us enough to die on the cross to take away our sins. Jesus showed his love by His actions!

Application – 5 minutes

Someone had to take the punishment for sin. I can't take the punishment for your sin because I'm a sinner too. That's why Jesus came. He came to take the punishment for our sins. He died and rose again so that we can be forgiven. We don't have to be separated from God by our sin anymore. And just like Thomas had a choice to believe, we have a choice too. The Bible tells us about our choice in John 3:16.

John 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." NLT

The part in the verse that mentions eternal life is talking about heaven. If we choose to accept God's forgiveness, one day we will get to spend forever in Heaven where each day is better than the day before. We call that salvation. If we accept God's forgiveness then we are saved from our sin and saved from being separated from God.



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It's actually very easy. Accepting God's free gift is as easy as "ABC". We call it the ABC's of salvation. The letter "A" stands for the word "Admit." We admit to God that we have sinned. This isn't a hard to do, because we've all sinned. Next, the letter "B" stands for the word "Believe." We have to believe in God and believe in His Son Jesus. We tell God that we believe that Jesus died on a cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven and that He rose again. Finally, the letter "C" stand for the word "Choose." We choose to accept the gift of salvation, we choose to follow Jesus and live our lives for God. We say each of those things in a prayer to God and He hears us. Right now we're going to sing a song and if you're interested in accepting Jesus as your Savior come to the front of the stage and one of our leaders will help you make that decision with your parents.

PRAYER: We thank you, God, that you loved us so much that you sent your only Son to die for our sins. We are thankful that his story does not end with his death, but that we serve a risen Savior! Amen.

