

### Lesson 3: Easter

This Sunday is Easter! It's a really interesting story to discuss with kids. And, thanks to the pandemic, you'll get to hear some of their thoughts this year!

- 1) The Cross. We do tell the kids that Jesus died on a cross, although we generally avoid the gory details (unless some of the older ones want to hear it).



Adults often have graphic mental images of what "Jesus dying on the cross" looks like but kids do not. So, we usually show them an image to help them understand what that means. It also helps them understand why a cross is the symbol of Christianity. Here's one image that we sometimes use.

- 2) The Story. There are LOTS of Easter videos out there. Many of them spend lots of time on Jesus' suffering and on the "Savior" aspect of his death. Here are a few videos that focus more on the basic story without too much proselytizing.

[Animated Easter Story](#)

[Easter Story Told by Kids](#)

[Easter in the Time of Coronavirus](#)

And here are a few questions that we ask the kids. You might be surprised at their answers!

- a) What do you think about this story? Do you think it's interesting or creepy that someone could rise from the dead?
- b) How would you feel if a really good friend or family member died and then you were able to see that person again? Have you ever had that experience?
- c) Some people think this story is not exactly real. They think Jesus is a symbol for love and peace and that the story is about how love and peace will always overcome darkness and death. What do you think? Do you think the story is exactly real or just a symbolic story?

3) The History. In case you haven't noticed, there are no eggs or bunnies or chocolate treats mentioned in the Bible. Easter holiday practices represent an incredibly interesting amalgamation of traditions. If you want to learn more about that...

...this [History Channel video](#) is great for grown-ups.

...this [video](#) shows interesting Easter traditions from around the world and is more fun for kids.

4) A Fun Tradition. We have lots of different Easter crafts in our tool kit. One of them, of course, is dyeing Easter eggs. Sometimes, we dye them red and then teach them about that tradition - which usually offers that the red color symbolizing Jesus' blood. It also includes a fun egg-cracking game that is quite popular in the Orthodox tradition.

To make red eggs, simply add scarlet (No. 5) Rit fabric dye or a small bottle of red food coloring to 2 quart of water and 2 Tbl. of vinegar. If you prefer a more natural approach, you can dye eggs using onion skins. This [video](#) shows a really awesome natural egg-dyeing and decorating technique.

Once your eggs are died and dry, you can play the game! Here are the basic rules, and here's a [video](#) to give you the basic idea.

- Select an egg that looks powerful and hearty.
- Select a partner.
- Decide whether you will clack "pointy end" to "pointy end" or "thick end" to "thick end."
- Hold the egg in your fist.
- The first person taps egg #1 onto egg #2. The egg with the least amount of damage is declared the winner.
- If no one's egg cracked, the second person in the pair then taps egg #2 onto egg #1.
- Repeat with new partners. If you started with the "pointy end," switch to the "thick end" for the next round.
- The top winner is the one whose egg never cracks!