

EASTER



Scripture: Sections from Matthew 27 and 28

Supplies:

- ❖ Marshmallow eggs / boiled eggs
- ❖ 4 plastic eggs containing the following respectively: cross; 3 nails; stone; one remains empty
- ❖ Empty egg cartons / paint / cross; 3 nails; stone for each child / elastic bands
- ❖ Activity page

Welcome

Hide a few eggs and do an Easter egg hunt. The children must find all the eggs within a time limit. You can use marshmallow eggs or boiled eggs.

Worship

Sing "Alive, alive" <https://youtu.be/oYiwkP0yX3s>

Settling down: Close your eyes. Relax and focus on your breathing. Take three deep breaths and exhale slowly. (Let the children gently "wake up" by saying which body parts they need to wake up.) "Wiggle your toes first, now wiggle your right thumb, now wiggle your left thumb. Roll your shoulders three times forwards and three times backwards. Open your left eye, now open your right eye. Sit comfortably and get rid of all your wiggles.

Word

Finding the easter eggs was fun, right? But today I have some very special easter eggs in my basket. Do you know why they are so special? Because each one of them teaches us something about the true meaning of Easter.

Let's see what's inside the **first egg**: It is a cross. The cross reminds us that Jesus chose to carry his cross to be crucified on it and to die for your and my sin. No one forced Him to do it. He did this because He knew it was the only way how you and I could be saved and live with Him forever in heaven. God loves us so much that He sent his only Son so that we can live with Him forever (John 3:16).

There are three nails inside the **second egg**. They remind us that Jesus was nailed to the cross. The nails were not small like these ones – no, they were really big nails. Can you imagine how painful that must have been? Jesus was in terrible pain as they nailed it through his hands and feet. He suffered through this pain to pay for our sins.

The **third egg** contains a stone. We read in the Bible that after Jesus died, they put his body in a tomb (large grave room) and closed the entrance with a massive stone. On the Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. They saw that the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. This little stone reminds us that not even a massive rock could keep Jesus in the grave.

This brings us to the **fourth egg**. The fourth egg is empty. We read in the Bible that the two women stepped inside the tomb and saw that it was empty! Jesus wasn't there anymore. At first they thought someone stole his body but there was an angel who told them: "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here because He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come closer and look – there is the place where his body was laid down."

The empty egg reminds us that Jesus' tomb was empty. He was raised from the dead, just as He said He would.

Jesus willingly carried his cross, but nails couldn't keep Him on the cross and a massive rock couldn't keep Him in the grave. He is risen - He is alive! - and in heaven with God, the Father. In the Bible we read that all people who believe in Him, will live with Him in heaven one day.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder which egg's message was the most special for you.
2. I wonder what the best part of this story is for you.
3. I wonder what you can tell other people about Easter.

Working and Playing

- ❖ Give each child 2 sets of 4 empty egg cartons. Let them paint or decorate it and add the following to one set:
 - the first egg carton opening: a cross (made of cardboard or any material)
 - the second opening: 3 small nails
 - the third opening: a small stone
 - the fourth opening: nothing

Put the other set of empty egg cartons on top of the first set. Secure the two sets together with elastic bands. Children can take it home to tell other people what exactly each special egg teaches us about Easter.

- ❖ Activity: connect the pictures and eggs

End the session with a closing prayer.



Connect the pictures and eggs to tell the story of Easter.



Nothing



1

2

3

4

