

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE EASTER?

CURRICULUM

TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES

FOR PARENTS:

This week, your child learned about Jesus' resurrection. His story didn't end when he came out of the grave, freeing all who believe in him from the power of sin and death. Jesus stayed on earth 40 more days, was seen by over 500 witnesses and ascended into heaven, giving his disciples instructions for spreading the good news. Even though Jesus returned to heaven, he continued to be active on earth through his church. The Kingdom of God is here and we are invited to be a part of it right now!

Take time in this week to reflect on Jesus' resurrection and the new life that came through it. Don't forget the discussion question that goes along with each activity. Have fun!

ACTIVITY 1

RESURRECTION ROLLS

After he died on the cross, Jesus was buried in a tomb and a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance. Make these resurrection rolls to celebrate what happened that first Easter!

You'll need: One can of refrigerated crescent roll dough, Large marshmallows, Melted butter, Cinnamon, Sugar, Bible

How to do it:

1. Separate dough into triangles, and wrap one large marshmallow in each piece. The dough represents the tomb and the marshmallow represents Jesus' body. Pinch the edges of the dough together to "seal the tomb."
2. Dip the dough into butter and roll it in cinnamon and sugar to represent the spices placed on Jesus at his burial.
3. Bake rolls according to the directions on package.
4. While the rolls are cooling, read the story of the empty tomb in John 20. Break open the "tomb" and the body of Jesus is no longer there!

Why is Jesus' resurrection good news? How can we share that good news with others?

ACTIVITY 2

BETTER BASKETS

This is a great activity to do following Easter, using your child's Easter basket.

You'll need: Easter basket, Rocks, Sharpie markers, Small gifts (optional)

How to do it:

Send your child outside with his or her basket to collect some rocks. When he or she returns, read Ezekiel 36:26, which says: "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Use a Sharpie to make marks on the rocks to represent the stain of sin that God saw on his Son when Jesus died. Read Romans 3:23 and discuss how you don't want sin to make your hearts hard, but that you want Jesus to give you soft hearts that love like his. (You may end the activity here or do part 2.)

After your child goes to bed, remove the rocks from his or her Easter basket and place them in a new basket labeled "Jesus." Fill your child's basket with a few gifts that will help him or her grow in the Lord—a devotional book, a video like *What's in the Bible?*, some handwritten verses, or a note from Mom or Dad. You may also include small toys, stuffed animals or other treats.

In the morning, read Romans 6:23, which talks about how Jesus took away all our stony sins and gave us the gift of eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Tell your child that the gifts in his or her basket are to remind him or her of the gift Jesus gave and help him or her to grow in his or her relationship with him.

What does it mean that Jesus replaces our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh?



Jesus had been dead for 3 days when 2 women went to visit his tomb and found that it was empty. Jesus is risen! He had defeated death. – Mark 16:1-7

MEMORY VERSE WORDS

He

is

not

here

for

he

has

risen

as

he

said.

Matthew 28:6a

He

is

not

here

for

he

has

risen

as

he

said.

Matthew 28:6a

