



Out with the Old, In with the New

THEME: Easter

BIBLE STORY: From the Cross to the Empty Tomb

MATERIALS NEEDED

OPENING GAME

- A bag of jelly beans
- Two paper plates per family
- One set of chopsticks per family

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

- [One Resurrection Eggs set](#)

GAMES

- Plastic Easter eggs, enough for five to eight per participant
- Bags of individually-wrapped candy, enough to fill the Easter eggs
- Six dodgeballs
- Several cones or markers (optional)

CRAFT

- Graham crackers, one per participant
- Green frosting
- Boxed donuts (chocolate preferred), one per participant
- Sandwich cookies, one per student
- Toothpicks, one per child
- He Is Risen flags (printed), one per participant
- Tape or glue to adhere flags to toothpicks
- Small paper plates, one per participant
- Plastic spoons and knives, one per participant

90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Craft Activity](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

Introduction

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Tonight, we are celebrating Easter! Let's get things rolling with a family competition!

Opening Game: Jelly Bean Pick Up

Give each family the same number of jelly beans on a paper plate. Give each family an additional paper plate to be set six to eight inches from the paper plate with the jelly beans. Each family will have three minutes to see how many jelly beans they can transfer to the other plate using only the chopsticks.

Craft Activity

(30 MINUTES)

Empty Tomb Snacks

Preparation:

Cover tables with newspaper, butcher paper or another covering to protect the surface.

Instructions:

1. Lay the graham cracker flat on the plate.



2. Spread frosting on one side of the graham cracker using a plastic spoon.
3. Take the chocolate donut and cut off about one fifth of the donut on the edge.
4. On top of the frosted graham cracker, stand the donut up with the cut side on the bottom to make the empty tomb.
5. Place the sandwich cookie standing up in front of the donut to serve as the stone rolled away from the tomb.
6. Using the sharp end of the pencil, poke small holes all around the edge of the outlined heart.
7. Erase the pencil outline gently. What will remain is a heart outline created by the holes.
8. Use tape or glue to adhere the “He is Risen” flag to a toothpick and stick it into the top of the donut “tomb.”

Games

(20 MINUTES)

Family Easter Egg Hunt

Setup: Prepare about five to eight candy-filled easter eggs per participant and hide them in your indoor or outdoor meeting space.

How to play: On your GO signal, send families out to find and collect Easter eggs. You may want to give them recycled plastic shopping bags to collect their eggs, and you may want to limit how many each participant can collect.

Savior Dodgeball

Setup: Divide the families into two teams, one for each side of the playing area.

You will need an outdoor playing area or indoor court with boundary markers for sidelines and a center line dividing the two teams.

Place six dodgeballs on the centerline.

How to play:

On your GO signal, participants may race to grab the dodgeballs on the centerline. The goal is to throw the balls to hit players on the opposing team. Designate one “Savior” per team. The person who is “Out/dead” sits down with arms raised. The “Savior” can grasp the hands of the “Out/Dead” and drag the person across the back line for the team – the person is then “In/Alive” and may resume play. The “Savior” cannot become “Out/dead” for they live forever.

Players must keep in line with the following rules:

1. You are out if you step over the centerline or out of bounds.
2. You are out if a ball hits your body (NO balls allowed to hit above the chest)
3. You are out if someone catches a ball you threw.
4. You are safe if you are hit by a ball that has bounced off the floor, wall, or another player first.
5. You may block balls with a ball in your hand, but if you drop the ball while trying to block, you are out.

If the game comes down to one player per side, they have ten seconds to hit each other out; if not, “Showdown” comes into effect. The game is paused, each player gets two balls, two balls are lined up at the ends of the centerline, and the centerline is dissolved. The first player to get the other player out wins.

Devotional Thought**(10 MINUTES)****What do you know about Easter?**

Give families time to discuss.

At Easter, many people celebrate all those things you just said. But today we will learn that the true meaning of Easter is all about the most important message you’ll ever hear in your life: Jesus has complete power over sin and death. What does that mean for you and me?

Introduce the Resurrection Eggs kit: **These eggs each have objects inside that are going to help us explore the story of Easter together. As I’m telling the story, I’ll be looking for some volunteers who have a good memory and can help me hold onto the objects and remind us at the end what each one stands for.**

Follow the instructions inside the Resurrection Eggs kit to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. After you talk about each object, call on a volunteer to hold onto that object until the end of the lesson. Remind them that they must remember what that object represents to share at the end.

After you have finished presenting the story with the Resurrection Eggs, say, **Alright, now let's review.** Have each volunteer stand up and tell what they remember about each object.

After reviewing the Easter story, what are some things you discovered about Jesus?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

What are some things you discovered about yourself because of what Jesus has done?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

I am going to show you another way that you can remember the true meaning of Easter.

Show them the hard boiled egg.

Remember how people were separated from God because of sin? What are some examples of sin?

Let participants share, and then write on the hard outer shell using a black marker (e.g., "lying" or "cheating"). Hold up the egg with the "sins" on the shell.

This hard outer shell represents us and our sin. Our hearts are hard just like this shell. Just like there's nothing I could do to make this shell completely clean again, we can do nothing by ourselves to make our sin go away.

Start peeling the shell away.

But because of Jesus' sacrifice for us and his power over sin, he can take away this old life of sin and give us a new life.

Ask students what they notice about the egg now.

When we ask Jesus to wash our sins away, he gives us a new, clean, soft heart. We can have a relationship with God now, and he can help us to love others and do the right thing. We are free from sin.

Our new life and relationship with God lasts forever. Even after we die, we will be given a new life with him. All you have to do is believe Jesus and ask him for this new life.

Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5 MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

What is something new you discovered about the Easter story today?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message. (John 1:1-19, NLT)

To Discuss

- Retell the story in your own words.
- What did Mary think happened to Jesus?
- Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus calls his disciples "brothers" here? What new thing did Jesus's resurrection offer his disciples?
- What helped Jesus's disciple believe?