

Q11

LIFE OF JESUS

What Is Easter?

PursueGOD.org

Lesson Overview

Today, we're celebrating the most important day of the whole year. It's Easter! Now, we're probably all excited to do our Easter eggs hunts and discovering all the yummy treats in our Easter baskets. All those things are great but did you know that Easter isn't really about bunnies and baskets and eggs? Easter represents an important event in the life of Jesus. The Bible tells us that we all have a sin problem that has broken our relationship with God. So, Jesus came to solve the problem. He came to die to pay for OUR sins so that we could have a relationship with him. Easter is the holiday where we celebrate the day Jesus rose from the dead. Not only did he defeat sin, he defeated death! So, guess what that means for us? We can have new life, too. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, we can live a new kind of life that honors him and we can live in heaven some day.

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What are your favorite things to do on Easter?** (Tip: Easter is a fun holiday filled with yummy treats and time with family. But, it's important to know what Easter is really about.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We can live a life that honors him and we get to live in heaven some day.** (The Bible tells us that when we put our trust in Jesus, he broke the power of sin in our lives. So, he will help us to say "No" to the things that don't honor him and "Yes" to the things that do. And, when we put our trust in Jesus, we're guaranteed to live in Heaven with him some day. And, heaven is the coolest place ever!))
 - **Bonus Questions:** What do we celebrate on Easter? Why did Jesus have to die for us? **4th-5th** What do you think heaven will be like?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What are some things you can do to honor God with your life? What are some things you need to stop doing?** (Answer: The Bible is our instruction manual for life. It tells us what is right and wrong. The Bible says we should love others, be patient, and always tell the truth. The Bible says not to do things like gossip, steal or lie. Make sure to read your Bible so you know how to live a life that honors God.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Big Idea

Easter means we can have new life.

Key Question

What does it mean that we can have new life?

Memory Verse

Romans 6:4b "And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: EASTER EGG HUNT HIDDEN MESSAGE

Instructions:

- Before class, fill the eggs with the words to the hidden message (page 5), one word per egg. Then, hide them around the room.
- When you say, "Go!", have kids go on a hunt to find all of the eggs. Once they've all been found, have the kids open them to discover each word.
- Tape each word on the whiteboard and then put them in the correct order to say the hidden message. (**The message:** Jesus died to pay for our sins and rose again to give us new life.)
- If you have time, read the Easter account from Matthew 28:1-10.

Supplies needed: Easter eggs (15 per class), Hidden message words (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per class), Tape

OPTION 2: THE MEANING OF EASTER EGG CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid an Easter egg template (page 6).
- Have them lightly color each section according to what the template says.
- As they work, walk through the meaning of each section.
 - **Yellow** means God's perfect light. God is perfect and he created everything.
 - **Red** means that Jesus died to pay for our sins.
 - **White** means that our sins are washed away by what Jesus did for us.
 - **Green** means that we can live a new life in Jesus because he broke the power of sin and death.
 - **Blue** represents baptism. The Bible tells us that when we put our trust in Jesus that we should get baptized as a way of telling the world that we belong to him.
 - **Purple** means that we can live in Heaven with Jesus some day.
- If you have time, read the Easter account from Matthew 28:1-10.

Supplies needed: Easter egg template (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 per kid), Crayons

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Memory Verse

Romans 6:4b And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Easter Is Not About _____ and _____

Easter Is All About _____

Easter is another important day on the calendar that celebrates Jesus. It's a day about what happened at the end of Jesus's life, and it changed everything.

Easter Means Jesus _____ from the Dead

Have you ever heard about Jesus dying on the cross? Well, he actually did die. But don't worry because 3 days later he came back to life. Think about how powerful Jesus must have been! He did a lot of powerful things, but the most powerful thing he ever did was to stop being dead. The grown up word for that is "resurrection".

Easter Means We'll Rise from the _____

Maybe that sounds weird. Kids don't usually think about dying. And it might sound scary, but we can't live here forever. Everyone will die someday. Luckily, Jesus' power wasn't just for him. Because of his power we can have eternal life, too! That's what heaven is all about.

Romans 6:4b And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Easter Means We Can Have _____ Life

Our new life doesn't just start in Heaven, it starts right here on earth. That's why we celebrate Easter in the springtime when trees and flowers are starting to grow again. New life is springing up everywhere!

Answers: bunnies, eggs, Jesus, rose, dead, new **Parent**

Signature: _____

Questions:

1. *Who is Easter really about? What happened to Jesus around Easter?*
2. *Where can we live with Jesus forever someday?*
3. *Read **Romans 6:5-8**. Because of Jesus, what no longer has power over us? What are we free to do instead?*
4. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

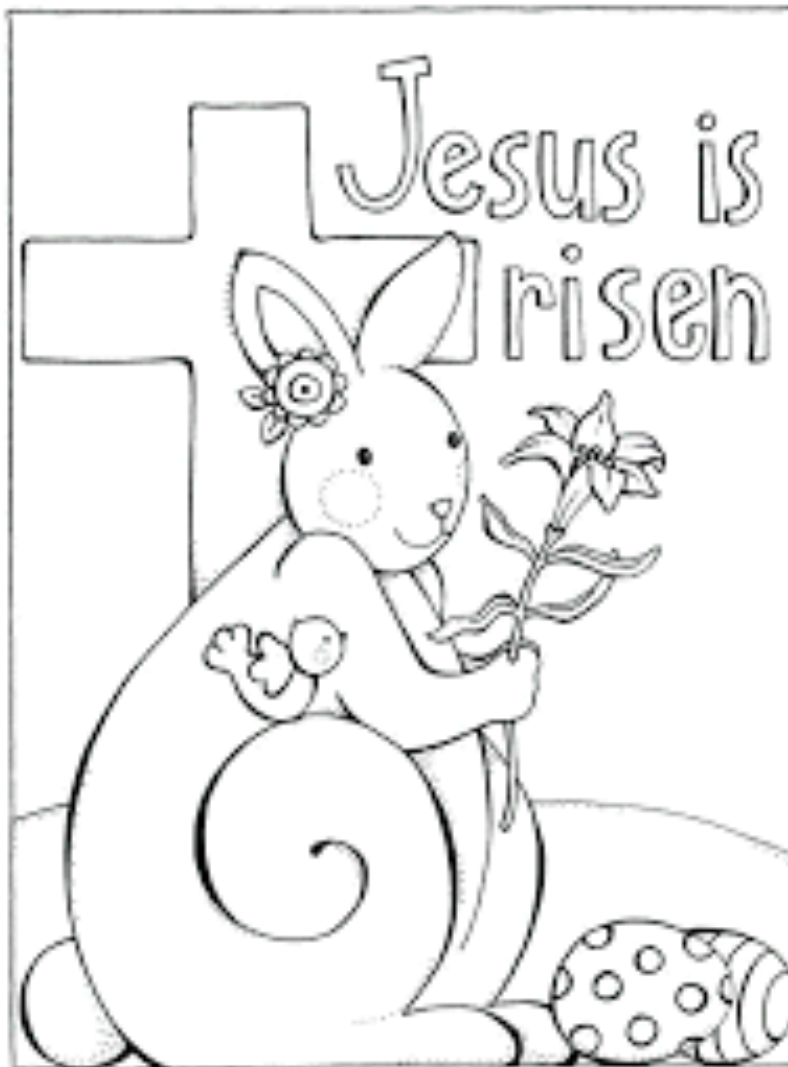
EASTER MEANS
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