

## Object Lesson Easter Egg Hunt: Teaching about Jesus' last week and resurrection using Easter Eggs

Blue egg: Brown fur (Palm Sunday: Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey)

Orange egg: Oyster crackers (Last Supper: Jesus asks his friends to remember him)

Green egg: Pretzel (Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane)

Purple egg: Cross necklace (Jesus is crucified and dies)

Yellow Egg: Empty (Empty tomb on Easter Morning)

Candy-filled eggs: The "sweet" gift of salvation when we ask Jesus into our hearts!

Spread the object-filled eggs close to the area where the children will be seated. You can spread one color at a time or all at once, but give instructions to the children that they will be asked to find one color at a time, and quickly bring that egg back and have a seat for a "special visitor" to tell them more. (read more at [www.sistershoppingonashoestring.com/easter-egg-hunt](http://www.sistershoppingonashoestring.com/easter-egg-hunt) )

1. Children will each go find one blue egg and return to seating area:

**Donkey's Owner:** Hello children! Will you please open your egg and see what's inside? (brown fur) It's not real fur, it just looks like it. Why would there be fur in an egg to help tell us about the last week Jesus was alive on earth?

Let me tell you a story about why brown fur reminds me of Jesus, and my little part in the story of his last week! Two men came to my home, and I saw them notice my donkey and her colt tied up in my yard. They looked like they knew just where to find them, as though someone had told them about them. They untied them and were about to head out of town, when I asked them what they were doing. The men told me "the Lord needs of them, and he will send them right away." Somehow I knew that it was right to let them take the donkey with them, even though the colt had never been ridden.

Sure enough, later in the day I heard a commotion along the road to Jerusalem. I looked out to see a man, riding on *MY* donkey, as the crowd laid their cloaks and palm branches in the road in front of him. All of the people, including the children were shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna!" in excited voices. I found out from people that this was the famous teacher Jesus, who was coming to Jerusalem to save our people! It sure wasn't what I expected—I thought a savior would be riding in on a mighty horse rather than a donkey...but something about that idea stuck in my head. Then I remembered a prophecy from the scroll of Zechariah that said, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zech 9:9) And I realized...*this* was the King that Zechariah had prophesied! He was coming to save us all! Later in the week we found out that his entrance to the city wasn't the only unexpected thing he would do...but maybe you'll find out more about that from someone else.

*(Based on Matt 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12)*

2. Children will go find one Orange egg and return to the seating area:

**John:** Hi kids! Shake your orange egg—can you guess what is in there? Open it up and see! (oyster crackers) Hmm...what could crackers remind us of when we think of Jesus' last week? Well, my name is John, one of Jesus' disciples, and I was with Him during his last week. When I see those crackers, it reminds me of Jesus' last meal with me, and with the rest of our friends.

We were in the city of Jerusalem, celebrating the Passover, when Jesus did something unusual and unexpected. He broke the bread we were eating, gave a piece to each of us, and said, "This is my body, which will be broken for you." He told us that when we eat and drink together, we should remember him in the future. We didn't quite understand at the time that it would be our last meal with Jesus, and that when he said his body would be broken for us that it meant he would actually suffer in the days to come. But now, every time I see bread and eat it with my friends, I remember Jesus, and my time with him, the things he taught me, and how much he loves me. If you'd like to eat your crackers, you may—and while you eat, remember how much Jesus loves each and every one of us!

*(Based on Matt 26; Luke 22; Mark 14; John 13)*

3. Children will go find one Green egg and return to the seating area:

**Disciple:** Will you take a look inside your egg? What do you see there? (a pretzel) And it's in a green egg for a reason—because I'd like to tell you about what happened with Jesus in a garden. After Jesus had dinner with his friends, he went with them to a garden called Gethsemane. He needed some time to pray. Did you know that a pretzel is a symbol of prayer? Many people say that a pretzel looks like praying hands—can you see it?

There's something else that reminds me of what happened in the garden—what are the white specks that are on the pretzel? (salt) Salt, like how tears and sweat are salty. When Jesus was in the garden, he knew that he was about to suffer on the cross. He wept and sweated and asked God to spare him if possible, but he also promised to do God's will, not his own. Jesus understands us when we're sad and scared and hurting, because he felt the same things. We can always pray when we feel this way, just like Jesus did. And we can listen for God to direct us in the way we should go.

*(Based on Matt 26; Luke 22; Mark 14)*

4. Children will go find one Purple egg and return to the seating area:

**Centurion:** What's in your purple egg? (cross necklace) You can put it on if you'd like. I'm one of the guards who was at Jesus' cross. I'm called a centurion. I had heard of Jesus—he was becoming pretty famous for traveling all over the area teaching and performing miracles. But the Pharisees in charge didn't like that he was being called the Messiah or the Son of God. They brought him on charges of blasphemy to Pontius Pilate, and asked for a sentence of crucifixion.

That's how I found myself at the foot of his cross. I saw him suffering as he carried his own cross before being nailed to it. I heard him cry out to his Father in heaven before he made his last breath. At the moment he died, the earth shook and a curtain separating the holiest part of the temple was torn from top to bottom! At that moment, I believed, and said aloud that surely, this man was the Son of God! When that curtain tore, it was just like how Jesus took away the sins of those who believe in him, and made it so there's no separation between God and His people. It was hard to see Jesus suffer, but I'm so thankful that he took away my sins. Aren't you thankful too?

*(Based on Matt 27; Luke 23; Mark 15)*

5. Children will go find one Yellow egg and return to the seating area:

**Mary Magdalene:** Shake your egg! Can you tell what is in there? Open it—what do you see? (It's empty) Why would we have an empty egg as part of the Easter story? Did someone forget to put something in it? An empty egg reminds me of my favorite part of the story. My name is Mary, and I'm one of Jesus' friends. We were heartbroken after our friend and teacher died on the cross. His body had been wrapped and put in a tomb, which was kind of like a cave with a big stone across the opening.

On the third day, I went to the tomb with my friends. The stone had been rolled away, and the wrappings from his body were there, but the tomb was empty! As I cried beside the tomb, a man came to me. I thought he was the gardener, so I asked if he knew where they had taken Jesus' body. Then he said my name, "Mary!" and I realized who it was—it was Jesus, risen from the dead! "Teacher!" I shouted. He told me not to hold onto him, because he was going to be with God, his Father. He told me to go and tell everyone that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he said he would. Jesus appeared to his disciples as they walked along a road, and even in a locked room. He showed Thomas the wounds in his hands and side when he wasn't sure if it could really be Jesus—it was!

Jesus left us, his friends with work to do in his name. We were supposed to go out and make disciples of all the nations, spreading his Good News to the ends of the world.

*(Based on John 20; Matt 28:19-20)*

**Closing:**

Jesus gives all of us the sweet gift of salvation when we believe in him, and we can't keep that news to ourselves. I hope that you remember that sweet gift, the gift that Jesus gave each of you, as you enjoy sweet treats today. There are more eggs outside with lots of sweet things in them, but nothing is sweeter than remembering that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, because He loves each and every one of you. Please listen for directions so you can continue your egg hunt! (invite children to hunt for candy-filled eggs)