



Easter Resources

Compiled by Leanne Hill

Easter is one of the most significant times of the year in our church calendar as we are reminded of the incredible sacrifice Jesus, God's son made for us on the cross. It is a time that we celebrate that Jesus not only died for us, but that he also conquered death and rose again. As people who love God and call ourselves Christians, we can so quickly and easily forget the significance of this act as we retell the story year after year. It is important that we don't just let this become a 'nice story' but that we truly understand and grasp the impact this has on our daily lives. That each day we have the assurance of God's grace, forgiveness, sovereignty, mercy and love.

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

As you think about and plan for the Easter period with your young people, we thought it might be helpful to share some resources and ideas. So below you will find a range of things from discussion starters, songs, games and videos that may spark some ideas.

Songs:

['Alive in us'](#) by Hillsong

[Christ is Risen](#) by Matt Maher

[Battles](#) by Stephen Mayes

[At the cross](#) by Chris Tomlin

[Forever](#) by Kari Jobe

[This is Amazing Grace](#) by Phil Wickham

[Amazing Grace \(My chains are gone\)](#) by Chris Tomlin

[Jesus Paid it All](#) by Kristian Stanfill

[Christ is Risen](#) by Matt Maher



Games:

Egg handling

Split the group into teams of no more than 5. Using the resources provided, build a mechanism that will lift an egg and transport it from one side of the room to another (with no team member accompanying it). The team that gets their egg to the other side of the room without cracking it wins the game.

(Alternatively you could ask them to make a mechanism that will keep the egg safe when dropped from a height)

Resources per team: 1 egg (I suggest hard boiled), string, newspaper, straws, scissors, tape, cotton wool, play doh

Egg roulette

This one is a little messy. Using a carton of eggs, play a game of roulette with the group. Each person in turn chooses an egg and smashes it on their head until all the eggs are done. Some should be hard boiled, some raw and some blown out. The aim of the game is to not end up with egg on your head.

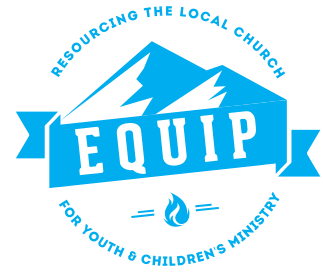


Egg toss

Ask everyone to find a partner and stand opposite one another about an arms length apart. Each pair is given an egg. One at a time, the pairs must throw the egg to their partner without it breaking. If they are successful each other pair have to take a step back from one another, making the gap between them larger. This continues until only one pair is left with an egg uncracked.

Egg boules

Divide your group into teams of no more than 4. Place a golden egg (wrapped easter egg) on the floor an equal distance from each team. The team are given equal numbers of eggs and the aim of the game is to roll your egg as close as possible to the golden egg. Depending on hoe much time you have and how messy you are willing to get, you can use a range of eggs including hard boiled, raw, blown out, mini Cadbury eggs or crème eggs. A great game to paly with older teenagers or young adults.



Egg Drop

Split your team into even groups of roughly 5/6 people. Providing materials such as cardboard, string, tape, straws, newspaper etc. Give each team a hard-boiled egg. Each team must construct a capsule and parachute that will protect their egg when it is dropped from a height. The egg that survives without cracking wins.

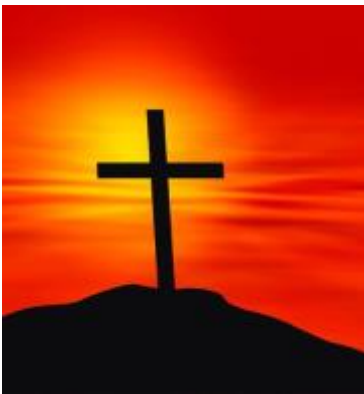
Discussion starters:

What do you think of when you hear the word Easter?

What does Easter mean to you?

What is Easter?

This is a great wee youtube clip [What is Easter?](#)



What is Good Friday? And why is it called 'good' if it is about Jesus dying on a cross?

On Good Friday, we remember that Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. Then 3 day later he rose again declaring that he had victory over sin and death. We refer to it as good Friday because although it was a sad day and horrific in itself, Easter was to follow and this is the best news we have. Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday and conquered death knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace. (Matthew 27 v 46-53)

What is the meaning of Lent?

Lent is the period of time that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that Jesus spent in the desert where he fasted, prayed and was tempted before Easter Sunday where we remember the resurrection of Jesus 3 days after he was crucified. As Christians we are not required to observe Lent and it is not something that is talked about in the Bible. However, many Christians may choose to 'do Lent' as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter. During this time, they may choose to fast, reflect and pray.

[Here](#) is a short video clip that describes what Lent is all about.



What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the period before Easter that some refer to as Lent. It comes from a Jewish tradition of repenting and praying. To symbolise this, ashes can be worn on the forehead in the shape of a cross with the ashes symbolising dust from which God made us. They also represent our grief as we have sinned against God. The ashes are palm branches that have been blessed from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The ashes are placed on the head accompanied by the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is more often observed in the Catholic church than in other denominations.

What is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday is the week before Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. As he entered Jerusalem on a donkey, the people waved palm branches, laid them on the ground and shouted Hosanna. Hosanna meant 'save now' and the palm branches were a sign of honour as they symbolise goodness and victory. (Matthew 21 v 1-11, Mark 11 v 1-11, Luke 19 v 28-44 and John 12:12-19)

What's the big deal about Jesus rising from the dead anyway?

The resurrection of Christ proved that he was divine. That he is sovereign. No other religious leader can make the claim of conquering death, except for Jesus. His resurrection also fulfilled the prophecies that had gone before him. By rising from the dead, he also showed his power to forgive sin. It is a symbol that we can be set free from the bonds of sin, that Christ can forgive and that we can have salvation. The enemy has been defeated and not even death could hold our God.

Useful Video Clips:

[Christ is Risen \(We're going public about this\)](#) – this is a great clip that could be used in Bible class or Youth group.

Crossroads Kids Club have also put together a simple video called [God's Story: Easter on Vimeo](#) explaining the Easter story. I quite like the animation and simplicity. Check it.

While researching I also came across this great wee video that could be used to open a youth group or church service on Easter Sunday. It can be found on youtube by clicking [here](#).

[Life with God](#) is a short, colourful and simple explanation of why Jesus came and why he died but is effective in communicating the reason we celebrate Easter.



[Here](#) is a great video has been put together by schoolswork UK and explores the reasons why we eat Easter eggs and what it means. Great wee discussion starter for your young people.

Prayers:

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

*(Source: Methodist Church in Britain Website written by Revd
Michaela Youngson,
Superintendent Minister of the Ealing Trinity Circuit)*



[24/7 prayer](#) is a great place to go for some ideas of how to pray around Easter time. Every year they release a series of podcasts over the period of Lent on the run up to Easter that are great to use for personal reflection. Perhaps it is something you could commit to using as a group.



Online Resources:

[Youth Work Resource](#) is a great place to find a range of resources for Easter. There are examples of school assemblies, youth group session and discussion straters or bible studies available tha with a little adaptation would work really well in a number of settings with varying age groups.

[Real Easter Egg](#) is another great website with many great resources specifically (as the name would suggest) about Easter. They are a company who primarily sell Fairtrade Easter Eggs that come with a story book explaining the real meaning behind Easter. On top of this they also provide a range of resources that are suitable for schools and churches to use for varying ages of children and young people. This one is definitely worth checking out and the Easter Eggs are yummy!

One of the most popular and well known sites for youth and childrens resources and articles is Premier Youth and Childrens Work. Premier have a monthly magazine that you can subscribe too and is well worth the money if you are always on the hunt for new resources and interested in keeping up to date with changing culture and events. Online you can also find a range of resources that you can download. However, some of them may require that you have a subscription. Check out some of their [Easter resources](#) for a variety of ideas from assemblies to crafts to bible study and discussions for taking things a little deeper.

As we were doing some research we came across [Be Inspirational](#) which has a session for KS2 on sacrifice. The pictures look a little dated but this could easily be used as a session for your youth group with a little bit of work. It has 5 elements to it including music, pictures, action, video and scripture.

If you have a youth group that are more creative and love to act, then check out [Play it by Ear](#). They are a fantastic Christian Drama Company who write their own scripts that are avialble to purchase at a small cost on their website. They will also be more than happy to come and help your group with some workshops or come and perform for you, again at a small cost. Definitley worth the money!

We hope you find some of this material and suggestion useful and if you need any further help with resources or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Have a blessed Easter!