


EASTER

Review Guide for Elementary

Classroom: Grades 1, 2, 3, & 4

 John 19:16–20:18

04/11/2020



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Risen

Supplies

- large bag of M&M's candies
- 3-ounce cups of water (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- A few minutes before you move into your Object Lesson time, have a helper place a few M&M's into each cup of water, 1 per person. The M&M's all need to be faceup so the M on each piece of candy is visible.

Place M&M's in Water and Watch What Happens

Say: **Easter is all about how Jesus died for us, but death couldn't hold Jesus down. Jesus came back to life, and it was an amazing surprise! Let's celebrate Jesus and Easter with a fun surprise that rises.**

- Have everyone sit in a big circle, and then give each person a cup of water with a few M&M's soaking in the bottom. Tell kids not to touch the candies.
- The M&M's need to sit and soak, and something surprising will happen. The dye in the candy shell will seep away from the candy, but within about 10 minutes, the M's on the candies will detach and rise to the top of the water.
- While everyone waits and watches for the surprise to rise, invite kids to share about a big surprise they've had. Share an example of your own first, such as friends or family members organizing a surprise birthday party for you.
- Kids can also report on what they see happening to the M&M's in their cups.
- Have adult or teen helpers circulate and help kids identify when an M has risen in a cup. Helpers can pick up the first few cups with floating M's to show everyone the cool surprise.

Talk About It

Say: **The candy sank to the bottom of the cup, but the water couldn't hold the M's down! The M's are made of tiny pieces of paper that's okay for us to eat. As the**

candy sits in the water for a while, the paper comes off the candy and floats to the top. It's a sweet surprise!

Ask: • **What do you like about surprises?**

• **What do you like about the surprise that Jesus came back to life?**

Say: **The greatest surprise ever happened when Jesus died for us and then came back to life. It's the reason we celebrate Easter and that Jesus is alive!**



CRAFT

Jesus Loves You

[20 min]

Supplies

- “Jesus Died for You” handout printed on card stock (1 per child) (download on our website)
- painter’s tape
- washable markers

Talk About Good News

Say: **When we have good news, we want to share it with everyone!**

Tell about some good news *you’ve* shared. You may have gotten to tell your family you were expecting a baby, you may have gotten to tell a friend you got a new job, or you might have told your brother you were getting married.

Ask: • **Tell about a time *you* shared some good news.** Kids may say they’ve told a sibling that Grandma was coming, a friend that they were having a birthday party, or Mom that they learned a new song in school.

Say: **Today we’re learning about some good news—the best news ever! Jesus loves us so much that he died for us on the cross so we can be his friends forever. But he didn’t stay dead. Jesus came back to life!**



Share the Good News

Say: **Let’s make something to remind everyone about the good news we celebrate at Easter—Jesus died for us.**

- Give each child a handout, and read the message on it to the kids.
- Help kids fold their papers in half so the message is on the inside.
- Give each child two pieces of painter’s tape, and help kids put the tape on the front of the card in the shape of a cross.

- Encourage kids to color the front of the card with markers, making sure the entire front, including the tape, is colored. Kids can also draw pictures on the inside of their cards if they would like.
- After kids have finished coloring, carefully remove the tape from your sample craft to reveal the cross to the kids. Then help them carefully remove their own tape from their cards.

Say: **When Jesus died for us, he took away all the wrong things we've done. Now our hearts are clean, just like the crosses on our cards. We can give our cards to people to tell them how much Jesus loves them and that Jesus died for them, too.**



DIG DEEPER

Kids act out things God made.

Dig Deeper for Parents

You'll Be Teaching: Jesus died for us. This lesson is the most critical piece of Christianity. Don't assume your kids know and understand it. Church kids, who've heard about it, may not understand why Jesus had to die, and you may have some visitors who haven't heard much—if anything—about Jesus' death and resurrection.

Think About: What's one thing you can do this Easter to thank Jesus for his death and resurrection?

Supplies

- Bible
- brown bulletin board paper
- "Happy Hearts" handout (1 for every 3 kids, plus an extra set for you) (download on our website)
- painter's tape
- markers

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the squares on the "Happy Hearts" handout.
- Make a large cross out of bulletin board paper and hang it on the wall. Tape 1 smiley face heart per child (plus 1 for yourself) on the cross. Set aside the blank hearts.

Talk About Consequences

Say: **There are things we're told not to do so we can all be safe and get along.**

Share some things you aren't supposed to do, such as go through a red light, steal food at the grocery store, or be late for work.

Ask: • **What are some things you're not supposed to do?** Kids may say they're not supposed to hit their brother, touch the stove, or eat cookies without asking.

Say: **When we don't follow the rules, problems or punishments happen because of what we did. If we're told not to touch a hot stove, but we do anyway, the consequence is that we burn a hand.**

Ask: • **What might be the punishment if you hit a friend?** Kids may say they get a timeout, they have to say "I'm sorry," or they don't get to play with that friend anymore.

Say: **Things like that make us sad.** Give each child a blank heart and a marker, and have each child draw a sad face inside a heart.

Trade Our Consequences

Say: **Anytime we do something God says not to do, that's called sin. Sin hurts our friendship with God.**

Lead kids to take their sad face hearts to the cross.

Say: **Jesus never made any wrong choices. He didn't deserve any punishment.** Point out the happy faces on the cross.

Say: **But Jesus loved us so much that he chose to take the punishment for our wrong choices by dying on the cross. Imagine you hit your friend but Jesus took your punishment. That's what Jesus did when he died.**

Lead kids to trade their sad face hearts for happy face hearts.

Celebrate With Happy Hearts

Say: **After Jesus died, he came back to life so we can all live together in heaven someday. The Bible gives us a promise.** Read 1 John 4:9 aloud.

Say: **What a happy promise! Let's sing a song to celebrate that Jesus died and came back to life.**

Sing this song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," encouraging kids to squat down when they say "Jesus died" and jump up when they say he "came back to life."

Jesus died for us, (squat)

But then came back to life. (jump)

Jesus died to take our sin, (squat)

But then came back to life. (jump)

So we can live with him

And not be sad again,

Jesus died to take our sin, (squat)
And then came back to life. (jump)

Continue singing the song as time allows, singing faster each time.

Dig Into Prayer

Lead kids to pray. Ask God to prepare kids' hearts to believe in him and receive his gift of salvation. If your children have any prayer request, please submit them on our website under "Kids Resources." We would love to pray over them.

Memory Verse

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. – Romans 5:8
