EGG- CITING EASTER STORY

A simple 6 egg version of the well known 12 ‘Resurrection Eggs’ Easter message.

Prepared by Cheryl Harray, Kids Friendly 2012

What you need for each set

1. An empty 6 pack egg carton
   (Remove commercial label)
2. Six plastic eggs of different colours
   (Spotlight has bags of 12 eggs- 2 of each colour for $3.99)
3. A4 sheet to make into the outside label and little booklet which fits inside the lid with colour coded eggs to explain the symbol in each egg. (Attached at the end of this document)

Symbols to go in each egg:

1. Donkey and palm branch
   We had lovely plastic donkeys but they were too big to fit! So we did a laminated picture instead. *(template included)* Palm branch is plastic ‘fern’ from a fish tank decoration-just one made 12 branches.

2. Bread and cup
   Little bread loaf is made from baked moulding clay.
   Cup is from a packet of party glitter that had wine bottles and glasses. A simpler version would be a laminated picture of bread and wine. *(Template included)* Real food will not keep!

3. Silver coins
   We chose to use 3x 20cents. Children were very excited that it was REAL money.

4. Three Nails
   Two for hands and one for feet.

5. Cross
   This was made from finely cut wood but you could use a similar width of an ice block stick, cut down to 50mm and 30mm lengths, glue together and use red cotton to secure further, dab ends with glue. Takes a bit of time but worth it.

6. Stone
   Small round river stones from a garden centre. Some versions have an empty egg for the last one but we chose to have the stone inside because when it was removed (rolled away) the tomb was empty.

How to introduce and use

There are so many parts to the Easter story and it can get very long and confusing for children and for adults too who have not grown up hearing it. As a team we chose these 6 symbols and main points.

Prior to this activity the Easter story had already been shared very simply using different pictures on a PowerPoint but with the SAME 6 parts of the story. We also had a quick fire quiz to recap the main points. Then we gave each family a carton of empty eggs, with the booklet inside the lid. *(We had 12 families)*

An adult read about the first egg (purple) and children took turns to bring up the eggs to get the right symbol from the trays on display.
The symbols were spread out along the front and adults were stationed to help them choose if needed. It was a good opportunity to find out what they understood from that part of the story.

Reading and filling the eggs together was an important recap and family activity. There was much positive comment about this ‘neat way’ of telling the Easter story. We pray it will be retold and understood even more over the next 2 weeks in homes.

**Ideas for using with children on Sunday or Bible in schools, Supakidz or Kids clubs**

Read/tell a simple version of the Easter Story. The Beginners Bible has clear pictures and text. Open the egg carton and say “These eggs are going to help us tell the first Easter story when Jesus did something very special to give us a new life.” Look at the eggs explaining how eggs remind us new life (because chicken can hatch out of eggs).

Read the booklet about each egg in turn and choose a child to open the egg and take out the symbol. Talk about it some more, answer questions as appropriate. Pray and thank Jesus for dying and rising again so we can have new life and be God’s friends forever.

An adaption for children to take home (ONE egg containing 5 symbols) is also available. Contact cheryl@kidsfriendly.org.nz
Egg-citing Easter Story

“Crack open’ the 6 eggs in order to retell key parts of the Easter Story found in the Bible

Mark chapters 11-16
Luke chapters 22-24

1. **Donkey**
   Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. The crowds cheered and shouted
   “Hosanna to the King who comes in the name of the Lord”
   
   *Mark chapter 11 verses 1-9*

2. **Bread and Cup**
   Jesus shared a special meal called the Passover with his friends.
   He took a loaf of bread and cup of wine and said ‘Whenever you eat this bread and drink this wine, remember me.’
   
   *Mark chapter 14 verses 12-26*

3. **Silver Coins**
   The Chief priests and teachers of the law wanted to get rid of Jesus. Judas, one of Jesus friends went to them secretly and was paid 30 pieces of silver for letting them know where to find Jesus.

   *Luke chapter 22 verses 1-6*

4. **Nails**
   Jesus was arrested and put on trial but he remained silent. Pilate could find nothing wrong but the crowds shouted “Crucify him” Jesus was led out to die and was nailed to a cross.

   *Mark chapter 15 verses 1-32*

5. **Cross**
   On the cross Jesus said: Father forgive them. They don't know what they are doing.’ At noon the sky got dark for 3 hours then Jesus said ‘Father into your hands I place my spirit’ and he died.

   *Luke chapter 23 verses 34-49*

6. **Stone and Empty Tomb**
   On Sunday morning when the women went to the tomb where Jesus body had been laid, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty! Jesus appeared to them and many other people too. He was alive again!

   *Luke chapter 24*
A ONE egg/ 5 symbol variation of the EGGCITING Easter story resource
Adapted by Cheryl Harray, Kids Friendly Easter 2012

This was used with children in a SUPAkidz club so they all took an egg home to retell the story again and again. There was quite a LOT of work in making the symbols for 30 eggs but it was worth it to see the children’s interest and the fact that they got to take it home to remember and share.

Some ideas for a lesson

- Introduce with simple Bible version of the Easter Story. The Beginners Bible has clear pictures and text or you could make a ppt.
- Use the 6 egg set to retell the story again inviting children to come and open the eggs.
- Shut the eggs and play a memory game of ‘What the symbols were?’ As they guess and discuss again what that part of the story was about, Bring out a container with 30 of that symbol in it.
- When all 5 have been guessed, give each child an egg and ask them to put one of each into their egg. Demonstrate a booklet of how they can pull it out, then open their egg to match the symbols to each part of the story.
- Give them a booklet each and invite them to find a space where they can open it out and complete the activity.
- Discuss the difference for the last page- no stone but an empty tomb. What could we use as an empty tomb? The egg! When we eat hollow Easter eggs it reminds us of the empty tomb and that Jesus is not there anymore! He is alive again!
- Pray with children. Encourage them to show/ retell at home

Assembling the Booklet and ONE egg/ 5 symbol craft.
1. Copy the title page in colour if possible. (enough for six booklets) Cut into 6 front pages.
2. Cut page 2 into 2 strips and join together in a continuous strip.
3. Attach one title page at the front of the strip and concertina fold up so that the title page is showing.
4. Fill each egg (children could do this) with a laminated picture of the donkey, bread and wine, a coin, a nail and a cross. (See the EGGciting Easter 6 egg set for more description and suggestions about the resources.
5. Give each child a booklet and an egg. One of these booklets goes with each egg, containing the 5 symbols.
6. Children unfold the story and read it from the beginning. They find the symbol in the egg that matches each page and put it on the ? space.
7. On the last page, children put the empty egg because the tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!
“Crack open” the egg to find some things that will help you remember the Easter Story found in the Bible

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