

## *Children's Resources Easter Sunday*



### *The Easter Journey*

Easter Sunday is a great day of celebration and is another opportunity for adults and children to worship and celebrate Jesus' resurrection together. You might like to have most of the service together or worship together briefly and then have the children go out for just a short time (choosing one of the suggested activities below) and come back for the end of the service. This year's theme is 'Darkness Gives Way to Light' and how the death of Jesus was overcome by Him being the true Light of the World.

### *Interactive Message*

This message could be used during the main service or as a separate message in a variety of settings as you explore the Easter theme with your kids, e.g. Kids Church, Kids Club during the week, or as the kids go out for a short time during the message.

For this message you will need:

- A self lighting birthday candle that doesn't go out when you blow it out. You can get them from a party shop and sometimes the supermarket.
- A birthday cake
- A person from the congregation who has had a very recent birthday (pre arrange someone and explain what you want them to do).

Explain that you know that today is Easter Sunday but you had heard that someone in the congregation has had a birthday recently and you really wanted to celebrate their birthday today with a cake.

Call up your birthday guest. Chat to them about their birthday. What they did to celebrate, what did they get etc.

Explain that you normally wouldn't do this type of thing during the Church service but you really want the congregation to acknowledge their birthday and to sing Happy Birthday.

Light the candle and ask everyone to sing Happy Birthday.

The birthday guest blows the candle out and you thank them and as they go to sit down you notice that the candle comes back on. So you make a fuss about the birthday guest not blowing hard enough and you ask them to do it again.

They blow it out again and go to walk off and the candle relights again.

Repeat this again.

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**Say:**

*'Wow, this candle reminds me of something. You cannot blow this candle out at all. It just will not go out. The darkness of the candle always gives way to light. The light is just overpowering the darkness all the time.'*

*'I wonder if you have ever been scared of the dark. Maybe it has been while you have been sleeping in your bed. Maybe it has been while you were out on a night hike. Maybe it has been when the power has gone out at night and you have been left in the darkness.'* Maybe it was at a sleepover or a camp. (You may wish to insert a personal story in here about a time that you were scared of the dark.)

*'Isn't it amazing that when the lights come back on after a blackout or you turn a lamp on during the night the fear of darkness goes away.'*

*'But you know what is even better. When the resurrection of Jesus occurred all those years ago the darkness gave way to light. The darkness of the death of Jesus gave way to the shining light of His resurrection and all our fears about living in darkness went away. The resurrection of Jesus gave us instant opportunity for light in our lives. Isn't it great that today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and that we celebrate that His light did not go out. He died and it was a very dark few days for the early disciples but Jesus's light shone through and overcame the darkness of death and sin.'*

*'It is just up to us whether we want to experience this light in our lives or to continue to live in darkness. I know which one I want. **What about you?'***

## *Activity Suggestions*

### **Activity 1 – The Glow of Jesus**

For this activity you will need:

- Glow sticks
- Textas

Try and do this activity in the darkest room possible.

Place the kids into teams of two or three and supply enough glow sticks for each group to create a word that represents what Easter means to them. Give them 5 minutes for their creation. Gather the groups together and go through each word allowing the groups to explain why they chose their word.

At the end using all the glow sticks with everyone involved create the phrase 'Jesus is the Light.'

Explain that Jesus' light and resurrection overcame death and darkness and because of His light we can have the opportunity not to live in darkness anymore but to live a life of hope.

### **Activity 2 - Light of the World**

For this activity you will need:

- Individual premade cupcakes – one for each person
  - Icing and decorations - small eggs to place as decorations
  - A trick candle (these are the candles that keep relighting every time you blow them out. They are available from party shops, sometimes from the supermarket.)
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Spend time icing and decorating the cupcakes. Encourage the children to come up with their own reasons why we have eggs at Easter. (Eggs represent new life. We celebrate that Jesus came alive after three days and we also celebrate new life in Christ that is available to everyone.)

Once the children have finished decorating their cupcakes, use one of the cakes and place the trick candle on it.

Choose a child to blow out the candle.

When the candle relights itself, chat about how everyone thought when Jesus died that His light had been replaced with darkness, but it hadn't. He was and still is ALIVE! Darkness gave way to His light.

## *Chat with God*

For this activity you will need:

- The glow sticks from the previous activity

Using the glow sticks, encourage each child to hold a glow stick in their hand and to repeat the prayer after you.

*Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for my sins but most of all thank you for coming back to life and giving us hope. We believe that you are the Light of the World and we thank you that you overcame darkness. Help the lights in our lives to shine so that our family and friends can see that your light lives in us. We love you Jesus, Amen.*

You may wish to give the kids opportunity for them to say their own prayer either out loud or silently to themselves.

## *Home and Beyond*

It is vitally important, as leaders within our corps that we equip parents with suggestions, activities and language as they help their children to navigate their spiritual journey. A 'Home and Beyond' card given to each child is a great way to take the key message home and continue the conversation in the rhythm of their daily lives.

Print off the following cards and give one to each child.

### *HOME AND BEYOND*

- Ask your parents to buy you a torch. Write on the torch with a permanent marker the words, 'Jesus is the Light' as a reminder to you at all times that Jesus is the Light.
  - One night as a family go into the back yard when it is dark with torches and spend time chatting about the darkness. Chat about how Jesus is the Light of the World and how He overcame darkness when He came back to life on Easter Sunday.
  - Give a friend or a family member an Easter egg and explain to them why we have Easter eggs. You may want to practice on an adult first to help you become brave.
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