

Children's Resources

Easter Sunday



Unveiling the Kingdom

LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE

Hebrews 10:19-24 International Children's Bible (ICB)

So, brothers, we are completely free to enter the Most Holy Place. We can do this without fear because of the blood of Jesus' death. We can enter through a new way that Jesus opened for us. It is a living way. It leads through the curtain—Christ's body. And we have a great priest over God's house. So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith. We have been cleansed and made free from feelings of guilt. And our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised. Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.

EASTER SUNDAY

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 you could have most of the service together and then have the children go out for just a short time (choosing one of the suggested activities below) and come back together at the end.

Resurrection Sunday isn't about how one day we will go to Heaven, as great as that will be. It is about the opportunity and chance we have to live a new and victorious way of living with Jesus NOW.

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. This could be Kids Church, Kids Club during the week, or as the children go out for a short time during the message.

For this interactive message you will need:

- Six plastic eggs that will open up, with secret messages inside them
- A small table

Ask:

- I just want to test you all. Who can tell me what the word victorious means? (*You have won a victory; you have been triumphant in something.*)
- I wonder when you think of living "a victorious life" what do you think of.

Say: *Do you think of all the little victories that come to us during our lives such as winning a grand final in a sports match, or passing that a particularly hard exam, or test at school or beating someone in obtaining the role of school or sports captain? What sorts of things do you think of?*

- I wonder when you think of living a victorious life through Jesus what do you think of. Allow some people to answer (*overcoming sin, etc.*)

- Why should we want to live a victorious life through Jesus? (*Jesus calls us into a new way of living. He wants to leave our old life behind and start living a life that is full of hope and joy.*)

Living a victorious life through Jesus is sometimes harder than we think, so today we are going to explore some ways to help us.

Say: I have six Easter eggs here on the table that have some of the answers in them that we are looking for. But not all the answers are true. So we are going to play a game of true and false.

(Ask for six volunteers – as many children as possible. Show them the eggs lined up on the table.)

Ask a child to come up and open the **first** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the first egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we should eat lots of chocolate on Easter Sunday so that we develop a tummy ache’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (False)

Ask a child to come up and open the **second** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the second egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we must attend church five times over Easter and not fall asleep’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (False)

Ask a child to come up and open the **third** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the third egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we should spend time praying to God every day’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (True)

Ask a child to come up and open the **fourth** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the fourth egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we should hold onto the hope that God will do what he has promised’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (True)

Ask a child to come up and open the **fifth** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the fifth egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we should attend the Easter egg hunt in the local park and grab as many eggs as you can making you the victorious winner!’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (False)

Ask a child to come up and open the **sixth** egg and read the message inside.

Inside the sixth egg place a message saying, ***‘To live a victorious life through Jesus we should encourage our friends to become closer to God’. True or False?***

Ask the congregation is this statement true or false. (True)

Say: So we have chosen three true statements.

'To live a victorious life through Jesus we should spend time praying to God every day'.

'To live a victorious life through Jesus we should hold onto the hope that God will do what he has promised'.

'To live a victorious life through Jesus we should encourage our friends to become closer to God'.

Jesus didn't die on the cross never to be seen again. NO, he won the victory over death and sin and three days later he was alive again. He calls us to live a life that is victorious and helps us do this. But we need to be willing to spend time with him through prayer, reading the Bible and being together with other people who love him.

If you are in the main service you may wish to sing a song together about victory. An appropriate song is the old worship song called 'Victory we have in Jesus Christ'.

At this stage if the children are leaving during the meeting, state that they are going out to explore this further during Kids Church while the adults explore this throughout the rest of the service.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:

These activities can be used in a variety of settings as you explore the Easter theme with the children. This could be Kids Church, Kids Club during the week, or as the children go out for just a short time during the message.

Draw near to God through prayer (prayer collage):

For this activity you will need:

- Old newspapers and magazines
- Glue
- A3 white paper

Supply each child with some paper and magazines/newspapers. Cut up newspapers or magazines and find pictures or words that give the kids some ideas of things to pray and thank God for. After they have finished with their art work today, encourage them to take it home and stick it on the fridge to pray about throughout this week.

As the children are completing their art work talk to them about the importance of prayer. Tell them about some times when prayers have been answered in your life.

Ask them to think of a friend who they are really close to you. It could be their best friend or a special friend.

Ask:

- What sorts of things do you like doing with your friends?
- What sort of things do you talk about with your friends?
- When you spend time with your friends you become closer to them. The more you spend time with them you get to know them better and you become closer to them.
- Do you think that this could happen when we spend time with God?

Say: That's right, if we spend time with God by reading stories about him and talking to him through prayer, we will get to know God more and become closer to him.

When the kids have finished the collage, encourage each child to choose something from their collage and pray for that person or idea.

Hold onto hope:

- I wonder if you have really hoped for something before.

It may have been a special birthday or Christmas present or hoping to go somewhere special with your family. It may have been hoping that your football team wins or you find something that you may have lost. Spend some time with the kids hearing some of their hopes.

- *What happens when we hope for something and it doesn't happen? For example, if you hope for that really special present for Christmas and you don't get it then to top it off you don't get it for your birthday either. Do you give up hope? (Acknowledge that it is hard to hold onto hope sometimes, we tend to just give up.)*

When we ask Jesus to be our friend and we start living with him in our lives, we need to not give up, but to hold onto the hope and promises in him. Sometimes it is really hard to want to stay friends with Jesus but it is really important that we stay close to him.

- *I wonder if you can think of any ways that you cannot give up on Jesus being your friend (listen to their suggestions).*

One of the ways that will help is to get to know the Bible and all the promises that are in the scriptures.

We need to spend time reading stories about Jesus to remind us how much he loves us and to help us hold onto hope in our friendship with him.

Print out the promises attached on slips of paper and give a set to each child. Let them know that it helps if they memorise verses and to remind themselves daily of what the Bible says about Jesus loving them.

Remind the children what it says in Hebrews 10:23, 'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised'. (ICB)

Pray together asking God to help us hold on and not give up.

Encourage someone else in their faith journey:

For this activity you will need:

- Ping pong (table tennis) balls
- Blind folds
- Cups

Place the kids in teams of 3 or 4. Place the cups in zig zag lines like an obstacle course. The aim is for one child in the team to wear a blind fold and to blow the ping pong along the floor through the obstacle course to the finish line. The other team members need to encourage the blind folded child to blow the ball and guide them to help them get the ball to the end destination. Play it at the same time so that it is very noisy.

When the game is finished chat to the kids about what sorts of things did you say or do to encourage your team member to blow the ping pong ball and get the ball to the destination.

Think about a friend that you may encourage in your sporting team, dance troupe, drama team or something similar. As a team member you are expected to encourage your team mates.

- What sorts of things do you say to encourage them?

So it is important to encourage your team mates to get to that goal of winning the game or doing their best.

- I wonder if it is important to encourage our friends in their friendship with Jesus.
- Do you think we all need encouraging in our friendship with Jesus?

Remind the children what it says in Hebrews 10:24, 'Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds'. (ICB)

Ask the children to think of a friend that they could encourage in their friendship with Jesus. Spend some time praying silently for their friends.

HOME AND BEYOND:

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

HOME AND BEYOND

Box of Prayers

Write your prayer requests on paper and place in a box (you may have an Easter egg box you could use or a shoe box). Decorate it and place it where you eat with your family so you are encouraged to pray together regularly.

We have hope in Jesus

As a family start memorising the verses of scripture you received today. Make it a game and see who can memorise each verse the quickest.

Be an Encourager:

Over the school holidays think of a friend who is already a friend of Jesus and encourage them by either sharing a bible verse with them, praying with them or inviting them over for lunch.

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PHOTOCOPY AND HAND OUT TO EACH CHILD

Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised. Hebrews 10:23 (ICB)

Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. Hebrews 10:24 (ICB)

Yet God raised Jesus to life! God's Spirit now lives in you, and he will raise you to life by his Spirit. Romans 8:11 (CEV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will have life even if he dies. John 11:25 (ICB)

My dear children, you belong to God. So you have defeated them because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (ICB)