

The Whole World Redeeming



Children's Resources

GOOD FRIDAY

John 3:16 (CEV)

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a very reflective day, one that is more solemn than others leading up to Easter. It is helpful for Good Friday to have a separate space and activity for children right from the start of the service. This is often also a slightly shorter service than normal. Below you will find an outline with some suggestions for a short kids' church lesson.

CONNECTING IN:

For this activity you will need:

- 1 small packet of small Easter eggs
- Chocolate hollow eggs (the size that you would buy in a carton pack)
- Dessert spoons

'Today we are going to play a couple of games and the winner of the first game is going to win all these Easter eggs.' (*Show them the bag of eggs.*)

- Wow, who would like to win all these eggs?

Egg roll race:

Ask the children to lie on their tummies on the ground. Place a chocolate hollow egg in front of them and on the count of three they need to start blowing the eggs towards the finish line. They cannot use their hands or any part of their body, they just need to blow. The first one to cross the line is the winner and wins the packet of eggs. Make sure you make a huge fuss about the winner especially winning all the eggs. Ask the rest of the children to hold onto their egg ready for the next game.

'The next game we are going to play is a team race. I will decide who will win the prize at the end of the race.' (*Don't show them the prize as their prize will be the egg that they play with.*)

Egg and spoon relay:

Separate the children into teams of two or four depending on numbers. Using the same eggs that the children blew on during the last game, they need to place the egg on a spoon. Start the relay with each person having their own egg and spoon. At the end of the race declare that they are all winners and that their prize is their egg on the spoon.

Link: 'So we played a game where we had just one winner then the next game we played everyone won. Most of us play some sort of sport or have participated in a competition at school such as athletics or cross country etc.'

- Have you ever noticed that when you play team sports that each week the umpires or referees choose a Best and Fairest player after the game?

'At the end of the year all the points are added up and usually during a special 'Presentation Ceremony' a player with the most point's is awarded the Best and Fairest for the team for the whole season.'

- I wonder if there is anyone here that has ever won a Best and Fairest Award?

'Wow, that's quite a few of you. Well do you know that with Jesus we are all participants and we are all winners? There is not a person who is a Best and Fairest. We are all the Best and Fairest in the eyes of Jesus.'

- I wonder if you know why everyone is a winner with Jesus?

Yes, Jesus cleanses all of us from our sins and wrong doings. There is a verse in the bible that says:

John 3:16 (CEV)

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

To demonstrate what this means I am going to show you something that will help you understand this.

THE MAIN THING:

For this activity you will need:

- 1 small packet of small Easter eggs
 - A tray
 - 3 clear plastic cups. One labelled 'You', one labelled 'Sin' and one labelled 'Christ'.
 - Some water
 - Some iodine
 - Some bleach
- I wonder if there is anyone here that could resist a temptation. It is a huge temptation, so be prepared.

Choose someone who you know loves chocolate and will find it hard to resist the temptation.

'I am going to place a tray of Easter eggs in front of you while I show the rest of the kids something really cool. You need to sit down here and try not to touch, look, smell or eat an egg.' *(Make sure you place the child and eggs away from the other children so that they are not tempted and this will also allow the child to think they could maybe sneak one or two eggs in without anyone seeing! Unwrap the eggs and count how many eggs you place on the tray. Make a big deal of it. Smell the eggs and comment on how nice and yummy they look and smell. Even wave one of the eggs past the child's nose and allow them to smell it.)*

'Okay you just sit over there while I show the rest of the children something exciting.'

Using the water, iodine, bleach and plastic cups perform the next object lesson. *(You may wish to practice this before you demonstrate it to work out the quantities.)*

Ensure that the 3 clear plastic cups are labelled with a permanent marker, one cup labelled 'You', one cup labelled 'Sin' and the last cup labelled 'Jesus'. Have the cups on a table in the following order. The 'You' cup filled with water, the 'Sin' cup filled with water and iodine and the 'Jesus' cup filled with water and bleach. Make sure the 'Sin' cup is placed in the middle. Because the cups are filled with chemicals you must ensure that another adult is standing guard over the cups in case one of the kids decides to try and have a drink.

Explain to the children that we have three cups. One cup representing 'You', one cup representing 'Sin' and one cup representing 'Jesus'.

'Let's talk about the word sin.'

- I wonder if anyone can explain to me what sin is.

'Yes, that is right, sin is something wrong that you either do or say or even think. It is something that may offend someone, it may be something that is against the law, and it could be something like a lie or taking money out of Mum's purse.'

(Pour **part** of the solution from the 'sin' cup into the 'you' cup showing that we all sin. It should turn a dark colour.)

'The fantastic thing is that Jesus died for all our sins. He took the punishment for all our wrong doings and cleared all our sins.'

(Now demonstrate this by pouring **part** of the 'Jesus' cup into the 'you' cup. The contents of the 'you' cup should turn clear.)

'Wow, isn't that cool.'

'Did you know that Jesus never sinned, he never did anything wrong. He was tempted but God helped Him through the temptations.'

(Now pick up the 'sin' cup and pour **part** of this liquid into the 'Jesus' cup.)

'Jesus stayed clean and pure just like this water has stayed clean and pure.'

'So Jesus died to take away all our sins. He died for everyone that has ever lived and everyone that will live in the future. '

(Now pour some of the contents of the 'Jesus' cup into the 'sin' cup and watch as it clears. Keep some of the water for a little later on.)

'Oh, I forgot about you over there. How are you going? (Go over and bring the child and the eggs back to the rest of the group.)

- I am curious, did you touch, look, smell or eat any of the eggs?

If they did, explain that it was a very hard temptation and that Jesus will forgive them and that you do also. Talk to the children about making wrong choices and that when we are faced with a situation where we could be tempted to make the wrong choice that we can ask Jesus to help us.

If they didn't, congratulate them and allow them to eat a couple of the eggs but also look at the scenario if they did accept the temptation.

Tell the children that Jesus died for all our sins.

(Now pour the rest of the contents of the 'Jesus' cup into the 'sin' cup to remind the children.)

TYING IN:

For this activity you will need:

- 1 packet of small Easter eggs
- Printed prayers attached to the eggs.

We are going to spend some time together praying. I would like you to come up and take an egg out of the packet and pray the prayer that is attached to the egg. Then you can eat the egg.

Some example prayers could be:

- Thank you Jesus for taking the punishment for my sin.
- Thank you that you love me so much.

- Help me when I am tempted to make the right choice.
- Thank you for all my friends here.
- Help me to remember what Easter is all about.
- Thank you for dying on the cross for me.

Spend time praying with the children and have a leader finish with a prayer.

Remind the children that Sunday is coming and it is an exciting day. They need to come and find out why?