

The Whole World Redeeming



Children's Resources
EASTER SUNDAY

Ephesians 2:4-10 (CEV)

But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. God did this so that in the future world he could show how truly good and kind he is to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 (CEV)

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

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 and have some special bags for the children to engage with during the sermon section 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 of the service.

INTERACTIVE MESSAGE:

For this message you will need:

- A copy of the 'Special' Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme for the overhead – if you wish.
- A couple of marvellous creation Easter eggs.
- Party poppers
- Streamers
- Musical instruments, such as shakers, bells, etc.

➤ I wonder if anyone can tell me what is so special about today.

'Yes Jesus rose from the grave today, HE IS ALIVE, isn't that the best news you have heard today! I'm also thinking that something else happening this morning to some of us at home. Yes some of us woke up to chocolate Easter eggs. Yum, I love chocolate.'

➤ Did you get some eggs this morning? (Have a short discussion about what eggs they received.)

'Well, I know of a nursery rhyme about an egg that hasn't got a very nice ending.'

- I wonder if you know which nursery rhyme I am talking about.
- Can anyone say the rhyme out loud for me?
- Don't you think it's a bit sad that all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again?

‘You know I read recently on the internet a different version of Humpty Dumpty, let’s see if it’s a little bit happier.’

Read out the rhyme, you may wish to have it on the overhead screen as well.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the King’s horses and all the King’s men
Couldn’t put Humpty together again

But then, Humpty got up and looked good as new
His shell was all shiny and he didn’t use glue
He looked at the horses and all the King’s men
And said, “I don’t need you to put me together again!”

But then he realized that something was amiss
His outsides were fine, but his insides were all mixed
All scrambled, all churned, like an omelette he felt
So he began to plead to all the King’s helps

But they all declined with their heads bowed down low,
“We haven’t what it takes to heal such a blow,
In fact we are each in the same state as you”
Said all the King’s men, and his horses cried, “Us too!”

“There is no man here that can fix this great sting,
But the man up the hill can, we call him our King,
So go up the hill now, He’s waiting for you
As he waited for us to heal up this few.”

“But there are some things of you he’ll require,
Your heart and your soul, and all your desires.
You see, we have learned this, so the past years we’ve been
All the King’s horses, and all the King’s men.

(From Shannon – The Red Headed Hostess)

‘Wow, I love this take on Humpty Dumpty; it has a much happier ending to the nursery rhyme.

- Did you notice that it talks about the man up the hill, the King? ‘
- Who do you think the rhyme is talking about?

‘That’s right; Jesus is the King that made Humpty Dumpty whole again. What a wonderful ending Humpty Dumpty may have had if he took up the opportunity. You see the King’s horses and the King’s men only told Humpty Dumpty about what the King had done for them. It was up to Humpty Dumpty to take up the invitation for the King to heal him and make him better again.’

Ask the congregation:

- So who likes Chocolate?
- I wonder what your favourite chocolate is? Encourage some children to answer.

‘One of the chocolates that are fairly new in the shops is “Marvellous Creation” chocolate.’ (*Show the congregation a block of the chocolate or some of the Marvellous Creation eggs.*)

- Have you seen this in the shops or tasted this one before?
- Have you ever noticed how nice it is and that there are lots of different bits in Marvellous Creation chocolate?

- I wonder what some of your favourite bits may be?

‘So Marvellous Creation chocolate has bits of marshmallow, jelly bean, gummy bears, choc biscuits, clinkers, popping candy, crunchie, jelly bits, peanuts, toffee, raspberry bits, banana chips and it is all these ingredients that makes Marvellous Creation chocolate so yummy and irresistible.’

‘Jesus has got many bits of Him that makes him marvellous.’

- I wonder if you can tell me what you think makes Jesus so marvellous?
(Loving, caring, forgiving, etc.)

‘I think the action that Jesus took when He died on the cross for our sins and gave up His life for us makes Him awesome.’

- Have you ever heard people talk about being ‘Born again’?
- I wonder if you know what being ‘Born again’ means?

‘Yes, when we ask Jesus to come and live in our lives and hearts that action is what the Bible calls ‘Born Again’. It means that we are a new creation, the old person has gone and we become a new person. It says in the Bible in 2 Corinthians 5: 17: Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.’ (CEV)

‘Everything that we have done wrong in our lives is forgiven and forgotten by Jesus and we can start our life over again. That is what being ‘Born Again’ means. Jesus came to earth to take the punishment for our sins and to give us the opportunity of becoming a new creation. Just like the invitation that Humpty Dumpty received for the King to heal him, we too have the invitation from Jesus the real King, to heal our hearts and make us new again. It is up to us what we decide to do. Do we take up the invitation and live a life of freedom or do we ignore it?’

‘Perhaps next time you are eating some Marvellous Creations chocolate and enjoying all the little bits of goodies inside, you can remember that when you ask Jesus into your life you are a ‘Marvellous New Creation’ and that Jesus can add wonderful bits to your life that makes you a Marvellous Creation.’

‘I don’t know about you but when I hear what Jesus has done for me, I just want to dance and sing and today in particular I feel like celebrating because Jesus is alive.’

Choose a song that the congregation can sing. Provide some musical instruments for the children and some party poppers and streamers to throw while singing.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:

These activities can be used 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 just a short time during the message. You can choose if you’d prefer to run some activities or make up a bag for the children while they stay in for the service.

Let’s create:

For this activity you will need:

- Sheets of newspaper
- Rolls of toilet paper
- Tin foil
- Red tissue paper
- Other materials that you wish to give (see instructions)

You will need to divide the children into pairs. Provide each pair with some sheets of newspaper, a roll of toilet paper and some tin foil. Ask each pair to choose which one of them is going to be

“dressed up” and decorated using the supplies. Give each group 5 – 10 minutes to decorate this person using their supplies. When they are finished, comment on their creative human creations.

Next give them five minutes to change their human creations to a creation that they think would look like after their creation has asked to Jesus to be their friend. Give them some new and different supplies such as red tissue paper to work with.

Link: ‘We have all seen the wonderful and interesting creations that you had fun completing. I love how you all used your imagination.’ (Comment on each creation.) Ask each pair to explain how they changed each creation into a creation that showed that Jesus was their friend.

‘When we ask Jesus to live in our lives and be our friend, there is a change within our hearts. We become a new creation. This is why today, Easter Sunday is a very important day in the Christian calendar. Jesus took our place on the cross for us so that we could be set free. Then on the Sunday he rose again to give us the victory and new life.

Let’s celebrate:

For this activity you may wish to celebrate that fact that Jesus gives us new life by holding a small celebration party. Explain that we can celebrate every day knowing what Jesus has done for us.

- Decorate the room with streamers and balloons to give it a real party atmosphere.
- Have a small Easter egg hunt
- Decorate some cupcakes
- Sing some fun Easter songs
- Provide some fun food
- Have conversations with the children about what they think is great about Jesus being their friend.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BAG SUGGESTIONS:

Below are some suggestions for you to use in creating a children’s activity bag for use during the second half of the service. It would be good to hand these out to the children after the interactive message.

Jigsaw Puzzle:

For this activity you will need to provide each child with a jigsaw pieces in a snap lock bag. Type up the verse, ‘Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.’ 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21: (CEV) Stick the verse on some coloured cardboard and cut into jigsaw pieces. For the younger children you may not be able to read you could print off a butterfly picture instead of the verse.

- Complete this jigsaw puzzle. When you put the puzzle together it will make a verse or picture that will remind us that we are a new creation. All the pieces are no good when they are just sitting there separately but when you place them together they make a verse or picture creation. Just like when Jesus can put us back together we are a new creation.

A New Creation:

For this activity you will need to provide some play dough or magiclay for each child to create what they see when we become a new creation in Jesus. Place the play dough in a snap lock bag with the following note.

- With the dough or clay create something that will help remind you what Jesus has done when he comes and lives in your life and makes you a ‘beautiful new creation.’ You may wish to make a butterfly or a love heart or something else.

Creation eggs:

Provide each child with a hollow plastic egg, the bible verse, 'Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.' 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21: (CEV), two small chocolates and some textas or pencils. Place all the items in a snap lock bag with the following note.

- In this bag you have received a plastic egg, a bible verse for you to colour in and decorate and two small chocolates, (one for you and one for the plastic egg). Decorate the bible verse and place the verse and one of the chocolates inside the egg. During the week think of someone you would like to share Jesus with by giving them the egg. It may be someone in your family, a friend or a neighbour. You may even wish to decorate the outside of the egg.

Other items to include:

- Themed *Kidzone* for Easter Sunday (this will include puzzles and stories etc. for today's theme).
- Complete all the puzzles in *Kidzone* and bring it to (leader's name) at the end of the service for a lucky dip.
- 'Home and Beyond' card or swing tag for the family to continue the conversation at home.
- Lollypop, sweets, shapes or something to eat depending on the children that you have, keeping in mind allergies and eating in church policies etc. This could also be done by having a container where the children can choose something to put into their bag when they collect it OR making up the bags individually with names on them, thus catering for those with special needs, as well as having spares for visitors.
- Invitations or fliers for the families for the next family-focused activity.

HOME AND BEYOND:

Spend some time during this week and go for a walk with the family around your neighbourhood. See if you can spot anything new in your local streets that you haven't noticed before. New signs, new buildings, new plants in gardens, new play equipment etc.

During your walk have a chat with each other about how Jesus died for us to give us the chance to be a new creation and to start our life over again.

You may also wish to have a family movie night and during the movie eat some popcorn and some Marvellous Creation chocolate as a reminder of the marvellous creations that Jesus has made us. Spend some time together discussing the bits of each other that make us one of God's Marvellous Creations.'

2 Corinthians 5: 17 (CEV)

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.