

## **GAME: JESUS AND THE RESURRECTION**

**Bible:** John 3:16; Luke 24:2-3

### **SUPPLIES**

- Poster board
- Sharpie
- Scissors
- 2 Easter baskets
- 60 Easter eggs (use only 2 colors – 30 eggs of each color)

### **GAME PREP**

Draw a giant egg on a piece of poster board and use scissors to cut it out.

Feel free to draw a pattern or design to make it look like a decorative Easter egg.

Divide students into two teams of equal size and have them form single file lines.

Lay the giant poster board egg on the floor.

Place the two Easter baskets about 8-feet in front of the giant egg – space the baskets apart from each other.

Then, place 30 Easter eggs (of one color) in each team's basket.

Have each team line up behind their team's designated basket.

### **HOW TO PLAY THE GAME**

**Say:** This game is a twist on a traditional “egg roll.”

Each of your teams has been assigned an egg color, and you have been given 30 eggs.

When the game begins, the team on the left will take their turn first.

They will take an egg from their basket and roll it onto the giant poster board egg.

You only get one roll per turn.

If you don't make it onto the giant egg, then your turn is over.

You *must* roll the egg – you cannot toss or throw it.

Then, the team on the right will take one of their eggs and roll it onto the giant egg.

Each time your team takes a turn, not only will you want to try and get your egg onto the giant egg, but you will also want to knock the other team's eggs off of the giant egg.

We will take turns back and forth until all of the eggs from each team's baskets are gone.

At the end of the game, the team with the most eggs on the giant egg will win the game.

## **TEACH**

**Say:** During the Easter season, we see a lot of Easter eggs – they are everywhere.

Churches have Easter egg hunts, and stores sell Easter baskets and candy.

Because you have seen Easter eggs your entire life, in every Easter season, it might not feel very special.

But imagine someone who had never seen all of the things we use to celebrate Easter – it was completely new to them.

It would be pretty exciting for them!

When we talk about the true meaning of Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus, most of us have heard the story dozens of times.

**Ask:** But, how would you describe Jesus to someone who had never heard of Him before?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

Jesus has more names and titles than any other being who ever was or is!

Every time a different name for Jesus is used in the Bible, we learn something else about His nature and qualities.

For example...

In 1 John 1:21, Jesus is our “advocate – He speaks to God on our behalf.

In Revelation 1:17, Jesus is the “First and Last” – He always has been and always will be.

Matthew 12:18 refers to a prophecy in the Book of Isaiah that calls Jesus a “Servant” – someone who did not come to earth to be served, but rather, came to serve the world.

The name of Jesus can be found in more than six thousand languages, with more added every year.

Since AD 33, over eight billion people, by one estimate, have claimed to be followers of this Jesus.

Jesus is the heart, center, and focus of Easter.

Without the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is no Easter and no reason to celebrate.

**Read John 3:16.**

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

Jesus was sent to earth as living, and breathing proof that God loves the world.

**Ask:** How does Jesus coming to earth demonstrate that God loves us?

How do you personally know that God loves you?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

**Ask:** How do you know that anyone in your life – your parents, friends, church family – loves you?

What proof do you have?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

You know others love you by their actions and what they say to you and about you.

Think about the scripture we just read... knowing that God gave His one and only Son so that we could have the opportunity to spend eternity with Him.

That sounds like love to me.

Before Jesus died, He had predicted His death and His resurrection.

When He died, everyone should have believed that He would also come back to life.

**Read Luke 24:2-3.**

They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus had been buried, and some women had gone to his tomb to take spices and perfume to help cover the smell of his decomposing body.

It's not a nice thing to think about, but it demonstrates the love that these women had for Jesus that they would be willing to do something like that.

When they arrived at the tomb, they noticed the stone that had previously blocked the entrance to the tomb had been moved.

So, they went inside the tomb and realized Jesus was gone.

In the next few verses, we read that two angels appeared and asked the women why they were looking for Jesus when He had told them He was going to raise from the dead – they should have known He wouldn't be there.

Ask: If you were these women, how do you think you would have reacted to seeing the angels?

Allow a few responses from students.

In verse 5, we read that the women were terrified and bowed down to them.

After the angels spoke to the women, they ran back to tell the disciples the news that Jesus was gone.

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christianity.

If Jesus had died and stayed in the grave, it would have meant that He didn't live up to what He had said – that He would be raised from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope that we can trust what He says.

The resurrection proves that Jesus has the authority to forgive sin because He died for our sin on the cross.

Every sin and all the shame are forever gone because they are buried in an empty tomb.

And just like Jesus was transformed when He rose from the dead, our lives are transformed because He is changing our lives by the same power.

This Easter remember the power of the resurrection – it's the same power that fills your life and is helping you become more like Jesus.

End lesson.

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