

EASTER

For the Christian church, Easter is the celebration of Christ's finished work on Calvary. It means victory, resurrection and eternal life for all who trust Christ.

Some boys and girls in our clubs have not yet comprehended, or applied personally, the importance of the death and resurrection of Christ for them. They do not yet understand that He died in their place, so they might have eternal life. Other clubbers have just experienced the new life Christ offers. Their families still may not understand the great Easter message of hope. During this season, emphasize over and over to clubbers Christ's death and resurrection.

Children enjoy the fun of traditional Easter games. Although colored eggs, bunny rabbits, and Easter baskets offer no spiritual significance, they can attract boys and girls to club.

Easter Egg-stravganza

Publicity – Draw and cut out an Easter basket or egg on folded construction paper. On the inside, write your announcement: *Come to our T&T Easter Party next Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Central Bible Church.* Mail the invitations to clubbers who are not regular attenders. When you hand invitations to regular club attenders, give them an extra invitation, too, for their friends.

Pre-club Activity – When clubbers arrive at club, give them two hard-boiled eggs, decorating colors and crayons. Clubbers arriving just before the start of club may have time to decorate only one egg. (Leaders can decorate eggs for clubbers who arrive too late to decorate their own.) Fill pint-sized baskets with Easter grass and tie ribbons around them. Give one to each clubber as a container for his or her colored eggs.

Easter Games

Instead of the usual center pin, place an Easter basket on top of the beanbag. Clubbers grab the basket for first-place points.

Three-man relay – Each player holds a spoon in his or her hand and lines up as in the Sprint Relay. Third- and fourth-graders use tablespoons; fifth- and sixth- graders use teaspoons. The first player on each team places a hard-boiled egg on the spoon. When the whistle blows, players run one lap around the circle. Players then transfer the egg (without touching it) to the next player's spoon. When the third player completes a lap, he or she rounds the team pin and runs into the center for the Easter basket or beanbag. Bonus points are awarded to the team whose egg has the fewest cracks. If an egg falls to the floor, the player must pick it up and put it back on the spoon before continuing. Even if the egg is severely damaged, the player still picks up the remnants and continues play.

Egg rolling –One clubber starts at his team pin with a hard-boiled egg on the floor and a wooden spoon in his or her hand. When the whistle blows, players roll their eggs into the center to hit the Easter basket. The first player to succeed wins. Players may not touch the eggs with their hands at any time.

Ring toss –The game director places a large, stuffed rabbit in the center of the Game Square. Each player, standing behind the team line, takes turns tossing jar rings (or other rings similar in size). Each rabbit-ear ringer is worth five points; rings landing on the rabbit's head are scored one point. The team accumulating the most points wins.

Easter egg race –Circle pins are replaced with Easter baskets, and five eggs are placed in each team's triangle in the center of the circle. When the whistle blows, the first player on each team runs into the center, picks up one egg, brings it back, places it in his or her team's Easter basket and tags the second player. Action continues until all five players participate. The first team with all five eggs in its basket wins.

Handbook Time

Provide opportunities for clubbers to informally discuss with you the meaning of Easter. Ask questions: Why is it important that Jesus died on the cross? Did Jesus have to die, or could another person have paid the penalty for our sins? Is it important that Jesus rose from the dead? Why? Note: Prior to this club meeting, discuss the above questions in prayer and planning sessions. Biblical answers are essential, but make sure explanations are on clubbers' level. It may be necessary to extend Handbook Time 10 minutes to allow adequate time for discussion.

Easter Caroling

Many people in your community cannot attend Easter services because of physical difficulties. But they would love to hear the Easter songs of praise and adoration for our risen Lord! Plan to carol early Easter morning or on the Saturday afternoon before Easter. Visit homes of shut-ins, hospitals or other institutions. Share the Easter message of hope and resurrection.

If you decide to carol on Easter morning, start at 7:30 a.m. (Call on Saturday and let folks know you'll be coming.) Carol for an hour and return to church or a leader's home for breakfast at 8:30. Then attend Sunday school and church with your clubbers. This is a great way to get clubbers to Sunday school who don't normally attend.

Egg Tree Contest

The Egg Tree was first used by the Pennsylvania Dutch to decorate their homes. Since then, it has become a traditional Easter decoration. Your clubbers will enjoy watching the tree sprout eggs.

From the woods, select a tall tree limb with many branches. Plant it securely in a pail or tub of gravel and sand. If desired, spray paint the branches a pastel color. Cover the pail with green crepe paper and spread cellophane straw around the base.

As clubbers achieve, decorate the tree with large and small plastic eggs. Award a small or large egg to clubbers for each handbook section. As clubbers pass sections, pin or tape their names on eggs and allow them to hang them on the tree.

Run the contest for three weeks before Easter. Display the rules on your club bulletin board. For a contest this short, an appropriate prize is a group outing for all who earn a specified number of eggs.

Passover

During the Jewish Passover, tell the Passover story in club. Every year Jewish people continue to celebrate the Passover. Clubbers should understand that the Passover which Jewish people celebrate today is the same as that described in Exodus 12. The Passover dinner which Jews still observe annually is the Last Supper which Christ celebrated with His disciples the night before He was crucified.