

## An Easter Presentation

**This presentation is designed to be carried in a morning session at your Sunday school or Kids' church. However, it could also be done in 5 separate sessions as the storytelling part of your morning programme. You could make it more interactive by using a range of storytelling techniques (see other examples of the Easter story on the Ripple website).**

### Preparation

Buy 5 medium sized Easter eggs. Open each one carefully and take out the contents and add the following instead.

1<sup>st</sup> Egg- crown

2<sup>nd</sup> Egg – sheet of paper showing “God’s rescue plan”

3<sup>rd</sup> Egg – sad face

4<sup>th</sup> Egg – empty wrapper

5<sup>th</sup> Egg - nothing

Carefully rewrap the eggs so that they look as if they haven't been disturbed.

### Top Tip

A great way to tell the story is to move around the room to different places. You could have a few props set up in each area to enhance the storytelling.

### Location 1 – Palm Sunday setting

*You could have palm branches made to give out to the children to wave.*

Who likes Easter Eggs?

Which is your favourite? My favourite is a [name] egg –yummy delicious.

Whose parents steal bits of their chocolate eggs or “help” them eat their eggs?

Who is first to finish eating all their eggs in your house?

Today we are going to think about the 1<sup>st</sup> Easter. I wonder why we celebrate Easter by eating chocolate eggs. Does anyone know? Well Easter is a time when we think about New Life because God's gift to us at Easter means we have new life in Him. But we will find out more about that later.

Call up a volunteer to open the first Easter egg. What do you think is going to be inside this egg? Child will probably name the sweets on the box but when they open the egg they find a crown

instead. [see [https://picklebums.com/images/picklebums\\_tiara\\_template.pdf](https://picklebums.com/images/picklebums_tiara_template.pdf)]. I wonder why there is a crown in there. Maybe we'd better look at the first part of the Easter story to find out.

***Read the account of Palm Sunday from a children's story bible e.g. use "The Great Parade" from The Lion Storyteller Bible.***

The First Easter week began with a celebration. Everyone was so excited to see Jesus – they recognised that he was a special King. They thought he was going to come into Jerusalem and save them from the Romans (the Romans had taken over their country). Jesus **was** going to save them but from something far greater than the Romans –He was going to save them from their sins and the punishment they deserved and to bring them back to God. And this wasn't just for the Israelites but for all people –for you and me! Jesus was the only one who could ever have done this. Let's find out some more –follow me! [Move to the next setting].

### **Location 2 – the Last Supper setting**

*You could have a simple meal set out with a tablecloth or blanket on the floor, cups, pitta bread, plates etc. If you have a small number of children seat them around the display, otherwise seat them in front of it.*

Call up a volunteer to open the 2<sup>nd</sup> chocolate egg. Inside there is a plan -an image of the cross bridging the gap between us and God e.g.

[https://teresaklassen.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/bridge8\\_4x63.jpg](https://teresaklassen.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/bridge8_4x63.jpg)

There were some very sad and difficult days ahead for Jesus and his followers, but all of it was part of God's plan to rescue us – his people whom he loved.

***Read the account of the Last Supper from a children's story bible e.g. use "An Important meal" from The Lion Storyteller Bible.***

I wonder how the disciples were feeling during and just after the meal with Jesus. [Allow some thoughts from the children].

Even though really hard things were going to happen, this was all part of God's plan- Jesus knew he was in his Father's hands though it didn't make it easy to go through what he did. Let's move on and see what happens next.

[Move to the next location].

### **Location 3 – In the Garden**

*You could have a few plant pots sitting around and some green material on the ground or a garden backdrop.*

Call up a volunteer to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> chocolate egg. Inside there is a sad face. Use a sad emoji face.

***Read the account of the Arrest of Jesus from a children's story bible e.g. use the first half of "A Dreadful Day" from The Lion Storyteller Bible. Or use "A dark night in the Garden" from The Jesus Story Book Bible.***

Even though Jesus had warned the disciples that he was going to suffer and die, they were still very sad and confused. They were afraid of the soldiers and so they ran away. Then they felt so guilty for leaving Jesus but helpless to know what to do – it was a terrible time! But worse was to come. Let's see what happens next. [Move to the next location].

### **Location 4 – At the Cross**

*Have a wooden cross or a large card cross stuck to the wall. Make a sign to say King of the Jews. A crown of thorny branches would also be very impactive.*

Call up a volunteer to open the 4<sup>th</sup> chocolate egg. Inside there is an empty wrapper. Say "I wonder what this could mean? Let's see if the next part of the story will help us".

***Read the account of the Crucifixion from a children's story bible e.g. use the second half of "A Dreadful Day" from The Lion Storyteller Bible. Or use "The Sun stops shining" from The Jesus Story Book Bible.***

Jesus said "it is finished" or "everything is done" on the cross and then he died. So that's what the empty wrapper was showing us –it was a sign to show "it is finished".

Jesus didn't say "it is finished" because the pain was over but because his job of saving people was finished. Through him the punishment had been taken for the wrong things we say and think and do. Jesus was cut off from God on the cross so we don't have to be. He died so that we

can be forgiven instead of punished; friends with God instead of enemies. No one else could do that for us and no one else could do what he did next. [Move to final location].

### **Location 5 – At the empty Tomb**

*You could have a pop up tent draped in dark cloth and a card stone stuck near the entrance, or a large picture of an empty tomb on the wall.*

Call up a volunteer to open the 5<sup>th</sup> chocolate egg. Inside there is nothing. Hold up the empty shells and say “they are empty – we expected to see something inside and there’s nothing. I wonder if the story will help us understand why?”

***Read the account of Jesus’ resurrection from a children’s story bible e.g. use the second half of “A Happy Day” from The Lion Storyteller Bible. Or use “God’s wonderful Surprise” from The Jesus Story Book Bible.***

Jesus had victory over death and for that reason we have assurance that we will be with him in heaven – eternal life was won for us on the cross. That’s why we celebrate Easter by eating chocolate eggs. They are a symbol of the new life we have when we trust in Jesus –our Saviour who rescued us from death.

Let’s celebrate with a party! [Share out the chocolate from the Easter eggs and give us some drinks and other party food if you wish].