

The Egg and the Pipe cleaner

What you Need

Uncooked Egg

Straight Pin

A pipe cleaner for each child



Hold up the egg so everyone can see. Talk about what is in an egg and explain how the shell is the protective covering of the egg. Using a straight pin, poke one small hole anywhere on the egg. Ask the children what will eventually happen to the egg now that it has a hole in its shell. (It will begin to go bad and eventually rot and smell awful.) Ask the children how many holes would the egg have to have in its shell for it to begin to go bad and smell (one). Isn't it amazing how something so small can have such a big effect?

Sin is just like that. Who can explain to us what sin is? Ask another child to explain the meaning of the word "sinner." Ask, "How many sins does it take for a person to become a sinner?" (just one).

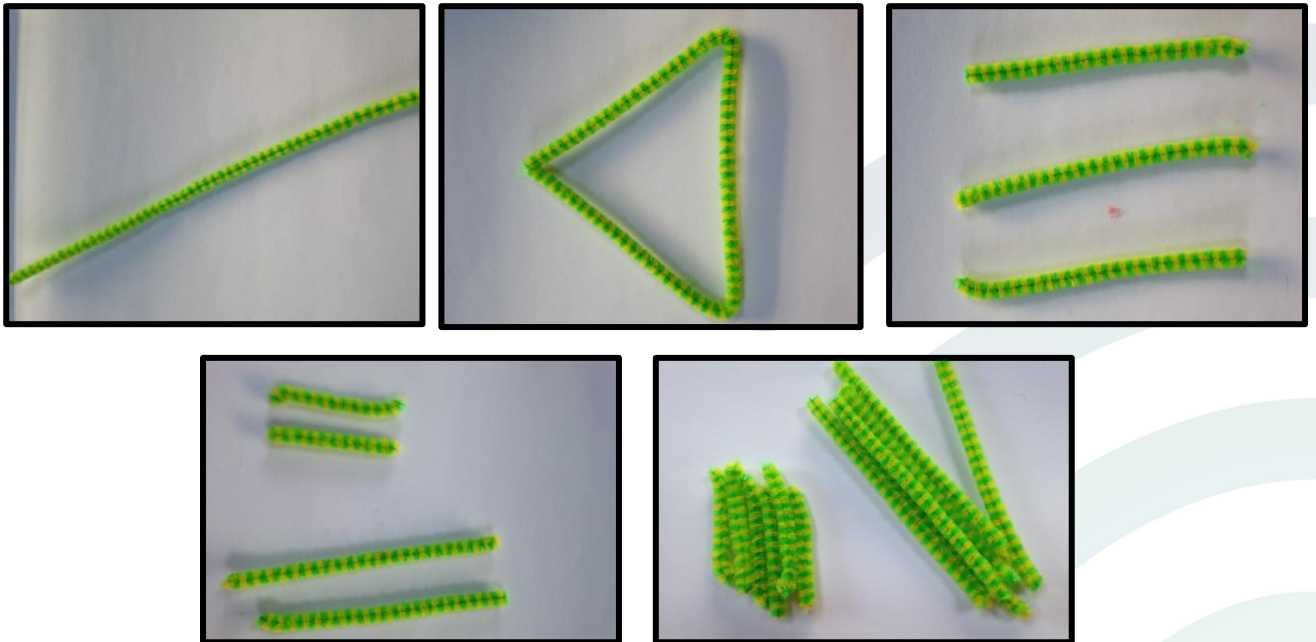
The bible says that everyone has sinned.

***²³ Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory. Romans 3: 23
Good News Version***

We are all in the same boat. Sometimes we might think that we haven't done anything too bad and we don't need God's forgiveness, but the bible tells us different and it tells us that sin is serious.

²³ The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 Good News Version

- Hand everyone a pipe cleaner and share out some pairs of scissors. Tell everyone to fold their pipe cleaner to make a triangle with 3 sides all the same length. Then cut the pipe cleaner at each corner to make 3 small sticks of equal length.
- Next fold one of the 3 sticks in half and cut again. You should end up with 2 longer sticks and 2 shorter sticks.
- Ask the children to get into groups of 3. (You may need a 1 or 2 leaders to take part if numbers don't work out). Put all the sticks in the middle of the group (each group should have 6 longer sticks and 6 shorter ones).



Sometimes sin can seem small and not important like the tiny hole in the egg. For example somebody might let us down or make fun of us and we might feel angry and cross with them. Before we know it our feelings can turn into feelings of hate. We need God in our lives to help us to see things from the other person's point of view and to forgive others when they do wrong against us. Hate is a word that sums up the brokenness of our world and is the cause of much suffering and pain between people. It's a sad and ugly word that spoils God's creation, and spoils us as his children.

- In groups make the word H A T E using the pipe cleaner sticks.

God took our sin and hate seriously and allowed his son Jesus to meet it head on in a battle to the death. All the brokenness and pain of the world focused itself on Jesus when he was put to death on a cross.

- Reshape the twelve pieces to make a cross as shown: use four 6-cm pieces as the upright, two 3-cm pieces either side for the crosspiece, and the other pieces to create the steps below.

But hate did not have the last word. God raised Christ from death on Easter Day by the power that can turn HATE into LOVE.

- Now reshape the twelve pieces to spell the word LOVE.

God's love is stronger than death. God's love can reach into the deepest pit and bring out life. God's love can transform us back into the people God made us to be. If you want to know God's love in your life, He is waiting for you. The bible says "Listen, I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together." Revelation 3:20

Will you let Him in ? Finish with a prayer that the children can say quietly after you. Invite anyone who wants to speak to you after to come and do so.

