



# 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

March 30-31, 2013

DATE

Mark 14-16 (Pg.1114-1119); John 13-21 (Pg.1184-1194)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Easter

LESSON TITLE

Jesus rescued us and is alive!

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Hang out with kids (10 minutes):** Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

**Small Group (20-30 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

There may be quite a few new kids this week. Help them feel welcome and included from the moment they walk in the room. Greet them warmly and introduce them to one another.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they went on an Easter egg hunt for an empty egg!

**Also, give kids a God's Story: Easter video poster as they leave!**

## large group heads up

Read the story of Easter ahead of time. You can find it in Mark 14-16 (Pg. 1114) or John 13-21 (Pg. 1184). You may even want to watch the video kids will see during large group. It's called "God's Story: Easter," and you can find it at [crossroadskidsclub.net](http://crossroadskidsclub.net).

This is a really important story, so do all you can to prepare to help kids understand it!



## instructions

**Goal:** To equip kids to retell the story at home, with an emphasis on the most important part!

**Why?** This is the most exciting part of God's Story so far; we want kids to know it and share it.

**Tip:** Tailor the Easter egg hunt to your service and your kids. We'd love for kids to get up and move around, but small group's goal can be achieved by simply handing them out.

## small group

**DURING LARGE GROUP, HIDE THE SMALL GROUP EGGS!!!** There should be **one egg per kid**; color does not matter. They are empty by design. (Hide them in a manner that works for your room. If that's under small group chairs instead of dispersed throughout the entire room, that's fine!)

### CONNECT

1. Think of one word to describe your FAVORITE part of today's story. Now tell us your name and that one word.

### REVIEW

2. Why did some people want to kill Jesus? (they didn't believe he was God's Son)
3. Who offered to help arrest Jesus in return for money? (Judas, Jesus' disciple and friend)
4. What did Jesus do during his last supper with his disciples? (broke bread and drank wine; it was the first communion, which we still do to remind us of Jesus' rescue)
5. After dinner where did Jesus go and who did he talk to? (he went to a garden to talk to God, his Abba, his daddy)
6. How did Jesus feel about dying? (he didn't want to, but was willing to do it if God wanted him to)
7. Why did Jesus have to die? (God wanted him to rescue us, to take our punishment of death)

**SAY:** To answer the next question, you EACH need an egg. So get up and choose ONE Easter egg—JUST ONE. Bring it back here. But don't open it yet!! (Let kids find an egg. Help them to discipline themselves to only take one; that will hopefully be easier when they realize there's nothing inside.)

(Continue on the next page)

Once everybody has an egg, say:

8. Okay, here's your question: **What happened that proved that Jesus really is the Son of God and the Rescuer?** Open your egg for a hint! (Jesus was buried in a tomb but when his friends went to visit, it was empty!—just like the egg—because Jesus came back to life! He's alive!)

Now we're going to decorate this empty egg to remind us to tell our families and friends about the story of Jesus' rescue—and the best part: that he came back to life and is alive today! (Give kids **foam stickers** to use to decorate their eggs. As they decorate, use the questions below to generate meaningful discussion.)

#### REACT/RELATE

1. How would you have felt if you had been Jesus' friends at the cross who watched Jesus die to rescue them? (Sad, etc.)
2. Why do you think Jesus was willing to rescue us, even though it meant he had to die? (He loves us so much that he wanted us to be close to him and God! He also wanted to do what God wanted him to do.)
3. Are you willing to do what God wants, even when it's hard? Has anybody ever done that before? (Let kids share if they have.)
4. What would you have done if you had discovered that the tomb was empty? Who would you have told? Would you have danced? Screamed? Etc. (Try to get the kids to imagine themselves in the story.)

**\*When kids finish, pray together and thank Jesus for being our Rescuer!** Then ask kids to practice retelling the story to each other and to you, using the egg to tell that Jesus was buried (closed egg) and then came back to life (open egg)!

*Extra time? Try these:*

- *Grab a group game and play it with your table*
- *Read kids the story from the Mark 14-16*
- *Watch today's video again as a large group*

# LARGE group



## special notes

We have **ten eggs** filled with props for today's story. You can hide them around the room before large group, hand them to certain kids before you begin, or keep them with you and ask kids to come up and open them. **Make the story interactive, but adapt that to fit your site and service!**

## presenter tips

This story is somber. The real celebratory part will be emphasized in small groups. Don't be afraid to tell the story in a serious way.

## script

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so happy to see you all here today. We're going to have a great time! In fact, this is a really important day. Today, we get to hear one of the BEST parts of God's story: Jesus' rescue!

### REVIEW: WHO JESUS IS

But before we hear about Jesus' rescue, it's important to remember who Jesus is—and all the amazing things he did to show us that he's not just a man, but he really IS God's Son, the Great Rescuer. We're going to watch a short video to remind us who Jesus is before we talk about his amazing rescue.

### **Video: Who Is Jesus? (Almost 1 minute)**

Wow, remember how just ONE week before Jesus rescued us, people were cheering and waving palm branches? They treated him like a King! But just like in the video, some people didn't like Jesus. They didn't believe he was a King or the Rescuer. And they definitely didn't believe he was God's Son! They decided they wanted Jesus to *die*. They decided to kill him.

But Jesus' death was all part of God's plan. All the wrong things in the world deserved death. So the only way to get *rid* of death was for somebody perfect, who didn't deserve to die, to take the punishment FOR us. Jesus knew he was going to be killed, and he was willing to die *for us*. (More on this concept is addressed in the video.)

### STEPS LEADING UP TO JESUS' DEATH

Now, there are some eggs scattered around the room to help me tell the story of some of the events leading up to Jesus' death. If you have an egg near you, go ahead and open it up. And if you don't, you'll get one in small group! (Let kids open eggs.) **Okay, who has money in their egg? (5 EGGS)** If you do, bring it up! (Let kids come forward and have them place money in the **money bag**; they can put their eggs in the large group bin).



## script continued

Thanks, guys! You can have a seat. Any ideas why money is a part of this story? (Let kids respond.) This money bag tells us how the leaders and men who wanted to kill Jesus actually found him to arrest him. They offered to pay one of Jesus' own *disciples*, Judas, to bring them to Jesus. And Judas said yes!

Imagine how that made Jesus feel. Have you ever had a friend—or someone you thought was a friend—talk about you behind your back? (Let kids respond.) Jesus knows how that feels. Judas agreed to help Jesus' enemies arrest and kill him—for money!

Now, ***if you have bread or grapes***, bring them up. (Let kids bring them up.) Does anybody know why we have bread and grapes? **(2 EGGS)** (Let kids respond.)

On the night before his death, Jesus had dinner with his disciples: we call it the Last Supper. He helped get his friends ready to say goodbye to him. He broke bread to show the disciples how his body would break. Then he took a drink of wine to show them how his blood would spill. It was called communion, and we still take communion to remember what Jesus did for us.

Next, ***who has flowers or leaves?*** **(3 EGGS)** Bring them up! (Let kids bring them up) Do you guys know why we have flowers and leaves? (Let kids respond.)

After the Last Supper, Jesus went outside to a garden to pray. A few of his friends came with him and tried to pray for him, but they kept falling asleep. Jesus didn't sleep though. Imagine *knowing* that people were going to kill you very soon. Jesus was so troubled that he was actually sweating *blood*. The Bible tells us that he prayed this to God:

***SLIDE: Mark 14:36 "Abba," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."***

Calling God "Abba" is like calling God "daddy." Jesus was telling God that he trusted him. He said he didn't want to die, but he would do it if that's the only way God could rescue us. (Pause)

And it was. Soon after Jesus prayed that prayer, Judas led a whole group of men into the garden to arrest Jesus...now it was only a matter of time until Jesus died.

## **JESUS RESCUED US**

We're going to watch a video about Jesus' death. As you watch, see if you can figure out how we KNOW that Jesus isn't just a normal man who died—how we KNOW that he is the Son of God who RESCUED us!

***Video: God's Story / Easter (about 4 minutes)***

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### script continued

So what are some ways that we know Jesus is the Son of God? (Let kids respond. They *might* say: The earth quaked, rocks split, a curtain ripped, it was dark in the middle of the day. But make *sure* they say: Jesus came back to life!) Yes, Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life! That's the great news about Jesus' Rescue—he really rescued us, because he was really the Rescuer sent from God! And he's still alive today!

### WORSHIP

Alright, now it's time to sing songs and celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive! These songs talk about how great Jesus is, and how he'll always come to help us. After all, he rescued us!

***Worship Song: Better Than the Best*** (dance video—kids can try to follow along or just sing along, no hand motions to teach)

***Worship Song: You Come in a Hurry*** (live lyric video with hand motions)

### PRAY

Ask somebody to come pray and thank God for sending his son Jesus to rescue us.

***\*\*Put the items back inside the ten eggs. They will need them for each subsequent service!***



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## small group supplies

Per kid:

1. 1 plastic egg
2. Foam stickers for each kid: OT:IN-57/2377, OT: IN-37/1101, or something similar that is designed to stick to plastic eggs

3. Poster – God’s Story: Easter

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## large group supplies

1. 5 plastic eggs with one gold/silver coin
2. 1 plastic egg with fake bread
3. 1 plastic egg with fake grapes
4. 3 plastic eggs with fake flowers and/or leaves (just make sure at least one flower and one leaf is included in 1 of

- the 3 eggs)
5. 1 small, empty drawstring bag that can fit all 5 coins

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## a/v needs

1. Video: Who is Jesus?  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUAQH-Ogxxk>
2. SLIDE: Mark 14:36 “Abba,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want.”
3. Video: God’s Story: Easter

4. Song: Better Than the Best Thing
5. Song: You Come in A Hurry

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## special room set-up

Posters to go with the God’s Story video should be distributed at the end of each service today!

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## connect questions

Tell me about Easter.

Why was Jesus willing to die to rescue us?

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## parent page

Easter is the story of Jesus’ rescue. What Jesus did for us is pretty incredible: ask your kids about it. And if you want, read it together in Mark 14-16 or watch a video of the story at [crossroadskidsclub.net](http://crossroadskidsclub.net). (You can also find this story in Matthew, Luke and John!)