



March 30-31, 2013

DATE

Easter

LESSON TITLE

Mark 14-16 (Pg.1185); John 13-21 (Pg.1256)

WHERE TO FIND IT

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 or John 13-21. 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.

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 best 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. Jesus knew he was going to be killed, so where did he go and who did he talk to? (He went to a garden to talk to God, his Abba, his daddy)
4. God wanted Jesus to rescue us, even though it was hard. So Jesus did! How did Jesus rescue us? (He died on the cross.)
5. After Jesus died, where was his body put? (it was buried in a tomb)
6. What happened that proved that Jesus really is the Son of God and the Rescuer? (He came back to life!)
7. How did some of Jesus' friends find out he was alive? (the tomb where He had been buried was now empty)

SAY: I want you guys to get up and choose ONE Easter egg—JUST ONE. Bring it back to the table. It's going to help us remember the BEST part of today's story. (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)

When kids return, **SAY**: What's inside your egg? (Let kids say: nothing). Yes, nothing. My egg is empty. Does anybody else have an empty egg? (Let kids respond.)

(Act surprised): Now, why would an EMPTY egg remind me of the BEST part of this story?!?! (Guide kids to say: because the tomb where Jesus was buried was empty! 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's alive! (Give kids **foam stickers** to use to decorate their eggs. As they decorate, ask them the next questions.)

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!)
3. What would you have done if you had discovered that the tomb was emptied? Who would you have told? Would you have danced? Screamed? Etc. (Try to get the kids to imagine.)
4. Reminder: What's the best part of this story? (Jesus is alive today AND we can be close to God!)

***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 Mark 14-16*
- *Watch today's video again as a large group*
- *Play Freeze Dance: Play some upbeat music (use your **Kids' Club CD**) and have everyone dance like crazy while the music is playing. Stop the music at random intervals and have kids freeze in place until the music plays again. Oh—and you gotta shake it some, too, or this game won't work. Don't worry—they won't know you're a horrible dancer.*

special notes

We have two short videos today. Really play up the cheering in between the two clips, so that kids have a chance to get up and moving!

presenter tips

Make sure you use lots of eye contact and muster as much energy as possible as you present. Kids love it when you act silly and over-the-top, so go for it. They'll love it and it will help the lesson to stick.

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. So now 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 (**wave your branch** and cheer)? Everybody was excited! Can you guys stand up and cheer with me? (Lead the group in a loud cheer to get them moving—make it fun!) Great job! Now you can all sit down.

(Make your voice serious): But just like in the video we just watched, 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 were going to kill him.

JESUS IS THE RESCUER

Jesus is God's Son and he DID come to rescue us, so he knew the rescue meant he had to die. But he didn't want to. So Jesus spent some time talking to God about it. (Show **garden picture**) That night, he went to a place called the Garden of Gethsemane. He fell onto the ground (fall onto the ground) and prayed:



script continued

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 didn’t want to die, but he would die to rescue us if God wanted him to.

God DID want him to rescue us—and dying was the only way Jesus could do that! He had to take the punishment of death for all the wrong things in the world...even though he had never done anything wrong. (More explanation of this idea is in the next video.)

JESUS RESCUED US

We’re going to watch a video about what happened. 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)

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 much Jesus loves us and how he’ll always come to help us. After all, he rescued us!

Worship Song: Jesus Loves Me (music video with hand motions)

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.



script continued

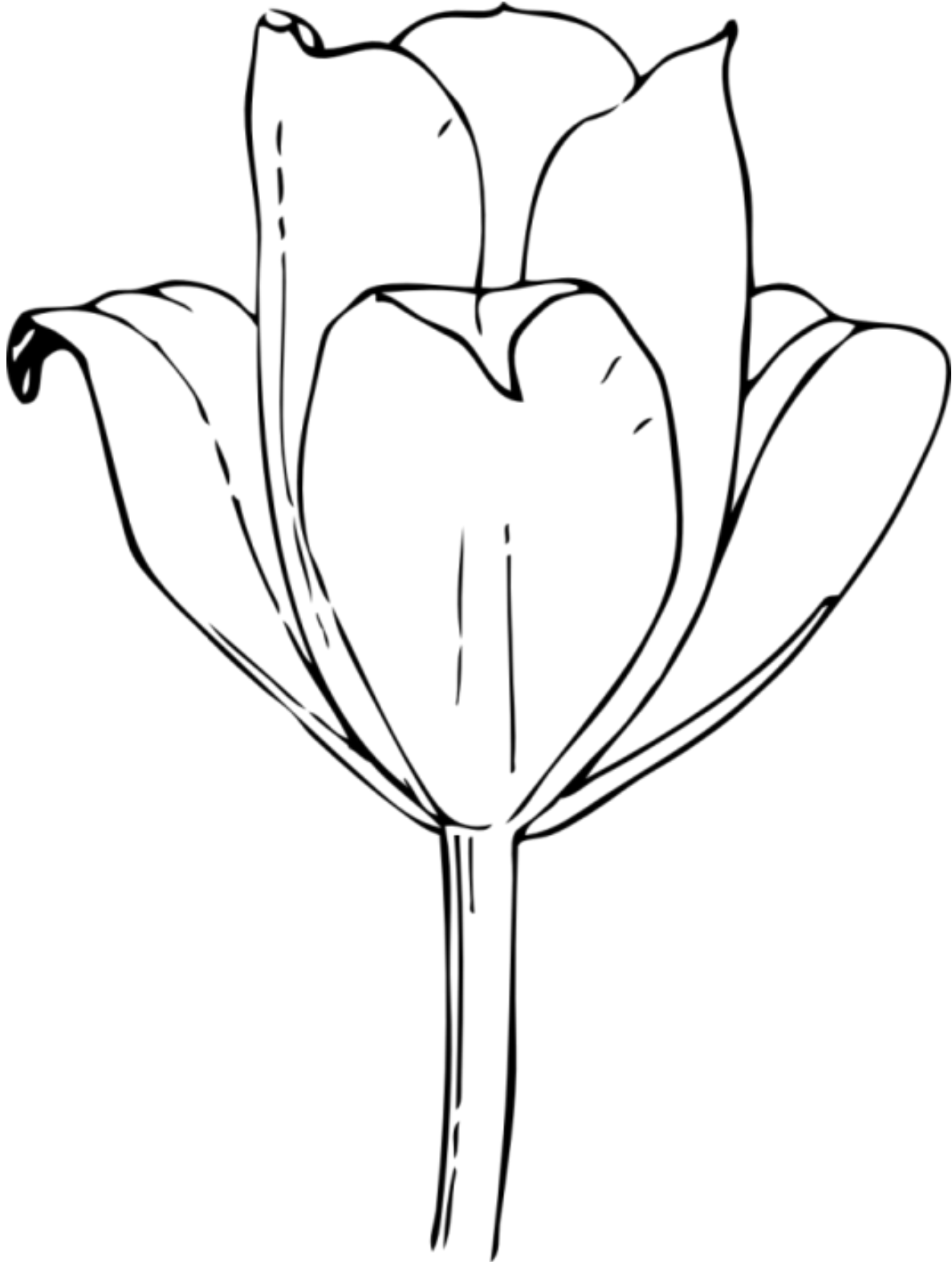
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PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Coloring pages: Flower
2. Kids' Club CD
- Per kid:
3. 1 plastic egg
4. Foam stickers for each kid: OT:IN-57/2377, OT: IN-37/1101, or something similar that is designed to stick to plastic eggs
5. Poster - God's Story: Easter

large group supplies

1 large palm branch (OT: IN-37/1415—can use same as last week)

a/v needs

1. Video: Who is Jesus?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUAQH-Ogkxk>
2. Image: garden of Gethsemane (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. 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."
4. Video: God's Story: Easter
5. Song: Jesus Loves Me (music video, not live lyric)
6. Song: You Come in A Hurry

special room set-up

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

connect questions

Tell me about Easter.
What's the best part of today's story?

parent page

The story of Easter is the most exciting part of God's Story so far: it's when Jesus rescued us from all the wrong things in the world! Kids have an egg to help them retell the story of Easter at home. Ask them about it! And if you want, read it together in Mark 14-16 or watch a video of the story at crossroadskidsclub.net.