



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the perfect example of true love and obedience.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Jesus is the perfect example of obedience to God and love for others. They will be challenged to ask God to help them follow in Jesus' example of obedience to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 11:1-11, The Triumphal Entry (Egg 1: Donkey)

Matthew 26:14-16, Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (Egg 2: Coins)

Matthew 26:17-30, The Last Supper (Egg 3: Cup)

INTRO:

What do you expect to find in your Easter eggs on Easter Sunday? How many of you are looking for some jelly beans in your eggs? What about Skittles? M&Ms? Who is hoping to find at least one egg with some cash in it instead of candy?

Easter eggs are always a welcomed surprise. Whatever is inside, it's usually sweet and yummy, or something that spends easily at Target. As we prepare for the Easter season, we're going to be cracking open a few eggs ourselves - but these eggs are not filled with candy and treats. These eggs are special eggs that will help us to learn the Easter story.

Call them Easter eggs. Call them Resurrection eggs. Each one of these eggs reminds us of one piece of the Easter story - beginning with this egg, that has a donkey inside. Does anyone know what part of the story this is?

READ MARK 11:1-11

Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem one week before Easter on the day we call Palm Sunday. He rode on a donkey, and the people greeted him with palm branches.

In Biblical times a king would ride a horse into town if he came for war or battle, but if a king rode a donkey into a town, the people knew he had come in peace. That was the meaning of the donkey on Palm Sunday. Jesus came in peace.

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Our second egg this week has a coin in it. This coin reminds us of the next part of the Easter story. It also reminds us of the reason Jesus came to us.

READ MATTHEW 26:14-16

Judas was one of Jesus' disciples, but even though Judas had been with Jesus every day for three years, he didn't get what Jesus was up to. Jesus wasn't doing what Judas thought he should do to save Israel. Jesus had come to fulfill His Father's plans, but Judas wanted Jesus to disobey those plans and do what Judas wanted.

Judas didn't have God's plans in mind. He wanted his own way. We are all guilty of being like Judas. We are selfish. We want to do things our way. We deliberately disobey God.

Sin is what separated us from God in the beginning, way back in the book of Genesis. We disobeyed God and wanted to do things our way. Thankfully Jesus didn't do the same thing. Jesus wanted to obey God and show us God's perfect love. That brings us to the third egg - an egg with a cup inside.

READ MATTHEW 26:17-30

Jesus knew there was only one way to save us. He had to take our place and die for our sins. If Jesus, who never sinned, were to die, he could conquer death and save us.

Jesus knew he would be hurt. He knew he would die a horrible death. If there was another way to save us Jesus would have taken it. But Jesus obeyed His Father because he loves us.

MAIN POINT:

Jesus came in peace to show us the love of God. He wanted to show us a better way to live and to point us to Heaven. The eggs we opened today remind us we have a choice. We can go our own way like Judas, or we can give our hearts to Jesus and obey Him. Jesus set the perfect example of love and obedience, and he wants us to follow after him!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Let's face it: obedience doesn't come easy for any of us. It's hard for kids, and it's hard for adults. The Bible tells us we are sinful and selfish by nature. We don't want to obey. We want to do things our way.

Jesus came to set us free from sin. He wants us to give up our right to ourselves and follow him. He wants us to obey God just as he did. He wants us to love him like he loves us.

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This Easter season, I want to encourage all of you to ask God to help you be more obedient. Spend time in the Bible every day, and ask God to help you remember how to follow him. Jesus set the example. He will show us the way.

Easter is coming. Jesus has come to set us free from sin. It's up to us to lay down our selfish desires and follow the example of Jesus.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*