

CHILDREN'S LESSON (of whatever age)

Theme: Easter

Objectives:

- celebrate the good news of Easter
- learn different Easter traditions
-

Materials:

- Eggs
- Egg dye or make your own
-

1. Retell the story of Easter as found in John 20:1-9 using the following script with motions:

**Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark,**

Make stretching motions
and yawn.

**Mary Magdalene went to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been
removed from the entrance.**

Put your hands on your
forehead as if peering
into an opening.

**So she came running to Simon Peter
and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said,**

Run in place.

**“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
hands on
and we don't know where they have put him!”**

Find a partner, put your
your partner's shoulders, and
gently shake them.

**So Peter and the other disciple
and
started for the tomb.**

Make a circle with everyone,
quietly run in place.

**Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter
like
and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked
tomb.
in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.**

Stop running, and bend over
you are looking into the

**Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and
went into the tomb.**

Jump forward.

**He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the
are
burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head.**

Scratch your head like you
wondering about something.

The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside.

Shake hands with a partner.

He saw and believed.

Jump up and down,
waving your arms.

Prayer:

Dear God, we wonder what Mary Magdalene, Peter and John thought when they got to the empty tomb. Thank you for bringing Jesus back to life. We thank you that he lives forever. He loves us so much, and now he wants to be our Savior. Help us follow him every day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

2. Explore Egg Traditions

The egg has been a tradition of Easter for many years. The egg reminds us of the tomb where Jesus was placed after his death. The fact that the baby chick breaks out of the egg reminds us of Jesus coming out of the closed tomb at his resurrection. Consider these egg traditions from around the world:

Jewish tradition—the egg is a part of the Passover Seder meal, representing hope and a new life after escaping from slavery.

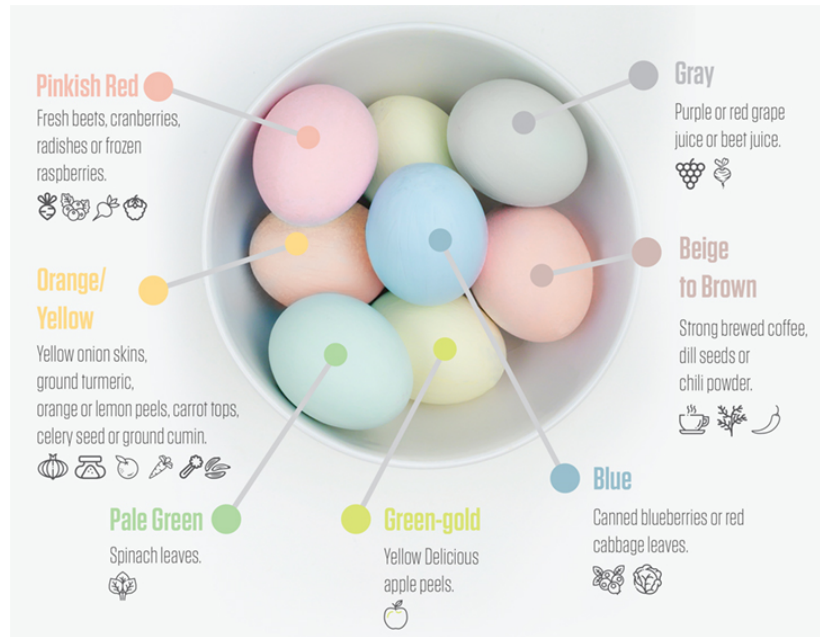
Chinese tradition—a red egg is sent to friends when a baby is one month old. This is an invitation to a celebration feast for the child's birth.

Scottish tradition—an egg is placed beneath the seeds that are sown in the fields in the spring to symbolize a good harvest and new life from the seed.

Ukrainian tradition—giving a decorated egg symbolizes giving a gift of love to that person.

German tradition—when you break the shell of an Easter egg, you allow the blessing of Easter to enter your home.

- Dye eggs using prepackaged dye or make your own:



DIRECTIONS

1. To make naturally dyed eggs, **TOSS** your choice of a handful – or two or three – of one of the ingredients listed into a saucepan. Use your own judgment about quantity. This is an art – not a science!
2. **ADD** about a cup of water for each handful of your chosen ingredient, so the water comes at least an inch above your dye materials. **BRING** mixture to boiling, reduce the heat and **SIMMER** from 15 minutes up to an hour, until the color is the shade you want. Keep in mind that the eggs will dye a lighter shade. **REMOVE** the pan from the heat.
3. Through cheesecloth or a fine sieve, **STRAIN** the dye mixture into a small bowl that's deep enough to completely cover the eggs you want to dye. **ADD 2 to 3** teaspoons of white vinegar for each cup of dye liquid.
4. With a spoon or wire egg holder, **LOWER** the eggs into the hot liquid. Let the eggs stand until they reach the desired color. For emptied eggshells, stir or rotate for even coloring. With a slotted spoon or wire egg holder, **REMOVE** the eggs to a rack or drainer. Allow the eggs to dry thoroughly. Naturally dyed eggs require longer soak time in the dye solution for the color to take hold (overnight will give the best, most saturated color).

EASTER MAZE

