

# EASTER

Easter is a wonderful time to share the Gospel with your students. This is a good time to explain the Gospel more fully than you do with normal devotions in your weekly ESL (English as a second language) classes.

The key to all these events is prayer. You and all your volunteers need to be praying consistently for all your students, by name, that the Lord would open their hearts to Himself!!

## **RESURRECTION EGGS**

Resurrection Eggs are a set of 12 plastic Easter Eggs each containing a specific object inside related to the true story of Easter. A set of instructions on how to use the eggs and devotional material meant for children accompanies each set. They can be purchased at your local Christian bookstore or at Family Life (1-800-FL-TODAY or [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)). The cost is approximately \$15 per set. The devotional material may be too long to use in your allotted time so make sure you practice ways to shorten it beforehand.

## **LARGE GROUP TIME**

You could use the Resurrection Eggs during large group time (snack time) with your ESL Classes. Do this during an extended break period. Have the director or one of the teachers hand out the eggs, one per person. It is ok that you may have many more students than eggs. Only give them to students that are higher English fluency level that would not be embarrassed to speak in front of the others. If you are concerned about having the students do this, then hand them out to the teachers (it is ok if a teacher has to do more than one). Have the eggs opened in the order given in the directions (by color). Ask the person what the object is inside. If they are able to explain its significance regarding Easter ask them to do that. Otherwise, the leader would tell that part of the story.

## **INDIVIDUAL CLASS TIME**

You can have each individual class do the Resurrection Eggs (each class would need its own set) – either a couple at a time in the weeks leading up to Easter – or the whole set about 2 weeks before Easter. This would take the place of their regular devotions. If they are an intermediate or above fluency level class, hand the eggs out to the students and have them tell what is in the egg (have them go in the proper order by color, see instructions inside the box) and see if they know what the significance of the item is as related to Easter. Make sure not to make fun or make remarks like “NO” if they do not know or make mistakes. Be prepared to tell the whole story if necessary. If you have a beginner class, hand

the eggs out and have the students open them (again in order by color) and see if they can identify the item in the egg. But then the teacher would be the one to tell the significance of the item and the story. (See the list at the end of this document for possible overheads to use with beginner ESL classes.)

## **JESUS FILM**

Campus Crusade has a wonderful DVD that is live action based on the book of Luke. It is called the Jesus Film. You can purchase this in most Christian bookstores or can order it directly from Campus Crusade ([www.reachingthenationsamongus.org](http://www.reachingthenationsamongus.org)). It comes in English and many other languages. Make sure that you order this in plenty of time to arrive when you need it.

The movie is approximately 2 hours long. This may be more time than you are able to give. If you can only show part of the movie, we suggest that you start the movie at the scene showing the Passover and go till the end. This takes about 45 minutes.

## **INDIVIDUAL LANGUAGE GROUPS**

You can divide your ESL School up into individual language groups and have them watch the film (or part of it) in their own language. Make sure that you have the movie set to start at the right place and in the right language. Teachers should be in each classroom (even if they don't speak the language).

## **ALL ENGLISH**

If you do not have the televisions and DVD players available to do multiple language groups, have the entire school watch it together in English. It is good if you can project this on a big screen, like at the theatre.

Note: Do not announce to your students ahead of time that you are going to watch a movie. They may think this means they would not be learning any English and not come to class. Make sure that your teachers are aware so that they can reduce their lessons accordingly, but ask them to not tell the students about it.

## **Give each student a Jesus DVD**

If your budget allows, order an extra Jesus DVD for each student, preferably in their own language. If your budget does not have room for this, pray and ask people in the church if they would be willing to donate money towards this.

Note: Do not give out DVDs in place of showing it to your classes. Many students will probably not watch it at home unless they have been exposed to it at the ESL School.

## **MATTHEW DVD**

This is another live action movie available about Jesus. It is word by word (NIV) from the book of Matthew. It only comes in English and Spanish. It is available at Christian Bookstores and through Christian Book Distributors on-line ([www.cbd.com](http://www.cbd.com)). The cost is approximately \$20.

With this movie, you only have the option of 2 language groups – Spanish and English. If you show it in English, use the subtitle function to show the words. Again, you may want to just show from the Passover till the end due to time limitations.

## AMERICAN EASTER CUSTOMS

A couple of weeks before Easter, during your large group time (snack time) explain the different American customs related to Easter. Do not go into too much detail, especially with low level students. You can do a whole class on Easter traditions with advanced level students. For information on customs, go to [www.whyehaster.com](http://www.whyehaster.com) or just google “Easter traditions.”

Give each student a plastic Easter Egg filled with candy. Explain to them that the egg is a symbol of new life in Christ.

Also by giving them each a filled Easter Egg, they can see what their children will be hunting for if they go to an Easter Egg Hunt. Explain what an Easter Egg Hunt is and show them a basket and tell them where they can buy them and the approximate price.

You may want to show your class a pre-filled Easter Basket (like the kind you buy at Wal-Mart) so they can see what children in their neighborhood may be getting. Let them know where they can buy this and how much it costs. You can always use this as a door prize after explaining it!!

If your church has an **Easter Egg Hunt**, invite your students to this. Make sure that several of your teachers are present to help your students if this is new to them and their

children. Have extra Easter baskets for these children to use and keep if they don't bring one (you can buy them cheaply after Easter this year for next year). Check with your church to see what their policy is about keeping the eggs at the end of the hunt. Some churches require the children to empty the candy out of the eggs and give the eggs back to be used next year. If this is the case in your church, I would encourage you to respectfully ask them to **NOT** do this anymore. It is an insult to many of our international friends to ask for the eggs back, plus it sends the wrong message about new life in Christ (have to give it back). It is **NOT** sufficient to make giving the eggs back optional. Your students will not understand this and will want to fit in, so will make their children give the eggs back.

If your church does not have an Easter Egg Hunt, you can have one just for the children of your students. If you have childcare during your regular classes, you could do it during class time or on a Saturday morning before Easter. You should show the children before the hunt that the eggs are filled with candy and prizes. Remember that they may have never seen or done this before.

## **EASTER BASKETS FOR STUDENTS**

If you have a small ESL School or if you have smaller groups such as Sunday School Classes, Book Clubs or Bible Study groups, it is nice to give the adults Easter Baskets filled with traditional American goodies. Just make sure that you have enough for everyone (including unexpected new people). You can also put Easter tracks or books (The Case for Easter) in these

according to the fluency level of your students. You could also put a Jesus DVD in these. Make sure all the baskets are basically the same. You may want to go through a basket in front of the group explaining each item. Sometimes students do not recognize “peeps” as candy/food.

## **EASTER PARTY**

You can host an Easter Party on a week-end night. You can either have serve traditional Easter foods and/or make it a covered dish dinner (you may need to explain in detail to your students what a covered dish dinner is). You can have Easter themed door prizes. You could have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children as part of this. Rather than showing a DVD, I would encourage you to do a short devotion (10 minutes) about Easter in easy English. Use lots of visuals and have a handout. You can have a person writing your key words on an overhead while you speak. You could have special Easter music. You could do the Resurrection Eggs as part of the evening.

## **INVITE STUDENTS TO YOUR HOME FOR EASTER DINNER**

Encourage your teachers and volunteers to invite students and their families to their homes for Easter lunch or dinner. Make sure that they invite the students in private so that other students do not feel left out. Make sure you are explicit with your invitations – whether or not children will be invited, who else will be at the

dinner, the time expectations, the food that will be served, if they are to bring anything, the dress code.

## **INVITE YOUR STUDENTS TO SPECIAL EASTER CHURCH EVENTS**

If your church is having a special Easter service, maybe a sunrise service, create an easy English flier for this activity and give one to each of your students. Make an announcement inviting the students in each individual classroom. Explain to them exactly what this activity is for and what to expect if they come. If most people at your church will be very dressed up for this activity, let your students know. If you have people that speak the native language of your students, have them make the announcement/invitation. Make sure that you have at least a couple of ESL teachers at these events to make the students comfortable in case they come.

# **Resurrection Egg Instructions for Beginners**

## **Donkey (blue egg)**

**Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. In times of peace, a king would ride a donkey. We celebrate this on Palm Sunday.**

## **Coins (light pink)**

**Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins. The Jewish leaders did not believe Jesus. They wanted him to die.**

**Cup (light purple)**

**Jesus and his followers drank from a cup. They were together for the Passover meal. This was the last meal before Jesus died. It is called the Last Supper.**

**Praying hands (orange)**

**Jesus went to a garden to pray. The garden was**

**called the Garden of  
Gethsemane.**

**Jesus was sad. But He  
knew that He must die.**

**Leather strap (green)  
Jesus was whipped. They  
used leather straps to hit  
Jesus.**

**Crown of thorns (light  
yellow)  
The soldiers placed a crown  
of thorns on Jesus' head.**

**Nails (yellow)**

**We do wrong things. We do not obey God. God is perfect. Jesus never did anything wrong. But, Jesus was nailed to a cross.**

**Three nails were driven into Jesus' hands and feet. Jesus died for us. He died instead of us. Now we can come to God – because of Jesus.**

**Die (Dice) – (light green)**

**Jesus was on the cross  
dying. The soldiers played  
a game using dice. They  
wanted Jesus' clothes.**

**Spear (purple egg)**

**Jesus was on the cross.  
Soldiers put a spear into his  
side. Jesus was dead.**

**Linen (cream egg)**

**They took Jesus from the cross. Joseph was a follower of Jesus.**

**He wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth. Joseph put Jesus' body in a tomb.**

**Stone (dark pink)**

**A very large stone was placed in front of the tomb.**

**The stone protected the tomb. No one could get in or out. Some women came to the tomb early on**

**Sunday morning. The  
stone had been moved!**

**Empty (light blue)  
The women looked in the  
tomb. Jesus was not there!  
An angel appeared. He  
said, “Jesus is not here. He  
has risen.” He is still alive  
today.**