

# *Life to the Full*

## **Family Easter Experience Devotional Guide**





*Life to the Full*

**Family Easter Experience**

# Welcome

We hope your family has a meaningful and memorable Easter Season. Jesus came, lived, died, conquered death, and now is at work on our behalf in heaven so that we can have a life that is truly life. **Life to the full**. We hope this experience will be a part of helping your family dive into the fullness of life that Jesus brings.

Here are some things you may want to know.

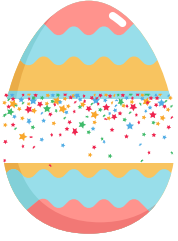
- This experience is designed to begin the Sunday before Easter and continue the week after Easter, but it's flexible.
- If you can't do it every night. NO big deal. Pick up where you left off, or skip ahead. If you don't want to do some of the experiences, and just want to read the scripture, NO PROBLEM.
- Any time you spend together, reading scripture, playing and talking is NEVER wasted time. Some nights my house is chaos, but I believe even when my kids are goofing around and off task, the fact that we did it, makes a difference. Don't loose heart!
- You may want to look ahead. We've tried to provide most of the materials, but there are a few small supplies you may need to gather. There are also some optional upgraded experiences that may take some prep, which you might want to consider.
- We would love to see photos or hear about your experience on our facebook or instagram pages. Like Follow us @ctkfamilies

*Angel Finsrud*  
*CTK Family Pastor*

# How does it work?

Each Day has 4 components. You can do some or all. The complete experience is designed to take no more than 30 minutes, some days much less. But every family is different. You might do the egg and scripture, but put off the activity until the weekend. You adapt this to work for your family. Whatever time you have is time well spent.

- **The Egg** Inside your bag is a carton of eggs. Each day, you will open one egg and find an object that gives you a clue to the Bible passage/story of the day. Warning: objects not safe for children under 3. *You will want to start with the top row, on the left, and move to the right. On day 7, you will begin the bottom row left to right.*
- **The Scripture** Each day, this book will provide you with a passage of scripture to read together. For those of you with younger children, we have included a supplemental packet of coloring sheets and passages modified especially for young children.
- **The Reflection** This is an opportunity for application, discussion and prayer. Sometimes hearing my kids thoughts on what we read is my favorite part of a family growth experience. (And honestly sometimes their off topic, disruptive clowning frustrates me. You take the good and the bad. Remember. It's worth it!)
- **The Experience** From science to games, crafts, to construction. This is the part of the Easter experience that gets practical through fun and creativity. Inside the Easter Experience gift back, you'll find almost everything you need.



## *A Hero's Welcome* *Egg 1: Confetti*

What you need:

- Markers/crayons or colored pencils
- Tape or glue
- Card Stock & Craft sticks from the gift bag

**Egg:** The egg is filled confetti, because when the crowds in Jerusalem heard Jesus was coming they practically threw a parade.

### **Scripture: Matthew 21:6-11**

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

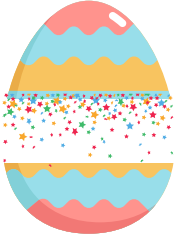
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”



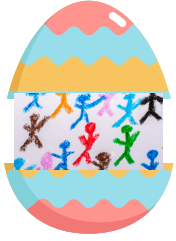
## *A Hero's Welcome* *Egg 1: Confetti*

**Reflection:** When the Seahawks won the Super Bowl, people came from all around just to catch a glimpse of the team as they came back to Seattle after their big win. Crowds gathered, shouted encouragement and held signs with messages of love and adoration. That's kind of what it was like when Jesus returned from Jerusalem after spending time in the region teaching and healing people. People stopped whatever they were doing, just to go see him. People were so excited, they started throwing their coats and palm branches on the ground to treat Jesus special. People were shouting Hosana, which is a way of telling someone you think they're awesome!

What would you do if you heard Jesus was coming to town today?

### **Experience: Parade Signs**

If you were heading to a parade for Jesus, what kind of sign would you hold up? What would it say? How would it look? Using the provided cardstock, have each family member create a poster that expresses something they would want to make sure Jesus knew if he came to town. When you finish glue or tape the Craft stick about 1/3 of the way up the page so about 1/2 the stick is still sticking out the bottom. Share your signs with each other, then place the sign in your room where it will remind you to praise Jesus. And remember, we don't have to wait for a parade. Jesus is always with us, and he LOVES to hear our praises.



# *The Praises of Kids*

## *Egg 2: Child*

What you need:

- Blankets
- Blanket fort instructions are provided, or just go for it!

**Egg:** The egg contains a toy child, that reminds us of the story in Matthew 21 of the children praising Jesus in the temple.

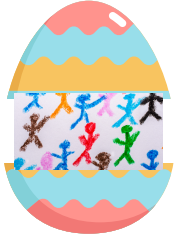
### **Scripture: Matthew 21:14-17**

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did **and the children shouting in the temple courts**, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'"

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.





## *The praises of Kids* *Egg 2: Child*

**Reflection:** The temple courts were a place where people gathered to worship. I love the scene that plays out in Matthew 21. The kids are in the temple courts and they get to actually see Jesus healing people. People who were blind asked Jesus for help, and suddenly they could see. People who could not stand, believed that Jesus could heal them and He did! That must have been an incredible sight. So, the children reacted just the way you would imagine. They started cheering for Jesus. Today, it can be harder to see miracles, but God is still at work. Jesus heals relationships, he provides for our needs sometimes when it looks like there is no way. He even brings peace to situations that seem scary, chaotic, or hopeless.

Parents, share with your kids about a time you saw God show up in a big way. A time when you were overwhelmed by His goodness or faithfulness.

### **Experience: Blanket Forts**

Using blankets, create your own "temple court". It can be big enough for the whole family, or have just enough room for one at a time. Have fun together. When you have created your blanket fort, whoops "temple court", have each kid in the family go into the fort and share one praise for Jesus. (It can be as simple as "Jesus, I love you" or it can be a specific praise for something Jesus has done in your life). PS: You're never too old for blanket forts. Just try it, it's fun!



# *Extravagant Gift*

## *Egg 3: Fragrant Oil*

What you need:

- Markers, crayons or colored pencils
- Knife
- Coffee cup w/lid and labels provided in gift bag

**Egg:** The egg contains a perfume vile (actually lavender & coconute oil) to remind us of an extravagent (very, very expensive gift) someone named Mary gave to Jesus.

### **Scripture: John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



# *Extravagant Gift*

## *Egg 3: Fragrant Oil*

**Reflection:** Mary poured perfume worth all the money someone could make in an entire year all over Jesus' feet! You might think Jesus would be upset with her for wasting it, but instead, he said Mary did the right thing. She gave to Jesus not just a gift from her "extra" stuff, but she gave him the most precious thing she had. That is sacrificial generosity. Generosity that goes beyond what's easy or convenient. We can give sacrificially to Jesus from our time, our money and from our talents as a way of showing him how important he is to us.

*Do you know anyone who gives generously to Jesus.  
How do you know they are generous?*

### **Experience: Generosity Bank**

Distribute the blank labels to all family members. Have everyone design/color their labels. When everyone is done, place the label with Matthew 25:40 on the cup. Then add your decorated labels to the cup. Cut a slit in the lid of the cup and place it someplace where everyone can see it.

Take a few minutes to pause and consider what you might be able to give to Jesus. Write it down and put it in the bank you made. One way you can give to Jesus, is by giving money to things that are important to him. Right now, CTK is collecting money to help build a rescue home so that women and children who are unsafe can be safe. If you would like to help, you can place money in this bank & drop it by the church M-Th 9-4 or during weekend services.



# *Servant Leadership*

## *Egg 4: Feet*

What you need:

- Medium bucket or tub for water
- Wash cloth
- Soap from the gift bag

**Egg:** The egg contains a pair of feet to remind us of a very special moment between Jesus and his disciples (the friends who followed and learned from Jesus)

### **Scripture: John 13:1-5 & 12-17**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

12-When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



# *Servant Leadership*

## *Egg 4: Feet*

**Reflection:** Before Jesus died, he wanted to make sure his disciples knew how to live when he was gone. But Jesus didn't just use words, he showed them how to live with his own actions. By washing his disciples feet, Jesus taught the disciples to be humble, (which means to not think of yourself as more important than others) and to serve others. He said, "I have set an example, that you should do what I have done for you." Jesus invites us to follow him. To learn from him. To be his disciples. One way to do that, is to serve others. (But don't worry, that usually doesn't involve touching feet :))

Who is someone that you know that shows their love for Jesus by frequently serving others?

What are some of the ways you humbly serve others?  
(If you can't think of many ways, maybe you could challenge yourself to humbly serve more often)

### **Experience: Foot Washing**

Today's experience invites you to do what Jesus did. Washing someone's feet takes serious humility and a huge heart for service. Today, fill a pitcher with warm water, grab a towel and a bucket or bin and the soap from your gift bag. Take turns pouring water and washing & drying one another's feet. As you do, consider, how you can continue to serve each other and the world around you. I mean, after washing feet, the other stuff might not seem so bad. :)



# *Dinner with Friends*

## *Egg 5: Communion*

What you need:

- Optional: This would be a great night to do a charcuterie type dinner with meats, cheeses, crackers, etc. You could even create a low table to sit like Jesus did with his disciples. You may want bread and grape juice available.
- Personal communion (juice & cracker) from the gift bag. (If you have more than 4 family members, you'll need additional juice and crackers.)

**Egg:** The egg is filled with juice and crackers to remind us of a dinner Jesus had with friends.

### **Scripture: Luke 22:14-20**

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."



## *Dinner with Friends* *Egg 5: Communion*

**Reflection:** When Jesus was having dinner with his closest friends, he used the things he had around him to tell his followers something very important. Something he wanted them to always remember. The bread reminded them that Jesus would suffer to pay the price for sin. And the wine reminded them that Jesus would die, because he loves us so much. He could have saved himself, but he didn't. He chose to save us instead. Sometimes we can hear that so often, that we forget how important and powerful it is. Without Jesus sacrifice, we would be separated from God forever.

When you want to "remember" or connect with Jesus,  
what is the best way for you to do that?  
(EX: Worship, nature, service, a prayer place, etc)

### **Experience: The Last Supper**

Take a moment to read through the scripture again. This time. Have one person read it slowly. Everyone close your eyes and imagine you are there. If you have a Amazon Alexa app, you can say, "Alexa ask the Youversion Bible to read Luke 22:14-20." What is it like to be at the table with Jesus? What do you think when he passes around the bread and the wine?

Now, together as a family, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. As you read. Use the juice and crackers in your bag to experience what the disciples experienced with Jesus. Eat the cracker after verse 24, and drink the juice after verse 25.



# *Jesus Who?*

## *Egg 6: Rooster*

What you need:

- Beat the Rooster card deck from your gift bag

**Egg:** The egg has a rooster inside to represent the time one of Jesus' closest friends Peter, had a run in with a rooster.

### **Scripture: Luke 22:33-34 & 54-62**

33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

54 Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.





# *Jesus Who?*

## *Egg 6: Rooster*

**Reflection:** Can you imagine how horrible Peter must have felt when he realized that Jesus knew that he had denied knowing him three times in one night! Peter and Jesus had been the very close for over three years, and all of a sudden, Peter didn't want anyone to know they were friends. It's easy to judge Peter. But, if we really think about it, don't we sometimes turn our back on Jesus? We know Jesus does not want us to lie, but we don't want to get in trouble, so we lie to try to get away with something. Or when we have to choose between hanging out with our friends, or going to church to worship or serve, we choose our friends over Jesus. Or when people ask us about our faith or beliefs, do we stand with Jesus, and admit we are followers of him, or do we lay low and try not to seem weird?

*What do you think you would have done if you were in Peter's shoes?*

*Can you think of a time that you stood for Jesus, even though it was hard?*

*Have you ever denied being a Christian, or following Jesus either with your words, or your actions?*

### **Experience: Beat the Rooster Family Game**

Play a game of Beat the Rooster using the cards provided in your gift bag. Instructions are included with your deck. The object of the game is to avoid denying Jesus before the rooster crows. You can even play tournament style where players go head to head until one person comes out victorious. Have Fun!



# Jesus on the Cross

## Egg 7: Cross

What you need:

- Small dessert or cereal bowl w/ ~ 1 cup of water
- Pepper & cross shaped bubbles from the gift bag

**Egg:** Inside the egg, you will find a cross. The cross reminds us, that Jesus died for our sins.

**Scripture: Matthew 27:32-50** (35, 37-46, & 50 provided)

*As you read, picture yourself there. What would it be like?*

35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.



# Jesus on the Cross

## Egg 7: Cross

**Reflection:** Jesus could have saved himself, but he didn't. Jesus knew that the price of sin is eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23). That means, that if we ever sin (lie, steal, cheat, disobey our parents, or even think a mean thought) then we can't be with God. Instead of heaven, where everything is perfect, peaceful & full of joy, we would spend eternity separated from God, where everything is awful. There is crying and suffering and sadness all of the time. And we all sin (Romans 3:23). So we have a BIG problem. But, John 3:16 & 17 tell us that God loved us so much, that even though we sin, He doesn't want to be separated from us. So God sent Jesus to pay the price for **our** sin. Jesus stayed on the cross, suffered and died, in order to take the punishment **for us**. Now, if admit that we sin, & believe that Jesus died & rose again, then we choose to follow him, we get to spend eternity with God.

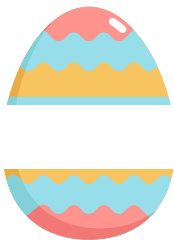
If you have put your faith in Jesus, share a little bit about how/why/when you came to that decision.

\*If you have never decided to believe in Jesus, you can do that today. See the back of this book for help in making that decision.

### Experience: The Cross Defeats Sin

Because Jesus died on the cross for us, he has the power to forgive our sins. Psalm 103:12 tells us that Jesus separates our sin from us as far as the east is from the west! That is FAR! Let's do a little experiment to see what that might look like.

Take your bowl full of water & sprinkle in the pepper packets. The pepper represents sin in our life. The sin starts to mess things up. Now, take the cross bubble wand and dip in in the middle of the messed up sin water. Did you see what happened? When we ask Jesus for forgiveness, the sin clears away!



# *The Empty Tomb*

## *Egg 8: Empty*

What you need:

- Newspaper or other cover for the table
- Rocks, paint, & paint brushes from the gift bag \* Note if you have more than 4 family members, you'll need to find more rocks.

**Egg:** The egg is empty. Finding an empty egg is pretty surprising. Jesus' friends know just how surprising it is to expect to find something inside, only to discover it's empty.

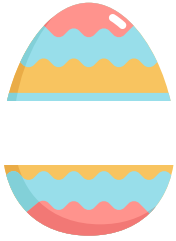
### **Scripture: Mark 16:1-8**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.



# *The Empty Tomb*

## *Egg 8: Empty*

**Reflection:** An empty egg is can bring about a lot of feelings. Disappointment, frustration, confusion, sadness. And when Mary and Jesus' friends found the empty tomb, they probably felt all of that. And they were worried! What had happened to Jesus? Lucky for us, we know the answer to that question. Jesus rose from the dead!! Jesus conquered death. It was the final evidence to demonstrate to Jesus' followers that he really was God! After that day, Jesus appeared to hundreds more people, who all saw and told others about what they had seen, Can you imagine the feelings Jesus' friends had when they realized Jesus had risen. He was dead, but now he was alive!

Have you ever had something that seemed really disappointing at first, turn out to be a really good thing? (Ex: less people at your party than you wanted, but having an awesome time with the friends that were there)

What do you think you would have done if you went to find your friend, but instead there was an angel there?!

### **Experience: Painted Rocks**

We have provided outdoor acrylic paint (so be careful), paint brushes and rocks so that you can paint some stones to remind you that the stone was rolled away, and Jesus is risen! Consider keeping the stones on your front porch, in a potted plant, or with your Easter decorations, as a reminded that Jesus is ALIVE.



# *Fish Stories*

## *Egg 9: Fish*

What you need:

- Go fish cards from the gift bag

**Egg:** The egg is filled fish to remind us of an unbelievable fishing trip.

**Scripture:** **John 21:1-14** (2-8 & 12-14 provided)

Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.



# *Fish Stories*

## *Egg 9: Fish*

**Reflection:** Jesus spent time with his friends during their every day life. He didn't just hang out with people in the temple (church). He met with them while they were fishing (like in this story). He spent time with them when they were sad. He hung out with people going for walks, at weddings, and while they were just trying to get a drink of water. Jesus even had a habit of inviting himself over to people's houses for dinner. Jesus wants to be a part of our every day lives too. Worship, prayer, and serving are ways to connect with Jesus. And they aren't just for church. Jesus wants to hang out with you at school, while your playing, when your sad, and when you're celebrating. You can invite Jesus to be with you, wherever you are. And you can talk to him throughout your day. Just like talking to a friend.

What would be different if you imagined Jesus hanging out with you in your every day life?

### **Experience: Let's go Fishing with Jesus**

It would have been awesome to put an actual fishing pole in every bag, but they wouldn't fit! (In the bag or in the budget). Instead, we'll have to settle for a game of Go Fish.

Although it might seems strange. Let's practice inviting Jesus to be a part of our every day lives. Before you start playing Go Fish. Consider praying this simple prayer. "Jesus, we want to hang out with you, not just at church, but all the time. Help us to imagine you here with us. Listening, watching, and laughing alongside us as we play. AMEN"



## *Tag, You're It Egg 10: World*

What you need:

- Pens or pencils
- Packet of cards from the gift bag (If you have more than 4 family members, you may need extra cards and envelopes)

**Egg:** The egg contains a map of the world. AND inside your bag their is a squishy globe! These objects remind us that Jesus has a mission for us!

### **Scripture: Matthew 28:19 & 20**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **Bonus Scripture Activity:**

Here's a fun way to get this scripture stuck in your head. Go to <https://youtu.be/SLISGZhdrVM> or google Go! Worship Song to find a great kids praise song based ont his passage. Take the globe ball from your bag and press play on the song. Try to pass the globe ball around without dropping it until the song ends. If you drop it, no problem, just pick it up and start again. Ready, Set, Go!





## *Tag, You're It Egg 10: World*

**Reflection:** When Jesus finished his ministry on earth, he wasn't done building his kingdom. Instead, he included us in building his kingdom. He's at work in heaven, and he wants us to be his partners here on earth. We are NEVER too young to start telling people about Jesus. Maybe you can't go to far away places, but all of us can share the good news of Jesus in our families, our neighborhoods, our schools, and on our teams. And when we get the chance, we can support people who take the good news of Jesus around the world.

Who can you show Jesus' love to, as a way of spreading the good news of Jesus?

Do you have a friend or family member who might not know about Jesus? What could you say to them to help them know the good news about Jesus?

### **Experience: Cards Around the World**

Inside your bag you will find cards with envelopes. We want to encourage you to write a card of encouragement to kids in Kenya and Tanzania. If you return these cards to the reception desk at the church, or mail them in a separate envelop to 4173 Meridian St., Bellingham WA 98226, we will make sure they are delivered by a missions team this summer.

Ideas include:

"Jesus loves you", "We are praying for you", "You are beautiful, God says so", "God cares about you", a favorite verse, etc.



## *My Mansion* *Egg 11: Gems*

What you need:

- Wet cloth or baby wipes for sticky hands
- Overhead transparency, glue, tissue paper and paint brush from the gift bag

**Egg:** The egg is filled precious gems, which are dull in comparison to what God has for us.

**Scripture: Mark 16:19-20, John 14:2-3, Revelations 21:19-21**

**Mark 16:19-20** - After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

**John 14:2-3** - My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**Rev 21:19-21** - The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[a] 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.



# *My Mansion*

## *Egg 11: Gems*

**Reflection:** After Jesus finished appearing to his friends and followers, he got to take the coolest elevator ride ever. He just floated right up to heaven. And the Bible tells us that now, he spends his time talking to God about us, and preparing heaven for our arrival. The passage we read in revelation is a description of just one part of heaven. Gold, diamonds, emeralds, beautiful things everywhere!

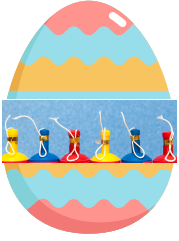
What is one thing you are looking forward to about heaven?

Just for fun: If you have your own mansion in heaven, what do you hope it is like?

### **Experience: Stained Glass Promises**

This craft is designed to remind you that Jesus is preparing an amazing place for you, and he wants to be with you in heaven. Work together to create the mosaic background.

1. Cut tissue paper into about 1" shapes (square, triangle etc)
2. Add about 2-3 Tbsp of water to thin your glue about 50% and stir the mixture.
3. Apply glue to a small area on the back of the transparency.
4. Place the cut tissue paper over the glue area, & carefully smooth. Repeats steps 3 & 4, allowing tissue paper to slightly overlap, until the entire back transparency is covered.
5. Allow at least 15 minutes to dry then complete the project by putting one final, THIN, coat of the water/glue mixture over all the tissue paper. CAREFUL.
6. Display in a window and remember God's promise.



## *Now This is Life* *Egg 12: Party Popper*

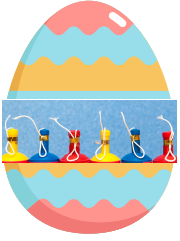
What you need:

- Towel to cover surface
- Film canister & efferdent from the gift bag

**Egg:** The egg has a party popper inside! Life with Jesus isn't meant to be dull and boring.

### **Scripture: Romans 12:9-13**

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.



## *Now This is Life* *Egg 12: Party Popper*

**Reflection:** Life with Jesus is intended to be exciting. But in order to experience the thrill of life with Jesus, we have to live like Jesus taught. Our passage today reminds us to keep our zeal, our enthusiasm about Jesus. He is the source of joy. When we live a life of love, turn our backs on evil and hold on to all that is good in life, we begin to experience life that is truly the most satisfying life possible. When we put others before ourselves, we might think it will make us more miserable, but in reality, it ultimately brings more joy. Living a life of service is an outward expression of our inner passion for Jesus and it leads to a life overflowing with contentment and impact.

What are some of the ways we can honor others above ourselves? (Put others first)

### **Experience: Too much good to contain**

Warning. Do not put body parts over the top of the film canister. Place a towel or tray below the film canister.

Say: This film canister represents our life. It's fine, but it's missing something. (Add: Efferdent Tablet)

Say: When we invite Jesus in our lives, he brings power to our life. But, until we start to live for him, we might not notice the power. (Add: water to 3/4 full & place lid quickly).

Say: This water represents living like Jesus. Serving others and loving Jesus with our whole heart. That activates his power & life gets really exciting. It might take a little time, but before you know it, life is overflowing with goodness that is hard to contain.

Note: Lid will pop off film canister and shoot several ft. in the air.



# *Choosing Jesus*

## *Praying a prayer of salvation*

Jesus loves every single one of us. His invitation to us is "Come, Follow Me." But each of us get to decide whether we will follow Jesus, or if we want to continue to do life on our own. If you want to follow Jesus, it begins with 3 simple steps.

**Admit** - Romans 3:23 says "all have sinned". The first step to following Jesus is to confess your sin. Admit that you do things you know are not right. Things like lying, disobeying, or thinking mean thoughts. Your sins separate you from God, but when you admit that you need Jesus' help, he'll save you from your sins.

**Believe** - Romans 10:9 says if we confess that Jesus is God, and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. Following Jesus starts with believing that He is God, lived a perfect life on earth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again.

**Choose** - James 2:19 says even the demons believe Jesus is God. Just knowing that truth isn't enough. We also have to CHOOSE to follow Jesus. We have to decide to let Jesus be in charge of our lives and to live his way, instead of our own.

If you want to follow Jesus, you can start with a simple prayer like this:

*Dear Jesus, I know that I have sinned. I am sorry. I believe you are God. That you died for my sins and that you rose again. I choose to follow you from this day forward.*

