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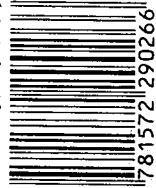
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# Resurrection Eggs

The Easter Story  
for Children

FAMILYLIFE

# Telling the Easter Story With Resurrection Eggs®

A donkey, praying hands, three coins, and a strip of leather . . . what do all these have in common? You can use them to help children understand the true meaning of Easter—the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

As the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” And a hands-on illustration is even more effective in sharing the truths of Scripture with children. Resurrection Eggs can help your children learn the wonderful resurrection story.

You can use Resurrection Eggs during an Easter brunch, in the 12 days leading up to Easter, or at an Easter egg hunt all the children will love. This resource also gives you a tool for reaching out to neighborhood children, children’s hospitals or homes, public schools, and Sunday school classes.

However you use Resurrection Eggs, be creative. Remember, this can be an exciting time that your children or children you know will really enjoy. It can even become a family tradition you will all remember for years to come. Happy Resurrection Day!

## How to Use Resurrection Eggs

The sequence for telling the story is simple:

- ◆ Have a child open all the eggs and tell you what’s inside them.
- ◆ Take each egg in order starting with the donkey.
- ◆ Read the Scripture assigned to that item (or have a child read it).
- ◆ Explain what the Scripture means.

We have designed the following outline and explanations to assist you in telling the Easter story. Although you can read the explanations word for word, they are not meant to replace the uniqueness that you, the storyteller, bring to the story. The children will watch you for the expressions on your face and listen for the inflections in your voice. Use your creativity to add some drama to the story! The children will love it. As a result, they are more likely to know and understand Jesus in a deeper way.

Be sure to read the material, note any words your child might not understand, and study your Bible ahead of time so you will thoroughly recollect all the details. Take notes to help you make the story come alive. In this way, you can keep eye contact with the children and watch their expressions of excitement and anticipation. As you will see, even the most energetic children will be attentive and captivated.

Remember, however, that young children have short attention spans. With 12 different components, you may find that telling the entire story will be too much for one sitting. Spread it out over a couple weeks, if you want, or schedule

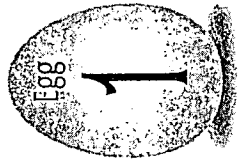
separate family times during Easter weekend. Another idea is to begin with an Easter Egg hunt (have the children find the eggs and then meet together as a family to go through the story). Whatever you do, enjoy your time together as you and your children tell and retell this wonderful story.

## Use Resurrection Eggs with Benjamin's Box

*Benjamin's Box* is a beautifully illustrated book that tells the fictional story of a young boy who lived in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. He becomes intrigued with Jesus as he listens to Him in various settings during the week before the Crucifixion. In each encounter Benjamin finds some item that he saves in a box to remind him of Jesus, such as a tuft of hair from the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

Each item Benjamin finds corresponds to one of the eggs in Resurrection Eggs and its contents. Published by Gold 'n' Honey Books in cooperation with FamilyLife, *Benjamin's Box* can be enjoyed both on its own and as a companion to Resurrection Eggs. *Benjamin's Box* is a new and captivating way to tell the story of Easter to your children with Resurrection Eggs.

You can purchase *Benjamin's Box* at your local Christian bookstore or by calling FamilyLife at 1-800-FL-TODAY.



# The Donkey

The donkey reminds us of Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

Egg color: Blue

Read: Matthew 21:1-9

Explain:

Isn't it exciting that the donkey's owner freely gave the donkey when he found out it was for Jesus? What many people don't know is that it was common tradition for a king to ride on a donkey in times of peace. And although Jesus is the King of Kings, God the Father wanted Him to bring peace to the earth when He came this time. The Bible often refers to Jesus as the Prince of Peace. The peace that Jesus gives is not like the peace the world gives. Jesus' peace comes by believing He is the Son of God and asking Him to be Lord of our lives.

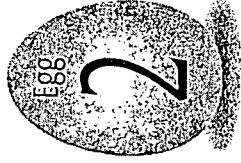
Many people believed Jesus was the Son of God. Many of them were healed of sickness or blindness. So when Jesus rode down the street they were eager to catch a glimpse of Him.

Oh, how excited they were to see the Messiah, the Savior, the chosen one of God! They wanted to be near Him, to talk to Him, to hear Him speak. They were shouting, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name in the Lord!"

While things were going well for Jesus, it was easy for the people to love Him and follow Him. However, when the Jewish leaders challenged Jesus by saying He was not the Son of God, the people

were afraid. Many thought if they admitted they were followers of Jesus and that they believed He was God, they would be in danger, too.

The truth is that God calls us all to follow Jesus no matter what. Even though it may be difficult at times, we need to be strong in our faith in God. Just because some people don't love Jesus, we should not be afraid. Jesus does not change (He remains the Son of God) and He will bless us and protect us if we love Him and follow Him and His Word, the Bible.



## Three Coins

The coins remind us of the 30 pieces of silver Judas received for betraying Jesus into the hands of the Jewish leaders.

Egg color: Light pink

Read: Matthew 26:14-16

Explain:

The Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. He was not the kind of Messiah or Son of God they wanted. They were looking for God to send a warrior-like king, one riding a horse, not a donkey, who would come and overthrow the Roman Empire that ruled over the Jews. But that was not God's plan.

Instead of a conquering, warrior-like king, Jesus came as a man, peaceful, humble, and full of God's love. He came to earth to show us this love and that true goodness only comes from our Father in heaven. And this goodness is what God causes to happen in our hearts and our lives when we follow Jesus. But again, only God can bring about this goodness. We can't do anything good without God.

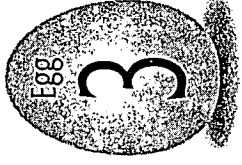
The Pharisees, however, would go parading around, showing how good they thought they were. And yet their hearts were not good. They were judgmental, selfish, and prideful. Jesus wanted the people to know that this was wrong. He taught that it's not what we're like on the outside that is important, but what is in our hearts

instead. Jesus said if our hearts are made clean, then we will be clean and pleasing on the outside also.

Jesus told the Pharisees what they were doing was wrong and they needed to change. This made the Pharisees and the Jewish leaders mad. They did not want Jesus to tell them they were sinful. They wanted to continue living selfish, prideful lives. They did not want to change and be like God wanted them to. And this is what sin really is—living our lives being disobedient to God.

Judas was one of Jesus' disciples who at first followed Jesus but decided to be disobedient to God. By disobeying, he was choosing to throw away his love for Jesus. He did this by betraying Jesus to His enemies, leading the Jewish leaders to where Jesus was so they could put Him to death. And Judas betrayed Jesus for only 30 pieces of silver.

When someone betrays, it is sin. Betraying is when someone lies, pretending to be your friend, but instead is really your enemy. Even though Judas was one of Jesus' trusted disciples, he turned against Jesus. As a result, the Jewish leaders captured Jesus so they could put Him on trial for saying He was God.



## The Cup

The cup reminds us of Jesus' last supper with His disciples before His crucifixion. It was what was used for the wine, which is drunk in memory of Christ's blood that He shed for us and our sins.

Egg color: Light purple

Read: Mt. 26:17-19, 26-28; Exodus 12:23

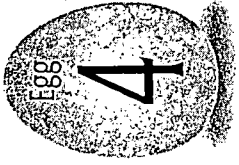
Explain:

The disciples came to Jesus and told Him it was Passover. Passover is a time every year when the Jews remember that God's great love for them protected their children and freed them from slavery in Egypt.

You see, hundreds of years before, Egypt had made God's people their slaves. Pharaoh disobeyed God by not letting God's people go free. So part of God's punishment was to kill all the first-born children of Egypt. But God's people would put the blood of a lamb on their doors as a sign of their faith to God and He would "pass over" their houses and not allow the destroyer to kill their children.

Because of our sins, we deserve to be punished. But God sent Jesus as our perfect lamb to save us. In fact, another name for Jesus is "Lamb of God." Because He was God and perfect, Jesus' blood and His death on the cross for our sins protects anyone who will love and believe in Him so they will be "passed over."

Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal together the night He was arrested. Jesus first used the bread for His disciples to remember His body which would be broken for us on the cross the next day. And then He took the cup of wine and said, "This is my blood. Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood...which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."



## Praying Hands

The praying hands remind us of Jesus visiting the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

Egg color: Orange

Read: Mark 14:32-42

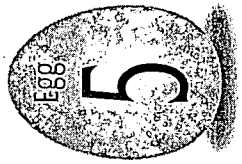
Explain:

Jesus, as the Son of God, gave us a wonderful example of how important it is to pray. He often went off by Himself to pray to God the Father. This time, we see that Jesus asked His disciples to come with Him. And there is a very good reason. He wanted the disciples to pray and keep Him company.

Jesus was very troubled. He knew He was going to die. Yet it wasn't the pain of dying on the cross that troubled Him. Since He had never sinned, He had never felt any of the results of sin. Jesus knew that by dying on the cross for our sins, He would have to feel God's disapproval of sin. However, Jesus was willing to do anything God wanted Him to do. He knew that dying on the cross was part of His Father's plan.

So He went to the Garden at Gethsemane with His disciples to pray. But His disciples fell asleep—not just once, but three times.

Do you ever get tired when you try to pray? It's hard to be strong when you're tired, isn't it? Even Jesus' disciples were weak when they tried to be strong on their own apart from God. This is a reminder to all of us that we cannot be strong on our own. We need to pray and ask for our Father's strength just like Jesus did.



## Leather Strip

The leather reminds us of the whip used to give Jesus 39 lashes after His trial by Pilate.

Egg color: Green

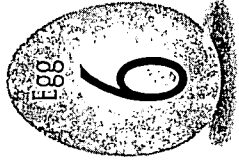
Read: John 19:1-15 (For further context, also read Matthew 27:26-31.)

Explain:

The Jewish leaders brought Jesus before the Roman governor in Judea, Pontius Pilate, to defend Himself for claiming to be God. Because Jesus claims to be God, they said, He is an enemy of the Roman Empire and Caesar, its king.

Well, this could not be allowed. Pilate eventually decided to put Jesus to death. But before that, he told the Roman soldiers to whip Him. At any time, Jesus, the Son of God, could have stopped the pain He was receiving. He could have stopped the trial, the whipping, and even His death. But He wanted to do the will of His Father, to die for our sins. And so He did nothing to help Himself.

In the Bible, a long time ago, it was foretold that Jesus would be whipped and beaten. In Isaiah 50:6, it says, "I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting." Also, Isaiah 53:5 says, "...and by His scourging, we are healed." God allowed His Son to be whipped and scourged in our place, for our sins. Jesus didn't deserve to die because he hadn't sinned. But we have sinned. So Jesus died in our place for our sin even though it was we who deserved punishment.



## Crown of Thorns

The crown of thorns reminds us of the crown that the soldiers placed on Jesus' head while mocking Him, saying "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Egg color: Light yellow

Read: Matthew 27:29

Explain:

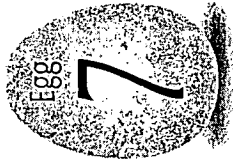
Many of the same people who were praising Jesus as God just a few days before when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey were now treating Him like a bad person. They believed that if Jesus were truly God, He would save Himself from having to die. Yet that was not God's plan. His plan was to save us by allowing His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. But the people did not understand this and so they did not truly believe that Jesus was God.

We should never believe others when they tell us Jesus is not God. And we should never treat someone badly just because others are doing it. We should always do what the Bible, God's Word, tells us to do. And we should always love others because this is the way we show that we love God.

This is not what the Roman guards did, because they didn't believe Jesus was God. They teased, taunted, hit, and beat Him. They made a crown out of sharp thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then they knelt down before Him and teased Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" even though they didn't believe He was a king. And then they spit on Jesus and took a very strong

grass-like stick called a reed and beat Jesus on His head, crushing the crown of thorns into His skin and causing Him to bleed badly.

We know the Roman guards had no love for God because the Bible says that if you love God, you will love each other. And if we don't love others then we don't really love God.



## Three Nails

The three nails remind us of the nails that were driven into Jesus' hands and feet to nail Him to the cross.

**Egg color:** Yellow

**Read:** John 19:16-22

**Explain:**

Why did Jesus have to die? For our sins. In Romans 3:23 the Bible says, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve and gave them the freedom to make choices. They had the choice to either obey God or disobey Him. Sadly, when given the chance to obey God in the garden, they chose to disobey Him. The choice to disobey God has its results, though. The results or consequences were that Adam and Eve became separated from God because of their sin. As offspring or great, great, great grandchildren of Adam and Eve, we are born sinful and separated from God. Because of this, all of us disobey God in some way. This disobedience makes it clear that we are sinners.

There are different ways we disobey God. We disobey God when we are selfish with our toys or other things we have. We disobey God when we disobey our parents. God has given us parents to teach and train us. What God wants us to do is honor, respect, and listen to them. If we don't, we sin. If we hit our brother or sister, if we lie, cheat,



or steal, we are sinning. Even when we are supposed to clean our rooms, and we don't, it is sinning.

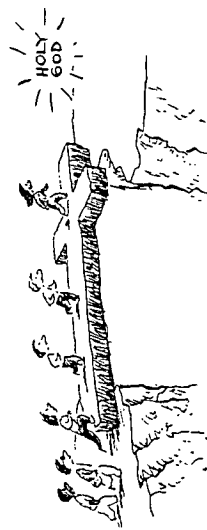
God is perfect and holy. He has never sinned. He can have nothing to do with sin because He is holy. He hates sin. Our sin keeps us from God like a canyon between us.



No matter how hard we try, we can't reach God on the other side of that canyon without His help. Because God is holy, our sin must be punished. It wouldn't be right for God to let our sin go unpunished. If you and I are not punished for our sins, then there must be someone who is punished in our place.

Here is the good news!

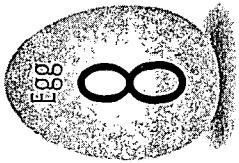
God the Father bridged the canyon for us by allowing His only son Jesus to get the punishment we deserve. He was punished in our place! By His death on the cross, Jesus built a bridge across the canyon that was caused by our sin.



Would you like to have a special relationship with Jesus? Would you like to be forgiven for all your sins? If you believe Jesus died for you and you want to change, just tell Him right now and

He will forgive you. Then ask His Holy Spirit to give you strength to learn to obey God every day. It is the Holy Spirit living in you that helps you choose to do the right thing.

Anyone who chooses to obey God and believe in Him will live forever in heaven with God. Jesus said in John 5:24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."



## One Die

This one die reminds us of the Roman soldiers gambling for Jesus' robe.

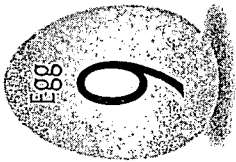
Egg color: Light green

Read: John 19:23-25

Explain:

Jesus did not own much of anything. And much of what He did own, including His clothes, was given to Him by others. So when the soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes at the cross, it was truly sad that they were so selfish and cared so little for Jesus. Psalm 22:18 foretells, hundreds of years before it happened, how the Roman soldiers would gamble for Jesus' clothes: "They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Jesus shows us His example of what we are to do when others do something wrong to us. He asks for forgiveness from His Father for those who were crucifying Him. Listen to what He prays in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Isn't this a great example of how we should treat those who are mean or unkind to us? We need to pray for them. We also need to forgive them.



## The Spear

This item reminds us of the spear that the Roman soldiers used to pierce Jesus' side when He was on the cross.

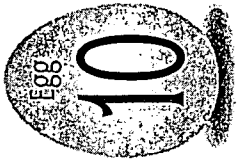
Egg color: Purple

Read: John 19:31-37

Explain:

It was common practice for the Roman soldiers to break the legs of criminals who were dying on a cross to help them die faster. The soldiers broke the legs of the first criminal who was crucified with Jesus on one side. Then they broke the legs of the next criminal on the other cross next to Jesus. But when they got to Jesus, they saw that He was already dead. So they decided not to break his legs. God foretold hundreds of years before in Psalm 34:20 that, when Jesus died, "He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken." God the Father allowed Jesus' life to be taken before the soldiers even got to Him.

But the soldiers did need to make absolutely sure He was dead so they pierced Him in the side with a spear. And when they did, out came both water and blood. This was all the proof they needed that Jesus had died.



## Gauze

The gauze reminds us of the linen cloth used by Joseph of Arimathea to wrap Jesus' body after He died on the cross.

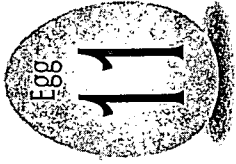
Egg color: Cream

Read: Matthew 27:57-61

Explain:

Some Jewish leaders secretly believed that Jesus was the Messiah (their Savior) and didn't want anyone to know. Both Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, members of the Sanhedrin, were afraid that if anyone knew that they believed Jesus to be the Son of God, they might be killed also.

However, it seems that when Jesus died on the cross, they could hide no longer. It's exciting to know that Joseph of Arimathea loved Jesus so much he was willing to put his own life in danger. Joseph went to Pilate to request the body of Jesus so he could bury Jesus the right way in a tomb that he owned. He took the body to the tomb and wrapped it in linen cloth, according to the custom of that time.



## The Stone

The stone reminds us of the tomb with the stone rolled away.

Egg color: Pink

Read: Matthew 28:1-2

Explain:

According to custom, a large stone was usually placed over a tomb to prevent grave robbers from stealing the body or things that belonged to the dead that were put in the tomb.

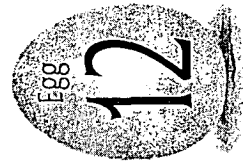
In the case of Jesus, the Pharisees were especially worried that the disciples or His other followers would take the body so they could say Jesus had risen from the dead. In order to prevent this, Pilate had Roman soldiers guard the tomb.

Pilate even had the soldiers close the tomb and set the official Roman seal on the stone so that no one could get in or out without breaking the seal. This, they thought, would keep the disciples from stealing Jesus' body because the penalty for breaking the seal was death. Not only that, but the penalty for the Roman soldiers if they let anyone break the seal was death for them, as well.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body with spices prepared beforehand. When they came and found the stone moved away from the tomb, they were shocked. The soldiers were gone and all that they found in the tomb were Jesus' grave clothes. They did not remember Jesus had said He would rise

from the dead. They were fearful and didn't know what to do.

If only they had remembered Jesus' words that He would rise from the dead, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary would have had faith instead of being afraid or confused. Sometimes things happen in our lives that cause us to be afraid and confused. And because we don't remember or don't know God's Word, the Bible, we don't have faith. But God wants us to remember His words in the Bible. His words give us faith, hope, joy, courage, and direction, even when life is scary or confusing.



## The Empty Egg

The empty egg reminds us of the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Egg color: Light blue

Read: Matthew 28:5-8

Explain:

At the tomb, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw an angel, who told them not to be afraid. No one had taken Jesus' body, but He had risen from the dead! The angel told the women to go and tell the disciples what they had seen, that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were so excited, they ran all the way home to tell the disciples the good news! He is risen from the dead! Alleluia!

After that Jesus appeared in person to Peter, then to the 12 disciples and after that, to more than 500 people. Jesus' appearance to eyewitnesses, those who saw Him with their own eyes, would give support and prove that Jesus rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

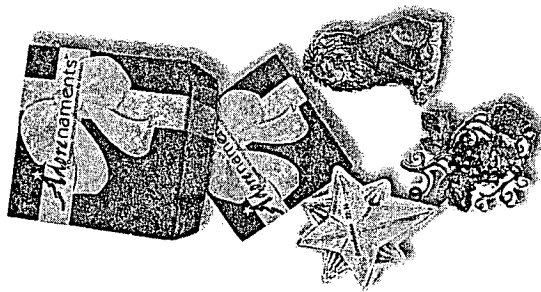
By rising from the dead, Jesus proved once and for all that He was the Messiah, the Savior of the World, the Chosen One, and the Lamb of God. By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus did what no other had ever done before. As both God and man, He overcame sin, death, and hell. And now because of what Jesus has done, these things no longer have any power over those who believe in Jesus and allow His Spirit to lead

*You've told your children the story of Easter with Resurrection Eggs. Now help them know*

*the Christ of Christmas with*  
**Adorenments™**

Amid all the gifts and commercialism of the Christmas season, it's a challenge to keep children focused on the real meaning of Christmas. During the holiday rush, it's not easy to find something that will create an interest in them to know Christ in a fresh new way.

Adorenments can give children a new look at the Savior born in Bethlehem. The purpose of Adorenments is to help children learn the different names of Jesus and what they mean. Each of the 12 colorful ornaments represents a name of Jesus, such as the Lamb of God, the True Vine, the Light of the World, and the Lion of Judah. The accompanying book helps parents explain the significance of each name. Help your children see the baby in a manger in a new light as they learn the fascinating and powerful names of Christ.



**You can purchase Adorenments at your local Christian bookstore or by calling FamilyLife at 1-800-FL-TODAY.**

Other items and corresponding Scriptures you can include in telling the Easter story:

Contents	The item represents	Scripture
Palm branch	Triumphal entry	Mk. 11:7-8
A small piece of soap	Jesus washes disciples' feet	Jn. 13:4-10
Rooster	Peter's denial	Lk. 22:61
Rope	Jesus' arrest	Jn. 18:12
White cloth	Blindfold	Lk. 22:64
Purple cloth	Jesus' trial	Jn. 19:2b
Black inside of egg	darkness from noon to 3 p.m.	Lk. 23:44-45
Soldiers	At the cross	Jn. 19:32
Small rag tied to stick/sponge	Gall offered to Jesus	Jn. 19:28-30
Spices	Burial of Jesus	Lk. 23:56
Seal/stamp	Seal on stone on tomb	Mt. 27:66
Key	Jesus came in and stood among them	Lk. 24:37-40
Angel	Resurrection	Jn. 20:12
Batting (cloth)	Jesus' ascension through the clouds	Lk. 24:51-53
Bible	God's Word to tell others the story	Lk. 24:46-50
Cross	Jesus' crucifixion	Jn. 19:16-22