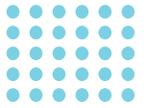


Lesson Materials: Bible, plastic eggs, spoons, masking tape, stopwatch/timer

Bible Story: John 19:16–20:18

Need to Know: We have victory over sin and death!



Circle Up

Use this time to gather as a family and get everyone

ASK

- When have you won something? [game, award, contest, etc.]

Take turns sharing with each other.

SAY

The Bible says that God always wins. God is so strong that no one and nothing can beat him! Today we'll find out what it means that God beat death. God wins every battle he faces. It's fun to win a game. But what God won wasn't a game. What he won was very important. God is our friend, and we can be sure that God always fights for us. We never need to worry, because God wins all the time.

Watch

Watch today's teaching video [here](#).

ASK

Your Elementary Schooler:

What's your favorite thing about Easter?

What is the hardest thing about not winning at something?

What worry, fear or temptation feels like it's winning in your life right now?

ASK

Your Prechooler:

What's your favorite thing about Easter?

Why is Jesus' resurrection better than Easter eggs, baskets, bunnies or dressing up?

How do you feel when you lose at something?

Have Fun Together

READ

Use these activities to have fun together while learning about God.

Read John 19:16–20:18

The Bible says Jesus is God's special Son. Jesus always did the right thing no matter what. But some people wanted him to get in trouble. They wanted him to be punished, even though Jesus never did one thing wrong.

Ask: • *Do you think it was fair for Jesus to be punished even though he never did anything wrong?*

It was a very sad day when the leader named Pilate said Jesus could be punished. We might say it was a dark day. Jesus had to carry a big, heavy cross. Some people hit him and hurt him very badly. Then they put nails in his hands and feet to hang him on the cross. Some soldiers took Jesus' clothes and they threw dice to see who would get his robe. Jesus' friends and family stood near his cross. Jesus asked them for something to drink. Jesus drank what they brought him. It was such a sad day. Let's take a moment to think quietly about how sad it must've been when Jesus died. After Jesus drank, he said "It is finished!" and he let himself die. The soldiers took Jesus' body down from the cross after they made sure he had died. One of Jesus' friends asked the leader if he could take care of Jesus' body. He and another of Jesus' friends brought things called myrrh and aloe to put on Jesus' body. Jesus' friends wrapped Jesus' body in a long sheet of cloth. Jesus' friends placed his body in a cave and closed the opening by placing a big rock in front of it. Jesus' friends thought that was it. Jesus had died, and they had no hope.

Two days later, on Sunday morning, Jesus' friend Mary went to where they had placed Jesus' body. The big stone they had put in front of the cave to close the opening had been rolled away. She ran and found some of Jesus' other friends. Mary said to Jesus' friends, "They've taken Jesus' body, and we don't know where they put him!" Jesus' friends ran to the cave. Jesus' friend Peter stooped and looked in the cave opening. Peter saw some of the cloth wrappings, but he didn't go in. Another one of Jesus' friends did go in, and he saw and believed that Jesus was alive. Jesus had taught them that he would come back to life, and he did! It wasn't a sad day anymore; it was a new day, and it was a bright, happy day because Jesus wasn't dead anymore. Jesus is alive! But Mary was still at the cave crying, and she stooped and looked inside. There were two angels in there! One of the angels asked Mary why she was crying. She didn't understand that Jesus had come back to life. She told the angel why she was crying, and then she turned to leave. But then the man who she thought was the gardener said to her, "Mary!" and she realized it was Jesus! Jesus wasn't dead anymore. God won! Mary told many of Jesus' other friends, "Jesus is alive!" When God brought Jesus back to life, God won. No one can beat God; he always wins.

PLAY

Materials Needed: plastic eggs (1 per person); spoons (1 per person); masking tape; stopwatch/timer

Walk the Egg Across the Room

Use masking tape to make a line on each end of your playing space. Give each person a spoon and a plastic egg. Set a timer to one minute, and challenge everyone to walk with their eggs to the other tape line before the timer goes off. If all get to the other line before the timer goes off, celebrate their victory, set the timer for less time, and play again.

We don't win every game we play, but God won the most important challenge once and for all! The Easter story shows us that God wins! Jesus beat death, and now he's alive. When we're friends with Jesus, he gives us life that never ends—so we win, too!

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for the empty tomb. Because of Jesus, we are victorious. You are worthy of all our praise. Thank you for loving us enough to send your Son. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.