



Theme Notes

Messy Easter	What Comes Next? An Easter Candy Adventure
Bible Verse	Luke 24:36-41 "While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true." (The Message)
Bible Story	Read Luke 24:36-53. Jesus appears to his disciples after his Resurrection. The disciples are overjoyed, and also a bit scared! Jesus shows them how everything he taught them was taking shape and he reminded them that there was work for them to do to spread the good news.
Messy Reflection to share with team	What usually happens to all those Easter treats in your Easter baskets or in the stores? Does Easter really "end" the day after our Easter Sunday celebration? What does Easter mean to you? How does it change the way you live?
How does this session help people grow in Christ?	This Easter session uses the "leftovers" from our Easter day celebration as a way to talk about how the good news of Easter – Jesus' resurrection – was something that changed EVERYTHING, not just for one day but forever! While using up some of our Easter candy, we explore how Easter matters to us not just once a year but every day.

Creativity Time Activities

1. What Can you Build With Jelly Beans?



Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: Jelly Beans or other gummy candies, toothpicks.

Directions: Use the candy and toothpicks to build. Can you build a nest for a Peep or Easter egg? How tall a structure can you build?

Talking/Thinking Points: When we put all these candies together, they make something bigger than one piece. Jesus showed his disciples how all of the Scriptures come together to paint a big picture of how God loves us.

2. Jelly Beans Tell the Story



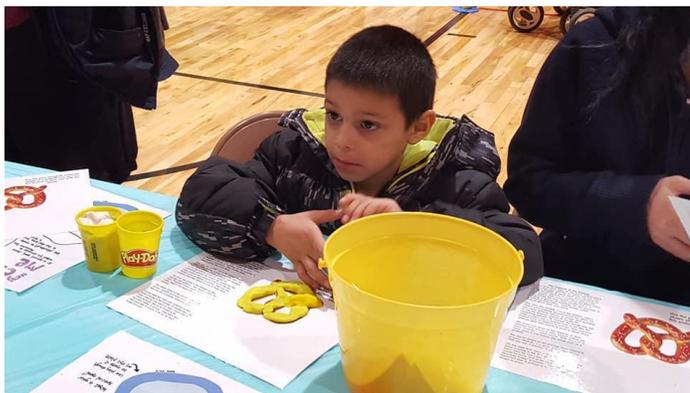
Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: Jelly Beans or other colorful candies (green, purple, black, red, blue, orange, pink) and the PDF of the Easter Story card. OR small pom-poms and glue

Directions: Find jelly beans to match each part of the Easter story. You can also use pom-poms and glue them to the story card.

Talking/Thinking Points: Talk about how we go from happy to sad to overjoyed in one short week. How do the colors represent different parts of the story? This is a good chance to review all of Holy Week.

3. Pretzel Prayer



Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: PDF with history of pretzels, play dough (or make your own pretzels!)

Directions: Learn together about pretzels and their connection with prayer. Use play dough to make pretzel shapes or try your hand at making pretzels from scratch!

Talking/Thinking Points: Often these pretzel prayers get used during Lent to talk about praying during Lent. But prayer isn't just for Lent! Jesus prays for peace for his disciples. How can we pray for peace for one another and neighbors around the world?

4. Test Your Taste Buds



Watch out for those hot candies!

Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: Candies that are sweet, sour, and hot/spicy (you can actually find spicy jelly beans or use Red Hots)

Directions: Mix up the candy so you don't know what flavor you're trying. Can you identify sweet, sour, and hot?

Talking/Thinking Points: What parts of the Easter story are sweet? What parts are sour? What might be hot?

5. Play Dough with Peeps



Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: 5 Peeps, 3+ tbsp cornstarch, 1-2 tsp coconut oil, microwave

Directions: Combine ingredients in microwave safe bowl and heat for about 30 seconds. Mix with a spoon until cool and knead the mixture with your hands. If the mixture is too sticky, add a bit more corn starch.

Talking/Thinking Points: It takes some work to get these ingredients to come together. How does following Jesus take some work sometimes?

6. Candy Land game



Directions for Activity

Materials Needed: CandyLand board game

Directions: Play the Candy Land game together

Talking/Thinking Points: How do you feel when you draw a card that sends you backwards? Do you think Jesus' disciples might have felt like this when Jesus died? How is the good news of Easter something that goes with us each step of our life?

Celebration

Celebration	<p>While one person reads Luke 24:36-42, have one person act as Jesus and everyone else act as disciples. What would their facial expressions have been when Jesus appeared among them?</p> <p>Or...</p> <p>Gather all your Easter candies and treats and use these items to tell the Easter story together. For example, Peeps can be Jesus' peeps (ie, his disciples), hollow chocolate bunnies can be the empty tomb, etc</p> <p>Prayer: Thank you God for loving us and for the good news of Easter! As we see all the treats and fun things from our Easter celebration, help us remember that Easter isn't just one day and that it doesn't end when all our treats are eaten. Help us to live the good news of Easter every day! Amen.</p>
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Meal Ideas:

You can use marshmallow treats like Peeps to make rice krispie treats (just replace regular marshmallows with peeps; use all one color of peeps for each batch of treats!).