



5 EASTER DEVOTIONS FOR JUNIOR MIGH MINISTRY

Created by JuniorHighMinistry.org

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Easter Peeps

The Perfect Timing of Easter

PREP

Supplies:

- 1 package of Easter-shaped (rabbits, bunnies, etc.) marshmallow peeps
- Small bag of chips (potato or tortilla)
- 3 small Styrofoam bowls of salsa or chip dip
- 3 disposable cups of orange juice

Mark a Bible to 1 Corinthians 5:7.

DEMONSTRATION

Invite 3 volunteers up to the front of the room. Give each a small bowl of salsa. Then pull out a package of marshmallow peeps and give each student a peep. Then say, “Okay, go ahead and use your peep to eat your salsa.”

Let your students be grossed out and then say, “Oh, I’m sorry, I guess it’s not the best time to eat peeps.” Then pull out some chips and let them each take some chips and their salsa and sit back down.

Call up 3 more volunteers. Give them each an Easter marshmallow peep to eat. As they are eating, offer them each a cup of orange juice. If they take it, ask them if the peeps and orange juice taste good together. Let them share their responses then have them take their seats.

DEVOTION

Timing is important, don’t you think? You may love salsa, but it’s disgusting when eaten the same time as marshmallow peeps. You may LOVE peeps, but who eats them with orange juice? Yuck!

We may love all kinds of foods, but that doesn’t mean eating all our favorite things at one time is a good idea. We also don’t brush our teeth and then eat supper. Timing is important.

Timing was also very important when Jesus chose to give his life and die on a cross.

Before Jesus died, the Jews were God’s special chosen people. But because they sinned—just like we all have done—their most important religious leader, the High Priest, had to make an important sacrifice on behalf of everyone once a year so that they could be forgiven.

For hundreds of years a High Priest made this sacrifice on a special Friday every spring during a holy holiday called the “Passover.”

God chose for Jesus to die on this special day at the very same time the High Priest offered a perfect, pure lamb as a sacrifice for all the people.

I Corinthians 5:7 says, “Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.” After Jesus died and rose again there was no longer a need for people to make an animal sacrifice because Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice once and for all.

WRAP UP

Say, “It wasn’t by chance that Jesus died when he did. Jesus’ death was all part of God’s perfect plan for Him to be the perfect and final sacrifice on behalf of every human’s sin.”

The Stone

Nothing Is Impossible for God

PREP

Supplies:

- Stones, one for each student. Try to find stones that are as flat and as easy to write on as possible.
- Permanent Markers, one for every 2-3 students to share.

Mark a Bible to Matthew 28:1-4.

DEMONSTRATION

Give each student a stone and a permanent marker to share. Have them write on their stone, “Nothing is impossible for God” or “Nothing stands in God’s way.”

DEVOTION

The Bible tells us that after Jesus died on the cross his body was taken and placed in a tomb. This tomb was some kind of cave made of rock.

The tomb was closed off because a huge stone was placed in front of the entrance. Then a seal was put on the stone. A seal is like a special picture that was used by someone in authority to show that the tomb was closed by their permission and that no one was allowed to open it. Finally, guards were put outside Jesus’ tomb to keep anyone from breaking in.

You see, the government and the religious leaders of Jesus’ day were worried that someone would break into Jesus’ tomb and steal His body to make it appear as if Jesus had risen from the dead, as He had promised He would.

But, they didn’t realize that Jesus didn’t need anyone to steal his body. Matthew 28:1–4 tells us the crazy events that happened after Jesus’ body lay dead in that tomb for 3 days.

“... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”

So, the two Mary’s show up to visit Jesus’ tomb, and the giant stone had been rolled away from its entrance. And the guards were scared to death by the angel that was sitting on top of it.

Next the angel tells the women that Jesus had risen from the dead and was not in the tomb anymore. When Jesus rose again, He had a perfect spirit body and

could walk through walls. So the angel didn't open the tomb so Jesus could leave, but rather he opened it so people could see that his body was gone like Jesus said it would be.

Nothing is too hard for God. Jesus has power over death, power over angels, power over giant rocks, power over nature... Power over EVERYTHING!

WRAP UP

"The Easter story reminds us that God has the power to do anything and that's why we can fully trust him with every part of our lives!"

The Gift

Jesus GAVE His Life - It Was Not Taken

PREP

Supplies: A \$5-10 gift that a preteen might enjoy, wrapped nicely. Place the gift somewhere in front of the class so that your students see it before class starts.

Mark a Bible to 1 John 3:16, Galatians 1:4, and Luke 23:46.

DEMONSTRATION

Call up a volunteer and hand them the gift. Have them open it and let them keep it.

DEVOTION

Say, "Did (our volunteer) just steal the (object)?" *Let your class say, "no."* No, you're right, it was a gift. They didn't come before class and take it. They just received the gift I offered. I gave it to them.

1 John 3:16 says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

Jesus willingly died for us. He knew what needed to happen for our sins to be forgiven and he knew that meant dying a painful and horrible death. And He did it because he loves us.

Galatians 1:4 says, "Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live."

No one took Jesus' life, he willingly gave it. In the same way, no one took the gift from me, I gave it.

Luke 23:46 reminds us that it was Jesus' choice to die for even with his last breath he told God, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

The fact that Jesus GAVE his life for us is important because it reminds us that Jesus is all-powerful. No one could have done anything to Jesus without his permission.

It also shows how great his love for us is. Jesus knew what a huge sacrifice was needed to save us from our own sin and he didn't run away or change his mind. At any point he could have had a thousand angels at his side, but he endured all the pain and humiliation even though he didn't deserve any of it.

WRAP UP

Say, “No one could have taken Jesus’ life from him, but he chose to give his life freely so we could be forgiven and free for eternity.”

Jelly Beans

They'll Know Us by our Flavor

PREP

Supplies:

- Three distinct jelly bean flavors for everyone in your class to get at least one of each.

Mark a Bible to Matthew 7:16.

DEMONSTRATION

Give each student the same jelly bean flavor to try. Then give your class three options of what the jelly bean flavor might have been and poll your class using raised hands to see what flavor they think it is.

Then give each student the second and third flavor. Poll them again after each try.

Give them pretty obvious options so that they can guess the three flavors correctly.

DEVOTION

Say, "You did pretty good guessing which flavors we gave you! How could you tell what flavor you were eating?"

Let your class give any answers they think of.

Right, the color of the jelly-beans was the first indicator of what flavor they might be. Obviously a red jelly bean isn't blueberry flavor and a black one isn't lemon flavored.

And then the taste made it pretty obvious what flavor they were if the color wasn't clear enough to tell us.

In the same way the Bible says that people will be able to tell if we are a follower of Jesus or not by how we act and talk.

Matthew 7:16 says, "You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?"

A while after Jesus died and rose again he went back up to heaven and his followers were left on earth to tell others about him. And today, that is still our call as Christians; to live lives so that others can see Jesus through how we live and what we say.

WRAP UP

Say, “When people are around you, are they confused whether or not you are a Christian? Can people tell by your actions that you belong to Jesus? Does your life make others want to know Jesus, too?”

Chocolate Bunnies

Share Jesus with others.

PREP

Supplies:

- Assortment of “Easter-shaped” chocolates (bunnies, eggs, chicks, etc.) as close to the same size as possible.
- Plate

Unwrap all the chocolates, and place them on the plate.

Mark a Bible to Matthew 28:19 and 1 Corinthians 9:22.

DEMONSTRATION

Show your students your plate of all different shaped chocolates and take a vote to see who likes which chocolate shape best.

Then give out the chocolates for your students to eat.

DEVOTION

The last command Jesus gave his disciples before he went back to heaven is written in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Think about that. Jesus said go to ALL nations. The word “nations” used here actually means “people groups.”

Each country in the world may have many distinct people groups who speak their own language and have their own culture. The World Christian Encyclopedia estimates there are probably somewhere around 27,000 different people groups in the world today!

And Jesus has told us to go tell all those unique people groups about Him. There are all kinds of different shaped chocolates. Especially at Easter, we see many different shapes of chocolates. It seems there are a hundred different types of chocolate bunnies alone!

Just like there are many different forms of chocolate, there are many differences between us and other people. Everyone is unique. Other people may prefer different foods or speak different languages or play different games.

But in 1 Corinthians 9:22 Paul tells us that, “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

We must be willing to get outside of our comfort zone to show other people who Jesus is.

Jesus is the ONLY way to have a relationship with God, but that doesn't mean that everyone has to worship Jesus the same way, or that everyone's faith has to look the same.

Chocolate is chocolate—whether it's shaped like a bunny, an egg or a candy bar—and at we need to be open to others being different from us but still worshiping and obeying the same Jesus.

WRAP UP

Say, "Think about how you can be true to Jesus, yet share Him in a way that others who may not be like you will understand. We can't change what the Bible teaches, but we may be able to show Jesus to others in a more friendly way to those who are different from us. Just like different people like different chocolate, different people's faith in Christ may look a little different, too. What's important is that we have true faith in Him alone."