

Be Bold 20 EASTER 1

If Jesus Conquered Death, Why Do People Still Die?

Bold Bible Truth: Jesus loves you.

(John 3:16)

Supplies

Bible, paper, pencils, markers, candy, food storage containers, wrapping paper, scissors, tape

Question of the Week

Say: It's that time of year...Easter is just around the corner! So, you might be hearing things like "Jesus died for you."

Maybe you've heard that your whole life, or maybe that's new. Either way, when you stop and think about it, you might have some questions about Jesus' death.

- **What are your questions about Jesus' death?**

Say: Thanks for sharing your questions. I'm glad we're all in this together! We have a lot of questions about Jesus' death. Today let's talk about this one: If Jesus conquered death, why do people still die?

Say: We probably all know someone who died even though Jesus conquered death.

Have everyone draw someone they know who died on a paper. Then have them describe that person in the space below the person.

Allow time, then have everyone fold their paper in half, so the person is on the inside.



- **Tell about the person you drew. Show the picture you drew.**

Have everyone fold their paper in half again and draw a person figure on the outside, with bright rays of light and color streaming around the figure. Set the papers aside.

Say: **Some of those people might've believed in Jesus, but they still died. We talk about the fact that Jesus died for us and beat death by coming back to life, yet everyone still dies. What's up with that?**

First, we need to learn what death really means.

- **What would you say death means?**

Say: **When most people think of dying, they think of the end of life on earth. But when the Bible talks about death, that's not always what it means. Death also means being separated from God. But Jesus loves us, and he didn't want us to be separated from him. So, he came up with a plan to die for us.**

Wrap Candy

Each person will need a food storage container and a piece of candy. Everyone can share wrapping paper, scissors, and tape. (Don't have wrapping paper? No problem! Wrap it with tissue paper, regular paper, or even...if you can afford it...toilet paper!)

Each person will put a piece of candy in a food storage container, then wrap the container like a present.

- **What's the most important part of this container, in your opinion?**

Say: **Most of us don't really care that much about plastic containers. We care about the food inside! So, trade containers with someone. Then open the present to get the candy out.**

Allow time for everyone to open their containers and get out the candy.

- **What happened to the wrapping on your container when you got the candy?**
- **How does that remind you of what happens to our bodies when we die?**

Say: **Our earthly bodies will die, and they won't come back to life. But listen to this, and eat your candy as we read these verses.**

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44:

"It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies."

Say: **When the wrapping on the container was broken, it's like the container died.**

But there was something great inside—the candy. The real you is inside your body, just like the real treasure was the candy, not the container or the wrapping.

- **What’s special about the real you, the way you are on the inside?**

Say: When we die, our bodies “break,” but our inner selves move from our current bodies to heavenly bodies!

- **What do you think a heavenly body is like?**

Say: Let’s read on to find out more about our heavenly bodies.

Have someone read verse 1 Corinthians 15:50-53:

“What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.”

Say: We don’t know exactly what our heavenly bodies will be like. But we know they’ll last forever, and they’re much better than the bodies we have now!

Let’s think again about the people we know who’ve died. We usually get sad when someone dies because we won’t see that person anymore on earth. But listen to what’s happened to people who believe that Jesus loves us.

Have someone read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14:

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.”

- **How does this verse give you hope?**

Have someone read John 11:25:

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’ ”

- **What does it mean to live even though you die?**

Have everyone look at their paper with the brightly colored figure on the outside. Say: **People who love Jesus don't truly die. The inside of your paper is still there; it's just in a new body! Because Jesus loves us and died for us, we can live forever in heaven with him.**

Celebrate

Say: **The Bible talks more about Jesus' victory over death. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 celebrates that we don't really die. Let's read them as a praise to God. Repeat the lines I say when I point.**

**“ ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. Point and pause.
O death, where is your victory? Point and pause.
O death, where is your sting?’ Point and pause.
For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ ”**

Jesus loves us and conquered death. That means death has no victory over us! We'll never die. We'll just transfer from one broken body to a much better, permanent one when God says it's time, like our paper. We'll live forever!

(If you're comfortable, talk more about how to live forever in heaven and let kids ask questions. Invite them to become friends with Jesus.)

Say: **Isn't it awesome to know that Jesus loves us enough to beat death so that we wouldn't have to die? Jesus said we will live even though we die.**

Pray

Say: **We discovered today that Jesus loves us and beat death so we can live forever. Let's repeat some verses we read as a cheer!**

Have everyone repeat each line after you.

Pray: **Thank you, Jesus,**

That death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting? Thank you, God,

For giving us victory over sin and death

through our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Bold Blessing

Have everyone stand in a circle with their hands in the center, like a sports team. Tell them that when you finish the Bold Blessing, they'll raise their hands and shout "Let's be bold!" (Doing this over video chat? Put your hands in toward the camera!)

Say this Bold Blessing: **Receive this Bold Blessing and carry it out with you: May God bless you and help you show life and enthusiasm to everyone around you. Let's be bold!**

Mystery Mission

Read everyone the Mystery Mission, and challenge them to live out their faith this week by doing this mission. (Children's Ministry Director, if you're leading this over video and you have the card, fold and seal it in advance and open it on the video to create the sense of mystery! Then send out the mission via email.)

Use a piece of paper to make a Mobius strip—a loop that has no beginning or end. Follow these instructions.

- Cut the paper into three strips of about 1-inch width.
- Tape the strips together at the ends to make one long strip.
- Tape the strip into a loop, but before you tape it, twist the strip one time.
- You'll be able to trace around the loop with your finger and cover both sides of the loop without ever hitting an end.
- Use the Mobius strip to tell someone about eternal life with Jesus.