

Easter—More Than a Sunday

Tell Kids, and Tell Them To Tell Others

In a Nutshell

Easter celebrates Christianity in a nutshell—God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to earth to die in our place for our sins. Whoever believes that God raised Jesus from the dead will be saved. God didn't send Jesus to tell us how bad and wrong we are. He sent Jesus to set us free from the sin that traps and separates us from God.

Isn't that the greatest thing you've ever heard?

Doesn't it make you want to tell every one you meet so they can be free, too?

The Great Open Door

Easter is a great open door for sharing the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection in your church and community.

Have a 2-step plan this Easter for bursting through that door and watch God transform lives. The first step is

to tell those you know. The second step is to train others to share the Good News.

Step 1: Tell Kids

Have the kids in your church heard the good news of salvation clearly explained? Have you given them a chance to respond to Jesus and receive Him into their lives?

Make sure this Easter that every child in your care hears and knows and responds one way or another.

Step 2: Tell Them To Tell Others

Once your kids know the salvation message, show them how they can tell their family members, friends, neighbors, and others they meet.

Pray that God would empower them with His Holy Spirit to boldly go and be witnesses of God's great love and forgiveness.

Read the next pages for ideas and resources you can use to (1) tell them and (2) tell them to tell others.



The Crucifixion
An ancient fresco depicting the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The scene is set against a dramatic, cloudy sky. Jesus is on the cross, with a sign above his head. The figures of the other two criminals are visible on either side. The overall tone is somber and religious.

[The Passion Week Bulletin Board Set 38FX1534](#)

can be used as visuals as you show your kids the Easter story. With 12 kids (or fewer if you double up on pictures) you can create a living timeline of Jesus' last week on earth. An activity guide with lessons and reproducible worksheets.

Unfolding Puzzle Amazes

The [EvangeCube 20FX0125](#) is an unfolding puzzle cube that shows the plan of salvation in 7 moves. It starts with our separation from God because of sin, to our being united with God through Christ. Kids can't wait to get their hands on this cube and work it themselves. "This is awesome!" says one 9-year-old.



A [keychain/backpack dangler 20FX0191](#) lets kids carry it with them and show it to all their friends.

Sweet!



Easter Celebration Stats:

- Over 75% of Americans celebrate Easter.
- They spend an average of \$107 per person for Easter. In all, consumers spend almost \$10.5 billion on Easter.
- They spend their money (in order of amount) on clothing, food, gifts, and candy. They will spend less than \$10 per person on flowers, decorations, and greeting cards.

—National Retail Federation
2004 Easter Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey

A Sweet, Sweet Day for Kids!

Kids and Candy

Kids and candy go together like peanut butter and jelly. And the holidays, with all their candy, are like the ultimate celebration for kids. Consider these Easter candy statistics from the National Confectioners Association:

- 90% of parents say their kids receive Easter baskets of candy and goodies.
- 42% of people rank the chocolate bunny as the “must-have” candy in the Easter basket. Jelly beans run second.
- More than 90 million chocolate bunnies, 2 million marshmallow chicks, and 16 billion jelly beans will be produced for Easter.

The JellyBean Message

Easter is a great time to get kids’ attention through candy and then use the candy to share with them the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

• What You’ll Need

- * Lots of jelly beans. Look for packages with: red, green, yellow, orange, black or speckled, white, purple, and pink.
- * Small [zipper lock bags](#) ([38FX0999](#)), 2 or 3 per child

- * [JellyBean Prayer Tract](#) ([19FX8041](#)), 2 or 3 per child

• The Plan

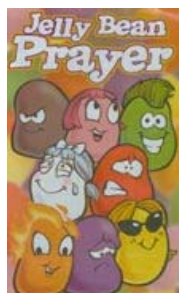
On the Monday or Tuesday before Easter Sunday, mail the children a [JellyBean postcard](#) ([38FX1610](#)). On the back write, “Don’t miss our Jelly Bean Easter this Sunday!”

Prepare a small bag with one jelly bean of each of the colors listed for each child. Place the rest of the jelly beans in a bowl for Sunday.

• Share the Message

Give each child a small bag of jelly beans you prepared ahead of time and a JellyBean Prayer Tract.

As you read together the meaning of each color, let the kids take that



color out of their bag and set it on the table in front of them. Review by letting the children tell you what each colored jelly bean stands for (and then they can eat them!)

Pray with any children who would like to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Pray with all the children, thanking God for His gift of salvation.

• Teach Kids To Share

Place the bowl of jelly beans and zipper bags on the table. Allow the children to make up one or two packets and then staple a Jelly-Bean Prayer Tract to the bags.

Ask the kids to think of a friend or two they would like to share these gifts with. Explain that they can go through the tract with their friends, pray with them, and give them the package as a gift.

• Send Home the Love

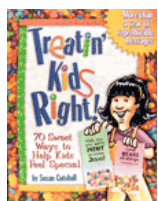
Send each child home with a [Jelly-Bean Prayer Treat Bag](#) ([38FX1546](#)).

Place a small amount of Easter grass in the bag and add a variety of candy. Include a copy of [My Jelly-bean Prayer Book](#) ([38FX1547](#)), which they can read later. It has real life situations for each of the colored jelly beans from the tract. Be sure to write in “To” and “From” and the “Date” in the front of the book so the kids can remember this Easter and the grace Jesus offered on the Cross.



Sweet Message

You speak a child’s language when you offer a message with candy! Give each child a chocolate Easter egg with a note that says, “You are “egg-stra” special to Jesus!”



Get more ideas from: [Treatin' Kids Right! 70 Ways To Help Kids Feel Special](#) [03FX6868](#)

Easter Basket Suggestions

Offer to order these meaningful items for parents in your church as Easter basket goodies for their kids.

[He’s Risen! He’s Alive! Book](#) [38FX1538](#)

[Resurrection Eggs](#) [38FX0698](#)

[Itty-Bitty Easter Activity Book](#) [38FX1618](#)

[Itty-Bitty Easter Storybook](#) [38FX1617](#)

Holiday Outreach Follow Up

Outreach Magazine asked its readers: “How does your church follow up with visitors to holiday outreach events?”

86% Print Correspondence (personal letter, newsletter, etc.)

59% Phone Call

47% Personal Visit

5% We don’t follow up, but we’d like to.

2% We don’t follow up, preferring to let God move visitors to attend or not.

—*OutreachMagazine.com*

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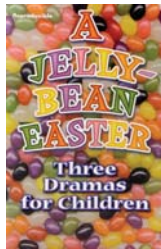
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Please forward this file or photocopy a printout for your friends, family, and other children's workers.

Easter Programs Kids Can Do



[A Jellybean Easter](#)
38FX1449

This book has 3 dramas for children that can be read or memorized.

"A Jellybean Easter" would be great done in class if you are having a Jellybean Easter Sunday

described on the previous page. It would also make a nice presentation for the congregation, showing what the kids learned in class.

After the presentation, the kids can distribute to the congregation a [Jellybean Prayer Bookmark \(38FX1548\)](#).

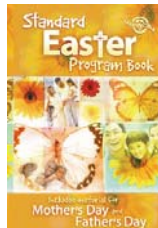
They could also prepare and distribute little bags with the colored jelly beans to the rest of the children in the church.

[Easter Program Builder](#)

38FX1597

This book includes monologues and a dramatic reading from Psalm 22 for Good Friday; an easy-to-stage program for Easter; and recitations for preschoolers; kids 5-7 and kids 8-10.

When you purchase 3 copies you may photocopy the book for your dramas.



[Standard Easter Program Book](#)
38FX1450

If you're looking for recitations for the children of all ages to present, you'll want to look at this book.

Integrate a couple of these readings into your worship service or choose several for a longer presentation.

Simple recitations include poems with one or two stanzas.

Younger children could memorize these and say them all together or children could each learn a line and speak it.

Intermediate poems are longer. And advanced recitations are long enough for a whole group of children to share in the presentation or for older children to read.

One of the programs includes song suggestions and lines for primaries, middle schoolers, and preteens to say.

After the presentation or as people are leaving the sanctuary, let the children hand out an Easter tract or bookmark to each person. Here are some ideas:

[The Empty Tomb Tract 38FX1569](#)

[Pewter Cross Lapel Pin 38FX1550](#)

[Plantable Seed Butterfly with Bookmark 38FX1431](#)



[Celebrate Easter](#)
38FX1448

These easy dramas, speeches, and recitations for children can be used as readings in the classroom to help teach the meaning of Easter. They

can also be enjoyed by the congregation.

"Sonrise!" has 9 brief scenes beginning in the courtyard of the high priest's palace and ends at the tomb. It was written with middle-school students in mind. But it can also include younger children in a chorus, which speaks lines together. The message of "Sonrise!" is shown through Peter's discovery that Jesus will forgive us even when we have trouble forgiving ourselves.

Mother's and Father's Day verses are also included in the book.

Drama Resource Books

[Costuming the Christmas & Easter Play: 38FX1143](#)

[Staging Effects & Props for Easter & Christmas 38FX1312](#)