

ACTIVITIES FOR EASTER WEEKEND!

This year, our Easter weekend will look a lot different and we have ample time to spend with the children and teaching them the true meaning of Easter.

Here you will find a few ideas, that is easy to adapt to any age and any number of children. Make this the most memorable Easter for your family:

QUICK CRAFT IDEAS:

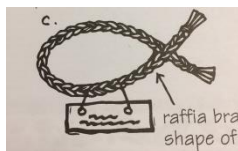
Bread Sculpture:



Materials needed: Wax paper, one slice of white bread for each child, plastic knives, measuring spoons, white glue, water, paper plates, baking sheets, spatula, oven mitt, oven and clear nail polish. Food colouring is optional.

Method: Give each child a large sheet of waxed paper to work on and a slice of white bread. Children remove the crust with the plastic knives and discard. Pour 1 teaspoon of glue and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon water onto each slice of bread. (Add the drop of food colouring if you are using it.) Children knead the bread in their hands until it doesn't stick to their fingers. As they work, talk to them about what happened during the first Easter. Maybe one of them can tell the story. When the dough is ready, ask them to make a shape that reminds them of Easter (heart, cross etc.) Allow shapes to dry overnight or place shapes on baking sheets and bake at 225° for four minutes. Children can paint the dry shapes with clear nail polish to preserve them.

"I'm a believer" Fish:



Materials needed: Raffia (or string), scissors, measuring stick, index card, masking tape, pen or pencils, hole punch.

Before you do the activity, tell the children that in the days after Jesus returned to heaven, people were often killed for being a Christian. To protect themselves they used a secret symbol to identify other Christians. This symbol was a fish, drawn with two simple arches. When talking with someone, a Christian would draw an arch on the ground with his foot. If the other person drew the other arch with his foot, then they both knew that they were talking to another Christian. The Greek word for fish is *ichtus*, and it was an acrostic for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour."

Method: Cut out 3 x 1 meter lengths of raffia for each child. Cut index card in half (lengthwise). Give each child three lengths of raffia. Children tie ends of three lengths together in a knot, leaving a 2,5 cm tail above the knot. Children tape tail of knot onto a hard surface and braid strips loosely until approximately 10 cm are left.

Tie a knot at the end. Now they remove the tape from the braid and hold both ends together to form a fish shape. Glue the shape together and leave until dry. On the index card, children write a sentence to thank God. Punch holes in card and using additions raffia through holes, attach to fish.

Easter Cards

Make Easter cards for all your neighbours!

Materials needed: Coloured construction paper, markers, Easter pictures or stickers, glitter glue, scissors, glue, small individually wrapped candies, envelopes.

Method: Explain to the children that they will be making cards to share the good news about Jesus with the neighbours. Ask them to think of a short message about Easter that they can write on their cards. (E.g. Jesus is alive! Jesus loves you!) Each child makes one or more Easter card, printing a short message inside and decorating the outside. They can also cut out the simple shapes as symbols of Easter (hearts, cross) and use that to decorate the cards. Now have them sign their names on the cards, and put the card with candies in the envelope. They can put it in the neighbours postal box or at the front door. No contact needed and they will be a blessing to others.

GAMES FOR ALL AGES:

Egg and Spoon Race

Try this good old-fashioned game! It is supposed to be an outdoor game, but can easily be changed into an indoor game. Egg and spoon races date back to the late 1800s. All you need are eggs (hard-boiled are the least messy) and metal or wooden spoons for each participant. Race individually or relay-style. Get the children's help to set up a racecourse and enjoy the laughs!

Hidden messages

Materials needed: Large sheets of paper, felt pen, pencils

Procedure: Write a hidden message on a piece of paper that you have prepared and ask them what is wrong with the sentence. Tell them the sentence is: GOOD NEWS, JESUS IS ALIVE! Have them cross out the letters that they think are wrong to form the sentence. Have them take turns to write messages and the rest to try and figure it out.

