

Seeking Jesus: A Christ Centered Easter Egg Hunt

(Idea from Bridget Sandoval)



I enjoyed hunting or racing for Easter Eggs as a kid. I wanted my kids to be able to have that fun part of Easter and still be able to bring Christ to the forefront of our Easter Celebration. These desires resulted in the following Easter egg hunt.

Summary:

When we hunt for Easter eggs, we seek them out. There are several times in the four Gospels of the New Testament where people sought or hunted for Jesus. In this treasure hunt type egg hunt the group will follow clues that tell a little about the life and teachings of Jesus to find four different eggs. At each stop there will be a scripture story to learn about people who sought Jesus. There are discussion questions and a treat/gift that go along with each of the stories.

Supplies:

- Plastic eggs - choose 4 different color eggs (1 color for each of the 4 clues in this hunt). If you're doing this activity with a group, either use one egg for the whole group to find or have one egg of each color for each participant (ex: 5 participants X 4 different color eggs = 20 eggs, 5 of each color).
- Egg fillers - The fillers are meant to go with the story in each egg. Come up with your own or see the suggestions on the next page.
- Scriptures
- A copy of these instructions, including the scripture stories to go in the eggs.
- Optional—A small Easter basket for each of the participants, if you have an egg for each of them.

Set Up:

- Gather the supplies.
- Use the "Clue Sheet" to choose clues, hiding spots, and egg fillers.
- Label each egg on the outside with numbers 1-4 so they don't get mixed up. The numbers can be small.
- Cut out the scripture stories and put them in the eggs with the corresponding number.
- Put the fillers in or with the eggs of the corresponding number.
- Before the hunt, hide the eggs in the chosen spots.
- Have the "Clue Sheet" and "Egg Hunt Script" ready to use during the hunt.

To Adapt the Hunt for Younger Children:

Instead of using the clues you may want to hide the eggs in easy places in your house or in the yard. Instead of putting the scripture papers in the eggs you could use pictures of the stories. When it's time to begin the Egg Hunt tell the children to find the color egg that you noted for egg #1. After they find that egg, read or summarize the scripture story. Ask simple questions about who was seeking Jesus and what happened in the story. If needed, explain how the Egg Filler goes with the story. Tell the children what color egg to find next. Continue until they have found all four eggs and heard all four stories.

Eggs Filler Ideas

Use any of these filler ideas which correlate with the message for each egg, or come up with your own.
(Consider the size of the fillers if you want them to fit inside the plastic eggs.)

1

Egg #1— Use any of the following ideas to represent the wise men following the star to take gifts to Jesus.

Stars:

- Brach's Chocolate Star Candies
- Star Stickers
- Starbrite Mints
- Starburst Candies
- Glow in the Dark Ceiling Stars

3 Kings:

- Paper Crowns

Gold, Frankincense, or Myrrh:

- Gold Coin Candies
- One Dollar Gold Coins
- Hershey's Nuggets
- Bubble Bath, Bath Salts, Scented Hand/Body Cream
- Cologne or Perfume

2

Egg #2— Use any of the following ideas to represent when Jesus was teaching in the temple.

Teaching:

- Apple or Apple Flavored Candies
- Pencils (probably won't fit in eggs)
- Erasers
- Teacher Stickers
- Sidewalk Chalk

He pretty much told His parents... "I've 'bean' about my Father's business."

- Jelly Beans
- Jelly Bean Themed Stickers or Gifts
- Boston Beans Candies
- Mini-Bean Bags

3

Egg #3— Use any of the following ideas to represent the people who wanted to kill Jesus and Judas who helped them for 30 pieces of silver.

30 pieces of silver:

- Silver Wrapped Candy
- 30 Silver Coins (like dimes, nickels, or quarters)

Judas betrayed Him with a kiss:

- Hershey's Kisses
- Stickers of Lips
- Lip Gloss

4

Egg #4— Use any of the following ideas to represent Mary and other women who went to find Jesus in the tomb, but found that it was empty.

The women were going to anoint Jesus' body with spices:

- Spiced apple cider packets
- Cinnamon candies or gum

Plays on the word risen:

- Chocolate Riesen candies
- Raisins (plain, chocolate or yogurt covered)
- Balloons

The stone was rolled away from the tomb:

- Rock candy
- Giant Jaw Breaker
- Polished stone jewelry

Misc:

- Use an empty egg to show the empty tomb
- Life Savers (Christ is our life saver)
- Stickers of Christ
- M&Ms (The gift Christ gave us is Marvelous and Magnificent!)

Clue Sheet

Choose 4 places you'll hide the eggs.

Egg Number & Color Choose the order of your hunt. Write 1-4 next to the spots you've chosen. Also, write what color egg will be in each spot.	Hiding Spots Circle which spots you chose.	Clues During the hunt, use the clues listed next to your chosen hiding spots.	Filler List the egg filler you'll use in each spot. Make sure it goes with the right egg.
	Sink	Jesus used parables to get us to think , find the next egg <i>in/under or by</i> the _____.	
	the Hall, a Ball	Jesus Christ atoned for the sins of all , find an egg <i>in/by</i> _____.	
	Book, Coat Hook, Rook (a chess piece)	For salvation, to Jesus we must look , find the egg, where you find a _____.	
	Den, Play Pen	Jesus said we should be fishers of men , find the egg in the _____.	
	Sleep, Leap (by a trampoline)	Jesus said "Feed my sheep ," find the egg where you _____.	
	Dining Room, Laundry Room, Bedroom, Bathroom	The women found an empty tomb , find the egg in the _____.	
	Tree, Key	Jesus said He would rise again on day three , find the egg <i>in/by</i> a _____.	
	Garden	Jesus said to soften our hearts, not to let them harden , find the egg in the _____.	
	Mail, <i>hold onto a</i> Rail (porch, stair or balcony rail)	Jesus prayed that the faith of Simon would not fail , find the egg where you <i>check the</i> _____.	
	Yard	Jesus said His yoke is not hard , find the egg in the <i>front/back/side</i> _____.	
	Downstairs, Upstairs	Jesus said come unto me & forget worldly cares , find the egg all the way _____.	
	Light, <i>at a great</i> Height	Jesus said "Do what is right " find the egg by a _____.	
	Chair, Stair, <i>something used to brush your</i> Hair	Jesus said, for the poor and widowed we should care , find the egg <i>in/on/under or by</i> a _____.	
	Chair, Stair	A woman washed Jesus' feet with her hair , find the egg on, under, or by a _____.	
	Seat, <i>by the</i> Street	The people pierced His hands and feet , find the egg <i>in/on or under</i> a _____.	
	Bike	Jesus said little children we should be like , find the egg where you store your _____.	
	Porch	To kill Jesus, came Judas and band of men, each with a lantern, a weapon or a torch , find the egg on the _____.	

Egg Hunt Script

Note: The **bold text** on this sheet is what the group will find with each egg. The rest of the information here is to help you guide the hunt and the scripture story discussions.

Explain the hunt—

When we hunt for Easter eggs, we seek them out. There are several times in the four Gospels of the New Testament (in the Bible) where people **sought** or hunted for Jesus. We'll use clues that tell a little about the life and teachings of Jesus to help us **seek** for Easter eggs. In each egg we'll find a scripture story to discuss to help us learn about different people that sought Jesus.

Read Clue #1 (from the clue sheet)

#1— You searched for the egg and you found it! Let's read about some people that searched for Jesus. Read Matthew 2:1-2 & 9-10 & 11. Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

(vs. 1 - The wise men)

Why did they want to find Him?

(vs. 2 - To worship Him)

What helped them find Him?

(vs. 2 & 9-10 - The star)

Where did they find Jesus?

(vs. 9, 11 - With His mother Mary—The wise men followed the star for a long time. By the time they found Jesus he wasn't a tiny baby anymore.)

What did they do when they found Him?

(vs. 10-11 - They rejoiced, worshiped Him, and gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.)

Other questions you might ask:

-What helps us find Jesus?

-What "gifts" do we give to show our love to Him?

Read Clue #2 (from the clue sheet)

#2— Good job! You looked for another egg and found it. Let's read about some more people that looked for Jesus. Read Luke 2:42-46 & 48-49 & 51. Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

(vs. 43-45 - Mary and Joseph)

Where did they find Him?

(vs. 46 - Teaching people in the temple. Note: the footnote for vs. 46 says, "teachers")

What did they do when they found Him?

(vs. 48-49 & 51 - They were amazed. Mary kept thinking about what Jesus said.)

Other questions you might ask:

-Where can we find what Jesus taught?

-When/how do we think about what He has taught us?

Read Clue #3 (from the clue sheet)

#3— Found another egg! Alright! Let's read about people who looked for Jesus for a different reason. Read Matthew 26:3-4 & 14-16 & 36 & 47-49 & 57. Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

(vs. 3 - chief priests, scribes, elders, and the high priest Caiaphas. These were the leaders of the church and the community. vs. 14 - Judas, one of the disciples, was also looking for Jesus.)

Why did they want to find Him?

(vs. 4 - The leaders wanted to kill Him. They didn't believe He was the Son of God and they didn't want people to follow Him instead of them. vs. 15-16 Judas got 30 pieces of silver to show the other people where Jesus was.)

Where did they find Him?

(vs. 36 - Jesus and a few disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus suffered for our sins.)

What did they do when they found Him?

(vs. 47-49 - Judas kissed Him, not because he liked him but because it was the sign to show the other people which of the men was Jesus. vs. 57 - The rest of the people took Jesus to the leaders to be put on trial.)

Other questions you might ask:

-How do some of our actions betray/go against Jesus?

-Judas focused on silver. What distracts us from Jesus?

Read Clue #4 (from the clue sheet)

#4— Way to search for the eggs! You found the last one! Read Mark 16:1 & Luke 24:1-6. Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

(Mark 16:1 - Women who cared about Him: Mary Magdalene, James' mother Mary, and Salome.)

Why did they want to find Him?

(Mark 16:1 - They wanted to put special spices on his body, a way of honoring someone who died.)

Did they find Him where they thought they would?

(Luke 24:2-6 - They looked for Him in the tomb. But He wasn't there. The angels in the tomb told them that He was risen. That means Jesus is not dead, He lives!)

Other questions you might ask:

-At first, how did the women feel when Jesus wasn't where they thought He would be?

-How do you think their feelings changed when they began to understand where Jesus really was?

-What does it mean for you that Jesus lives again?

It may be fitting to conclude this activity with your thoughts and testimony of the resurrection.

Scripture Stories For Inside the Eggs

(Cut out the 4 sections below. Put them with the corresponding eggs.)

Variations for a Group— If you plan to hide an egg for each person here are 3 different ways to set it up:

- 1) You could put the scripture story paper in one of the eggs or tape the paper to the outside of one of the eggs so the group can read and discuss the story together.
 - 2) You could re-write this information on several papers, splitting up the scripture references and questions so there is a paper for each person. You may want to number the papers so the group knows which order to read the scriptures and ask the questions. Put each paper into a different egg, taking care to keep all of story #1 with the eggs that will be in spot #1 etc.
 - 3) You could put copies of the same paper in each of the eggs and give everyone time to read and think about the story on their own. After that time, you could ask if anyone wants to share some thoughts about what they read.
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#1—

You searched for the egg and you found it! Let's read about some people that searched for Jesus.

Read Matthew 2:1-2 & 9-10 & 11.

Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

Why did they want to find Him?

What helped them find Him?

Where did they find Jesus?

What did they do when they found Him?

#3—

Found another egg! Alright! Let's read about people who looked for Jesus for a different reason.

**Read Matthew 26:3-4 &
14-16 & 36 & 47-49 & 57.**

Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

Why did they want to find Him?

Where did they find Him?

What did they do when they found Him?

#2—

Good job! You looked for another egg and found it. Let's read about some more people that looked for Jesus.

Read Luke 2:42-46 & 48-49 & 51.

Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

Where did they find Him?

What did they do when they found Him?

#4—

Way to search for the eggs! You found the last one!

Read Mark 16:1 & Luke 24:1-6.

Think about...

Who was seeking Jesus?

Why did they want to find Him?

Did they find Him where they thought they would?