



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGAZA



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This is a themed youth evening of icebreakers and activities, including an Easter quiz and reflection. Just select what you need from the following options.

As you can guess from the title the icebreakers and activities all involve eggs. The first five icebreakers can make for a messy evening, so select your venue carefully. Alternatively just use one of the icebreakers and concentrate on the activities **‘The Great Egg Drop’** and **‘The Egg Fashion Parade’**.

EGG STRENGTH

For this icebreaker choose three people who think they are pretty strong. Ask the question, ‘Who is stronger, (Adam) or the egg?’ The task is to hold a raw egg between their index finger and thumb and squeeze it to make it break.

They must hold the egg straight up and down, with their index finger on the top point of the egg and their thumb on the base of the egg. It’s almost impossible. I say almost, because if the egg is rotated away from its vertical position it will break easily. Occasionally they may be a flaw in the shell which allows it to break.

I’ve seen many a tough teenager turn purple trying to apply enough pressure to break their egg. You don’t believe me do you? Try it at home first to convince yourself.

EGG AND SPOON

This is an old game with new variations. Divide your group into two teams. This is a relay race with each person having to carry a raw egg on a spoon around a chair at the other end of the hall and back. Unfortunately the spoon must be carried in your mouth! If the egg is dropped they have to start again. Have a box of spare eggs ready.

As an alternative (or addition) do a basic egg and spoon relay (spoon in the hand), but add a twist by asking the players to form pairs and complete it as a three-legged race!

EGG DROP

This is potentially a really messy game. Ask for 8 volunteers, four boys and four girls. Divide them into couples and select the order for them to take part. The boy lies down on his back. Drape a towel over his shoulders and place a paper cup in this mouth. His partner (girl) must stand over him and without bending gently break a raw egg and drop the contents into the cup.

Provide a glass or cup for the girl to break the egg against, before its descent into the paper cup or....! Award prizes (chocolate eggs?) to the girl who gets most egg in the cup and her victim (sorry, partner!). A photographer nearby is essential.

EGG BLAST

Ask for two male volunteers to take part in the competition. Crack a raw egg into a 1.5 meter long clear plastic tubing. Use a small funnel to get the egg into the tube. The volunteers then position themselves at each end of the tube. Keeping the tube in a 'U' shape position they hold it in their right hand. At the signal they must blow into the tube and force the egg to the other end. The loser is usually the first to take a breath. A great spectator icebreaker!

EGG THROW

Couples stand one pace apart and toss a raw egg to each other. They step back one pace each toss. The winning couple is the one which is the furthest apart and keeps their egg intact. Some couples meet a sticky end!

The egg throwing world record was established on November 12, 1978, in Jewett, Texas, when Johnnie Dell Foley threw a fresh raw egg the incredible distance of 323ft 2in (98.51m) to his cousin, Keith Thomas, who flawlessly caught it. (Guinness World Records)

THE GREAT EGG DROP

Allow 45 minutes for this activity. Divide your youth group into teams of 4-6. Supply each team with paper, pieces of cardboard, toilet rolls, bubble wrap, string etc. Give each team a hard-boiled egg. The challenge is to see which team can make the best capsule and parachute for their egg to survive a drop from a great height.

This project requires teamwork and imagination. Select your height carefully. First floor window? Balcony? Ladders? Stairwell? The least impact damaged or cracked egg wins. Chocolate eggs for the winning team!

EGG FASHION PARADE

Allow 45 minutes for this activity. Blow some eggs in advance, enough for each member of your group. Eggs can be 'blown' by pricking each end with a pin and blowing out the contents. There is a technique to this, but the bigger the hole the quicker it empties. Unless you can find a good use for the yokes, you might want to buy some hollow plastic eggs, specially designed for Easter craft activities. Check at your local toy or craft store.

Provide the group with paint, marker pens, glue, glitter, feathers, card, bubble wrap, foil, cloth and any other craft material you can find. The challenge is to personalise their egg for display in the egg fashion parade. Invite an adult member of your church to be the judge. Alternatively, do this with a specific theme – superheroes or movie characters. How about ET, the eggstra-terrestrial! Sorry!

REFLECTION

At the end of your icebreakers and activities, ask the group if they know why eggs are a popular part of Easter activities and traditions.

Explain that to the early Christians the egg seemed a fitting symbol of Christ's resurrection from the tomb. A symbol of rebirth. That was why the eating of eggs was forbidden in Lent, while on Easter Day they were blessed in the churches, exchanged as gifts and eaten joyfully. Playing games with hard-boiled eggs as a custom is as old as giving of Easter eggs. Egg rolling, which symbolised the rolling away of the tomb of Christ, is still popular in many countries.

For more information a simple Google search of 'Easter eggs' will give you lots to review. Move on to the Easter quiz which takes our thoughts to the Easter story.

The greatest height from which fresh eggs have been dropped to earth and remained intact is 213 m (700 ft). This was achieved by David Donoghue from a helicopter on August 22, 1994. David threw the eggs on to a golf course in Blackpool, Lancashire, UK. Apparently getting the physics right is a vital part of the record. "You have to get the forward velocity equal to the downward velocity, and then get the egg to land nearly perpendicular on a steep slope," says David. (Guinness World Records).

EASTER RUN-AROUND

This quiz will test your group's knowledge of the Easter story and provide a platform for your Easter presentation or reflection.

Set up three zones in your room or hall (zone A, B and C) Ask the group to gather in the middle of the hall. Explain that you will ask a question about the Easter story which has three possible answers (A, B or C). Then on your signal (a whistle is good) the young people have 10 seconds to run to the zone which represents the correct answer.

Once everyone is in a zone, the whistle blows again and they have 5 seconds (if they wish to change their mind) to change zones. This strategy can be amusingly applied if a young person knows the answer, but goes to the wrong zone first, perhaps with friends following him. On the second whistle, he can change zones quickly and eliminate his friends!

If you need to, use the three 'crowd-breaker' questions at any time in the game. These will eliminate larger numbers of players. Each correct answer is highlighted in the question grid.

	A	B	C
In the Easter story one of Jesus' friends betrayed him. What did he get for doing this?	30 pieces of silver	30 pieces of gold	A villa on Lake Galilee
One of Jesus' friends said that he didn't even know him. Who was it?	Thomas	Judas	Peter
Who did Pilate release instead of Jesus?	Barabbas	Lazarus	Joseph
Before Jesus was put on the cross, what happened to him?	He had some time with his family to say goodbye	He was tortured and made fun of by the guards	He had to sign a confession of guilt
What did Jesus ask his father to do about those who were crucified with him?	Take revenge	Rescue them	Forgive them
When Jesus was on the cross, the sky turned black. When did this take place?	10am	About midday	6pm
On what day of the week was Jesus crucified?	Monday	Thursday	Friday
What did the soldier in charge of Jesus' execution say just after he died?	"He died quickly."	"I've got a bad feeling about this."	"He was the Son of God."
Who put Jesus' body in the tomb?	Joseph	Pilate	Peter
When Jesus died it was..?	Because his enemies	To take on himself the	To set us a example of

	were too powerful for him	punishment we deserved for our sins	how we should endure punishment
The purpose of Jesus death was..?	To show us that we can gain life after death if we are good enough	It was a mistake	To save us from our sins, now and forever
Who was the first person to see Jesus alive on Easter Sunday morning?	Peter and John	Mary Magdalene	The Gardener
How many people saw Jesus after he had risen from the dead?	Mary, Peter and Thomas	The 12 disciples	Over 500

CROWD-BREAKER QUESTIONS

'Boa Pascoa' is Happy Easter in which language?	Greek	Portuguese	Italian
Where were the first chocolate Easter eggs produced?	Australia	Germany	Turkey
How much was the world's most expensive edible Easter egg?	\$10,000	\$100,000 'The Diamond Stella Egg'	\$150,000

REFLECTION

Add your own presentation or reflection here. I've included some thoughts focusing on the cross and death of Jesus as a primer.

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Did Jesus have to die? Was this the only way? Explain that no-one is good enough to please God through their own efforts. The sin in our lives means we fall short of his standards. Because he is a just God he cannot ignore sin and evil, and punishment needs to follow.

This leaves God with a problem - his justice requires punishment, but his love means that he wants to forgive us. Only the death of Jesus could satisfy the need for justice and demonstrate God's love and forgiveness. Jesus' life was a payment made by God himself to secure our freedom from penalty of sin.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Read the following verses together; 1 Timothy 2: 5-6, Colossians 1: 21-22, Hebrews 9: 27-28. These verses illustrate four pictures to explain what Jesus did by dying for us; he paid a price to set us free; he brought two sides together; he made peace between God and human beings; and he offered himself as a sacrifice. Take time to explain these concepts carefully.

Illustrate with stories of a ransom being paid for someone's life or someone becoming a ransom for others; someone acting as a mediator who brings two sides together, two people embracing one another in reconciliation, or a story of personal sacrifice. If you wish, use the true stories of Terry Waite, Andrew Parker and Bill Quinlan to illustrate your explanation.

A HUMAN RANSOM

On 20th January 1987 Terry Waite disappeared. He had come to Lebanon to seek the release of more than twenty people who were held hostage. Instead, he was taken hostage and held for four long years in Beirut.

He had known the danger of his task. He was willing to risk his own freedom - and possibly his life - in order to secure the release of others. He became a living ransom, spending 1,763 days alone in a darkened cell, before his eventual release.

BRIDGING THE GAP

One of the worst sea disasters in recent years happened on 6th March 1987. A passenger ferry capsized in the English Channel killing many people. Doors in the car deck had been accidentally left open, and water flooded in.

In the middle of this tragedy was Andrew Parker. He saw two metal barriers above his head and stretched between them making himself into a human bridge. People were then able to climb up his body to safety. Twenty people were saved this way.

ONE LIFE FOR ANOTHER

In July 1978, 48-year-old Bill Quinlan and his 18-year-old nephew David Lucas set sail from San Diego on a 4000 mile voyage to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. After completing 1000 miles, their boat was smashed to pieces by a hurricane. They drifted for five days on their life-raft, until only one can of water and two cans of food were left.

Then Quinlan suddenly said to Lucas: 'You are only 18. You have a full life ahead of you.' He jumped into the water, evading Lucas' attempts to stop him, and started to swim away. Lucas was later rescued, and he gave to Quinlan's wife, Vicki, the two mementoes his uncle had left, a gold ring and a tin on which he had scratched the words, 'I love you. I'm sorry.' Bill Quinlan gave his life so that somebody else could live.

A NEW START – OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to write down anything from their past of which they are ashamed. Alternatively, ask them to mark a tick on the paper for each time they remember doing something which they knew to be wrong. Emphasise that no one else will see it apart from themselves.

When they have done this ask them to fold the piece of paper and place it in a fire resistant dish in the centre of the group. Remind them that if they have put their trust in Christ, they have been completely forgiven. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God has promised he will not remember their sin. Set fire to the papers and while they are burning read Hebrews 8:12. Continue with other suitable verses i.e. 1 Peter 3: 18.

Remind the group that just as all the papers have been completely burned, we know our sin has been dealt with completely. Close with a time of prayer thanking Jesus for dying in the cross and the freedom, forgiveness and new life it brings.

If it's not practical to burn the papers indoors, then take the group outside.

TRUE LOVE COSTS EVERYTHING – OPTIONAL REFLECTION

Display Isaiah 53: 4-9, 12 on a screen. This version is from the Good News Bible. The text can be found [here](#).

'He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have born.

All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.

He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people.

He was placed in a grave with those who are evil; he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie.

He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men.

He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven.'

Read it slowly and then leave a few moments for quiet reflection. Then ask the young people to read it again to themselves in silence. Encourage them to personalise the text. For example, ours=my/mine, we=I, all of us=I, sins of the people=my sins.

Close in prayer thanking Jesus for dying on the cross and the freedom from sin's slavery that it brings. Reflect again on the egg activities and the symbolism of Christ's resurrection from the tomb. Thank God for the promise of new and everlasting life and our experience of that day by day.

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