

## **Pebbles of Truth Family Activity Sheet For April 4, 2009**

Today we spoke about the important role we have as parents to tell God's redemptive story to our children. If you missed the show download and play it. We recommended some fun family activities to help you share the meaning of Easter with your family ... here they are:

(We also have an article "Celebrate Easter" posted on our home site [www.hotrfm.org](http://www.hotrfm.org) that you may find helpful for older children)

### **Make resurrection eggs**

You can buy sets of resurrection eggs or you can make your own. To make your own, label 12 plastic eggs with the numbers 1-12 and fill them as below:

- Egg 1 – a piece of fur to represent the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem
- Egg 2 – a cracker symbolizing the Last Supper
- Egg 3 – a piece of soap, symbolizing Jesus washing the disciples' feet
- Egg 4 – three dimes to symbolize the 30 pieces of silver Judas received to betray Jesus
- Egg 5 – a feather to represent the rooster that crowed three times
- Egg 6 – a thorn, symbolizing the crown of thorns that was put on Jesus' head
- Egg 7 – a die to symbolize the lots that were cast for Jesus' clothing
- Egg 8 – a small wooden cross or a nail to represent Jesus' death on the cross
- Egg 9 – a piece of black paper to symbolize the darkness that covered the earth
- Egg 10 – a piece of cloth to symbolize the cloth in which Joseph wrapped Jesus' body
- Egg 11 – a rock to symbolize the stone that sealed Jesus' tomb
- Egg 12 – Leave this egg empty to symbolize Jesus' resurrection

Like an advent calendar, you can open one egg a day for the 12 days before Easter, or open a couple eggs a week during Lent. It is extra meaningful if you can open Egg 11 on Good Friday and Egg 12 on Easter. As you open the eggs, talk about what each item represents.

### **Clean pennies**

Your children may have difficulties understanding that Jesus died for their sins. First of all, you may need to explain to them that sin is anything we do that keeps us from being friends with God. Bring out some grimy pennies and tell them the dirt on the pennies represents their sin. Then mix ¼ cup of white vinegar and 1 teaspoon of salt. Put the pennies in the vinegar mixture for about five minutes. They will come out shiny and clean! Explain that Jesus makes us shiny and clean too.

This worksheet is designed to complement the Pebbles of Truth radio feature heard on WJTL Saturday, April 4, 2009. If you missed the spot, or want to hear it again, you can listen to it on our website [www.pebblesoftruth.com](http://www.pebblesoftruth.com)

## Observe Lent

Your church may or may not observe Lent, which is the 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). Whether or not your church observes Lent, your family can at home. Lent should be a time of thinking about God and how we can grow closer to God. Many people give up something for Lent, such as desserts or soda; still others add something at [Lent](#), such as extra prayer and Bible study. Maybe your family could add a Lenten devotion to your weekly or nightly routine.

## Easter Story Cookies

This is a great recipe to teach your Children the REAL story of Easter. That the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior is not dead but has Risen. We serve a Risen Savior.....

This activity can be done as a "family." Grandparents might consider doing this with their grandchildren this year too!!!

So grab your apron and get started! Here's the ingredients:

1 cup whole pecans  
1 teaspoon vinegar  
3 egg whites  
a pinch salt  
1 cup sugar  
a zipper baggy  
1 wooden spoon  
Masking or Scotch tape  
Bible

Instructions: Gather the family in the kitchen on the evening before Easter to make these cookies.

Preheat oven to 300F.\*\*\* (this is very important --- don't wait until you are half done with the recipe).

Place pecans in zipper baggy and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested. He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read: John 19:1-3**

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 teaspoon vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink. **Read: John 19:28-30**

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. **Read: John 10:10&11**

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. **Read: Luke 23:27**

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read: Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. **Read: Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3**

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto waxed paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read: Matthew 27:57-60**

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and **turn the oven OFF.**

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. **Read: Matthew 27:65-66**

GO TO BED!

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read: John 16:20&22**

As part of these family devotions you will want to have each child pray and thank the Lord for His willingness to die on the cross for their sins ... you start to model the prayer ... keep it age appropriate. You may even want to invite your kids to receive Christ as their Savior if you see that they are ready.

On Resurrection Sunday (Easter) morning, gather the family around the oven ... open the seal ... and the door to the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.

**Read: Matthew 28:1-9 Sing (or play) your favorite Easter song**

Source for these cookies is unknown.