

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR MEANING

Give each student a giant plastic egg (from L'eggs—the eggs with ladies' hose in them) and ask her to fill the egg with something that to her represents or symbolizes the true Easter message. Have her bring this back on Easter Sunday and exchange it with another's as an Easter gift. As the young people open them, allow each to share why she thinks the person chose that particular symbol of Easter. The results can be very meaningful.

EASTER ON THE NETWORK NEWS

The following is an outline for a youth sunrise service or Easter program that can be conducted by the youth for the entire church body. Assign the character parts to various members of the youth group. The characters should then study the scene(s) they are to participate in, study the appropriate Scripture, and then work out the necessary dialogue, based on the facts in the Scripture. It is best to rehearse the entire service a few times before its presentation so that it can be refined during the rehearsal process. A song leader will be needed to involve the congregation in singing between the "newscasts." Some of the music, however, can be performed as solos, duets, or instrumentals.

Props do not have to be elaborate. People may use their imaginations. The dialogue is the most important part. You will want to set up a table and chair situation for the "anchorman," similar to a news broadcast on television. Since the idea is to re-create the Easter story as a current event, contemporary dress may be worn by everyone involved. The reporters who are "on-the-scene" may appear in various places around the room or platform. Since the anchorman sets

each scene, props are not necessary, but your own creativity and resources can dictate this.

The service may be introduced with remarks similar to these: "This morning's commemoration of this historical event is not one that fits with the usual sunrise service. But we trust that it will be used by God's Spirit to help you celebrate this joyous event. What we celebrate today happened many years ago . . . but what if these events had taken place today? What if God had chosen to reveal himself, in Christ, to our generation? How might these events have been reported through the news media? That is the setting for this service."

Scene Synopsis:

1. *TV Newsroom and Garden of Gethsemane:* The anchorman is giving the evening news on Thursday evening. Among other news items, he reports that . . . "Jesus Christ has just been arrested by a Roman battalion. For a report we go to the Garden of Gethsemane." There the reporter on the scene pieces together the story of the betrayal and arrest of Christ, which has just taken place (Matt. 26:47–57). He reports back to the anchorman. (Suggested songs: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*. . . *Tis Midnight*, and *On Olive's Brow*)
2. *TV Newsroom and Trial "Courtyard":* (Late Thursday night) The anchorman breaks in with a late-breaking news development on the trial of Christ. "For a report we go to the High Priest's chambers." Reporter standing in the courtyard gives a report on the trial (Matt. 26:59–68). Reporter then spots Peter and interviews him (Matt. 26:69–75). He reports back to the anchorman with the trial still in progress. (Suggested song: *Bold Peter Denied His Lord*)

3. *TV Newsroom and Governor Pilate's Courtyard:* (Friday morning) The anchorman reports that the trial is over. Jesus has been condemned to die on the cross, and they are leading him up the hill to Golgotha now. "For a report, we go to Governor Pilate where we have a reporter standing by." The reporter interviews Pilate concerning the trial, particularly about his feelings (Matt. 27:11–26). After interviewing Pilate the reporter spots Barabbas, the criminal released in place of of Christ. He interviews Barabbas (Matt. 27:15–21). Then he reports back to the anchorman. The anchorman gives an update on Judas, who betrayed Christ (Matt. 27:3–5). (Suggested song: *The Old Rugged Cross*)
4. *TV Newsroom and the Crucifixion Site:* (Friday afternoon) The anchorman reports that Christ is on the cross. He reports and comments on some of the strange events associated with the crucifixion (Matt. 27:45–53). "For a report on the crucifixion, we go to Golgotha." The reporter gives a brief account of what happened (Matt. 27:27–50). Then he interviews the centurion (27:54) and Mary Magdalene (27:55–56). (A little more imagination is needed for these two interviews because of little scriptural information.)
5. *TV Newsroom and Burial Site:* (Saturday morning) The anchorman reports that Christ's body has been taken down from the cross, bound, and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57–60). "For a report, we go to the tomb site." Reporter interviews some soldiers who are busy at the entrance of the tomb (Matt. 27:62–66). (Suggested song: *Christ Arose*)
6. *TV Newsroom and Burial Site:* (Sunday morning) The anchorman reports a rumor that the tomb in which Christ was laid is empty. "For an accurate report we go to the tomb site where a reporter is standing by." The reporter sums up what seems to be happening. Then he speaks with Mary, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John, who are standing in a group wondering what happened to the body of Christ (Matt. 28:1–7; John 20:1–10). He also speaks with the guards, huddled in another group (Matt. 28:4, 11–15). He reports back to the anchorman. As the anchorman is summarizing, another reporter cuts in with a report of two men who have seen and talked with Christ (Luke 24:13–35). Almost immediately, another reporter cuts in with a report from Mary Magdalene, who has seen and talked with Christ (John 20:11–18). (Suggested song: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*)
7. *Final commentary on the weekend's events by the anchorman.* (Suggested song: *Alleluia*)
8. *Closing comments and prayer by the leader.*