

EASTER EGGS!



Throughout history, eggs have naturally been viewed as symbols of life and renewal. Many cultures have decorated and exchanged eggs for a variety of reasons, some good and some bad. How and when this practice first became associated with Christ's resurrection is uncertain. Christians have incorporated decorated eggs into Easter celebrations for centuries and have long regarded them as symbols of Christ's resurrection.

Regardless of their origin, Easter eggs are readily recognized by kids as emblems of Easter and can be used to celebrate and share the truth of the gospel. This leader guide contains a variety of egg-themed activities and ideas that can be used to share gospel truth with children. As you use these fun activities, ask God to help children grasp and believe the good news that Jesus gives new life that lasts forever!

Key Phrase: Jesus gives new life!

Key Verse: John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

Lesson: Easter Eggs!

Review Game: Easter Eggs Bible Game

Song Recommendations: Music videos for these songs are available for family use on YouTube* or can be purchased for church/group use at the websites listed below.

- "Christ Arose" by Go Fish (GoFishResources.com)
- "He's Alive, He's Alive" by YancynotNancy (WorshipHouseKids.com)
- "Yet Shall He Live (John 11:25)" by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEFpress.com)

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BIG IDEA!

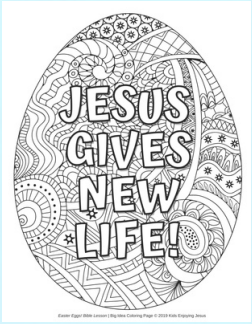
Jesus gives new life!

Prepare: Big Idea Coloring Page (*printable*), art supplies

Do: This Big Idea is a key concept for children to repeat and remember. Have the children color the picture of an extra fancy egg while you introduce the Big Idea that Jesus gives new life.

Say: Can you think of some animals that hatch from eggs? Butterflies, birds, crickets, toads, honeybees, and even platypuses all hatch from eggs. In fact, so many animals start life as eggs that people sometimes think of eggs as reminders or symbols of new life. Today we're going to talk about a special kind of new life that doesn't come from an egg. It's a new life that comes from Jesus. *Jesus gives new life!* That's our Big Idea for today. Every time I ask, "What's the Big Idea?" I want you to shout back, "*Jesus gives new life!*" Jesus is God's perfect Son who can save us from sin and give us new life inside that lasts forever and ever. Let's practice saying this Big Idea while we color the extra fancy egg picture.

Do: Have the children say this phrase every time you ask, "What's the Big Idea?" as they color their picture and later on during the lesson or anytime you want to repeat and reinforce this truth.



Some children may not finish coloring the picture during this discussion time. If needed, you can allow them to finish coloring it at a later time.



KEY VERSE: JOHN 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

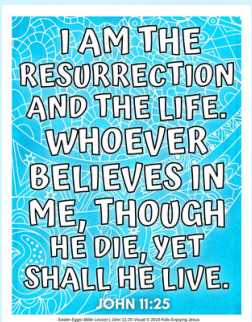
Prepare: Bible, John 11:25 Visual (*printable*), art supplies, "Yet Shall He Live" song by Child Evangelism Fellowship

Say: If you were telling someone else who you are, what would you say? The Bible tells us something Jesus said about who he is.

Do: Help the children find and read John 11:25 from the Bible and from the printed visual. Remind them this is God's true Word and explain what the verse means.

Say: Jesus said this to tell people he is God the Son who would win the fight against death and sin forever. Resurrection means coming back to life. Jesus promised anyone who believes in him would be alive in Heaven after they died! Jesus proved he had power to keep this promise with his own resurrection. He died and came back to life to take the punishment for sin and conquer death once and for all. This promise gives us awesome hope! If you believe in Jesus to save you from sin, he gives you new life with God that never ends. Someday, after you die, he'll take you to live with him in Heaven forever and ever! What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!*

Respond: Praise God together for the truth of this verse as you sing the "Yet Shall He Live" song to help children memorize it.





LESSON: EASTER EGGS!

Prepare: Bible, Easter Eggs! Lesson Visuals (*printable, PPT*)

Do: Follow the lesson instructions to play an interactive guessing game as you teach the lesson. As the children try to guess what kind of animal laid the eggs, you will reveal the answers and use eggs as an object lesson to share the gospel.

Say: What kind of eggs are these?



EASTER EGGS— Did you know that long before people began decorating Easter eggs, God created millions of animals that lay eggs of all colors, shapes, and sizes? God is the perfect king of the universe. (*Show picture of earth.*) He has filled the universe with billions of things to show you how wise, powerful, and wonderful He is. (*Read Romans 1:20.*) God made billions of incredible things to make it super obvious that he deserves your love and obedience. Eggs are just one example of God's creative wisdom and power.



DINOSAUR EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal laid this egg? This is a dinosaur egg. Scientists have discovered fossilized eggs from over 100 different kinds of dinosaurs! Fossilized dinosaur eggs are the color of rocks, but scientists believe some dinosaur eggs may have originally been blue or green—kind of like some Easter eggs!



BIRD EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal hatches from these eggs? These are American robin eggs. Many birds lay blue eggs and some even lay eggs that are green, yellow, orange, pink, or red—kind of like some Easter eggs! These eggs look hard and lifeless on the outside, but inside a new life is growing!



SNAKE EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal hatches from these eggs? These snake eggs are just starting to hatch. When an egg hatches it almost looks like something that was dead and motionless suddenly comes to life. That's one reason eggs are often used as a symbol of birth and life.

People have decorated eggs in many different ways and for many different reasons for thousands of years. Today many people use decorated eggs to celebrate Easter because eggs remind them of the most awesome thing that has ever happened—the life of Jesus! What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!*

CROSS—Clap your hands if you know what this is. About 2,000 years ago God's perfect Son, Jesus, came to the world to rescue people from sin and give them new life that lasts forever. (*Read John 3:16.*) All people deserve death and separation from God because of our sin, but Jesus took this punishment for us. He was killed by evil men even though he hadn't done anything wrong. They nailed him to a cross where he suffered and bled until he died. Once they were sure he was dead, they let some of his friends bury his body in a tomb. But they hated Jesus so much that they closed the tomb and ordered guards to watch it and make sure his body stayed trapped inside.





LESSON: EASTER EGGS! (CONTINUED)



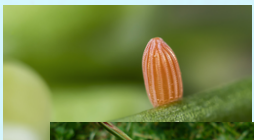
TOMB—Stomp your feet if you know what this is. Jesus was buried in a tomb like this. But on the third day there was an earthquake and an angel broke the tomb open! The guards were so scared they collapsed. Jesus' friends looked in the tomb and discovered it was empty! "He is not here. He is alive!" the angel said. At first many of them didn't believe, but then they actually met Jesus. It was true! He is really alive! He died to take the punishment for the sins of the whole world and then God's power brought him back to life! (*Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*) Today, we call that special day Easter. It doesn't actually have anything to do with eggs, but many people started using eggs to celebrate it. Let me show you why.



SEA TURTLE EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal hatched from these eggs? These are sea turtle eggs. The baby turtles have come out of the eggs to begin their lives and now the eggshells are empty. This reminds some people of what happened on Easter. Jesus came out of his tomb because he's alive. Jesus is alive and the tomb is empty! What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!*

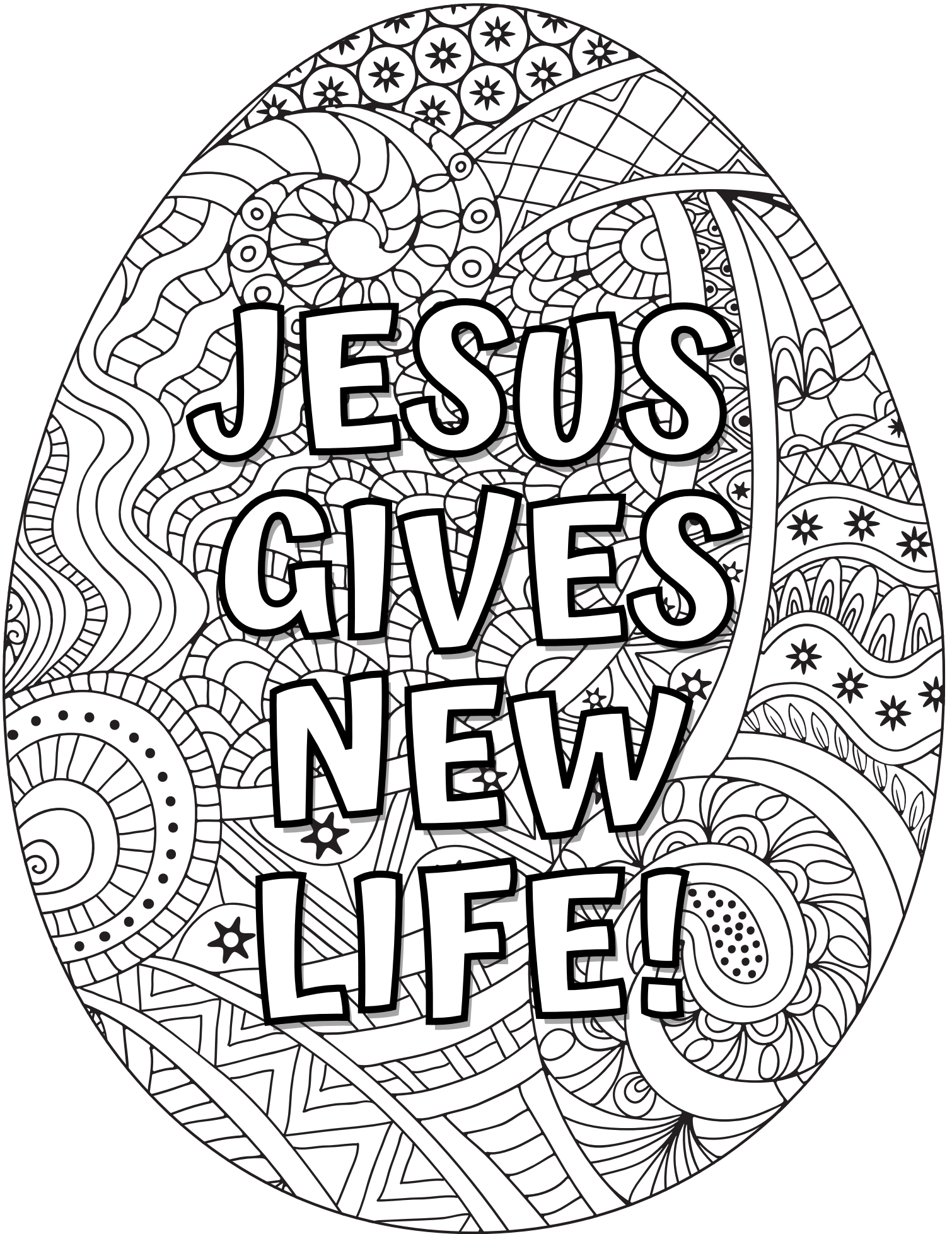


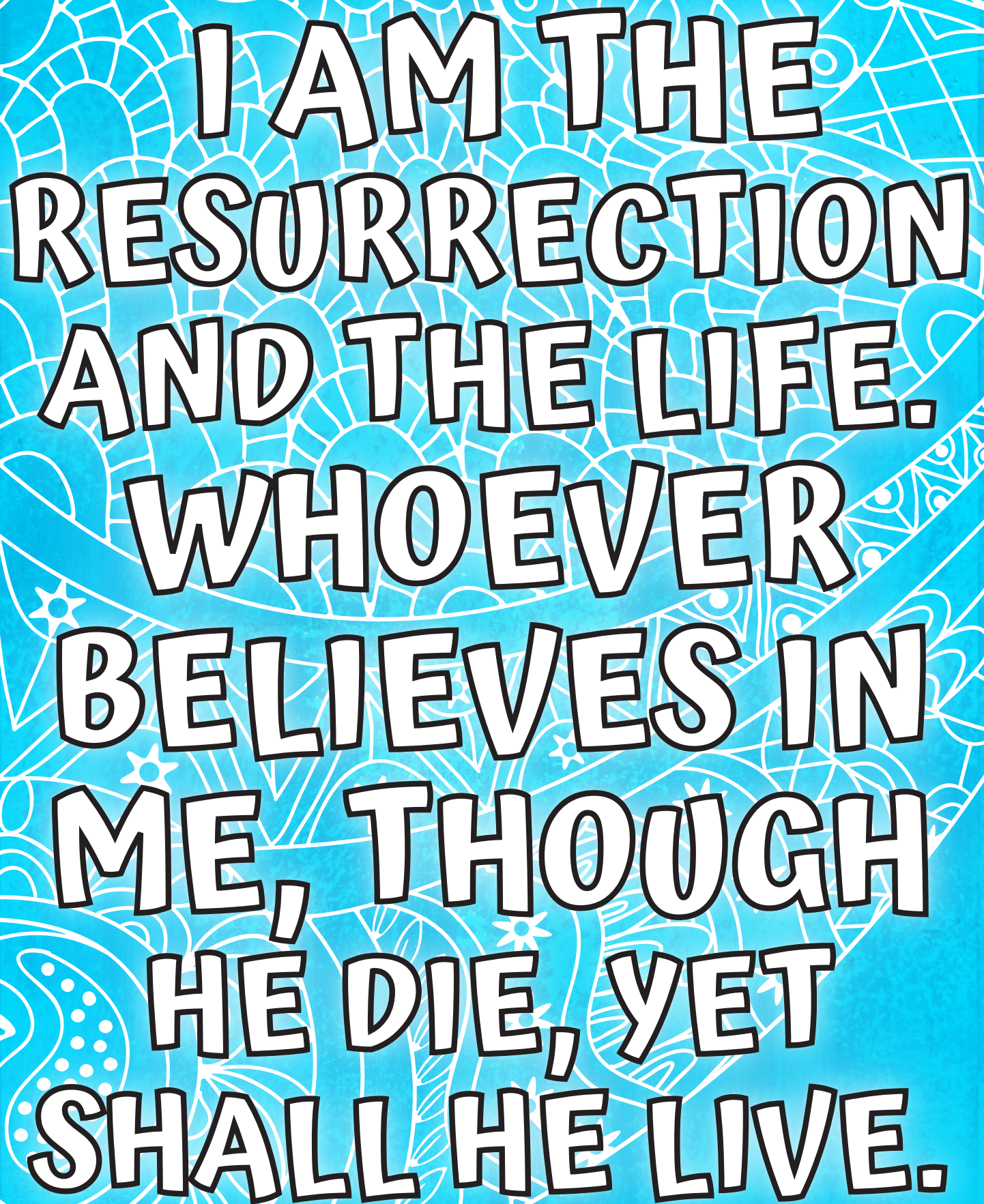
FROG EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal laid these eggs? These frog eggs are transparent—you can see right through them! It doesn't look like there's much inside an egg does it? It might seem impossible, but a fertilized egg has everything needed for a new life to begin. This reminds some people of how Jesus is everything we need to be saved from sin and begin new life with God. What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!*



BUTTERFLY EGGS—Can you guess what kind of animal laid this egg? This egg will hatch into a caterpillar that grows into a beautiful butterfly. Most egg-laying animals look nothing like the eggs they hatched from. It's like they become something totally new! This reminds some people of the new life Jesus gives. He wants to make us new on the inside so we can be part of God's family that lasts forever! Then he wants to keep working in our lives to help us grow to know and enjoy God more. Jesus can make us new! What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!*

Respond: Eggs can remind us of these real reasons to celebrate Easter. Next time you see an Easter egg, or any egg, pause and thank God that Jesus is alive and that he made the way for you to have new life with God. What's the Big Idea? *Jesus gives new life!* Without Jesus we all deserve to die and be separated from God, but he can save you from sin and give you new life with God that lasts forever! (*Read John 3:15.*) Believing in Jesus means trusting him to save you from sin and give you life with God that never ends because you believe that he really died on the cross and came back to life to take the punishment for your sin. You can believe in Jesus and have new life with God today. If you want to talk more about this you can meet me after the story. (*Tell kids when and were to meet for further discussion.*)



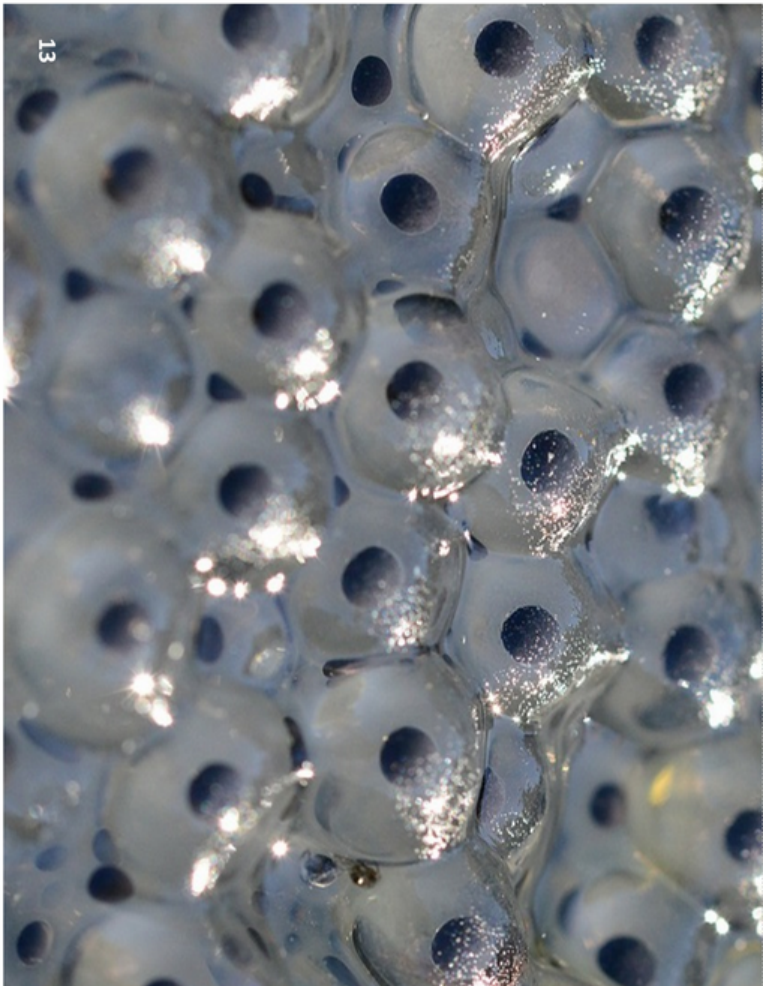


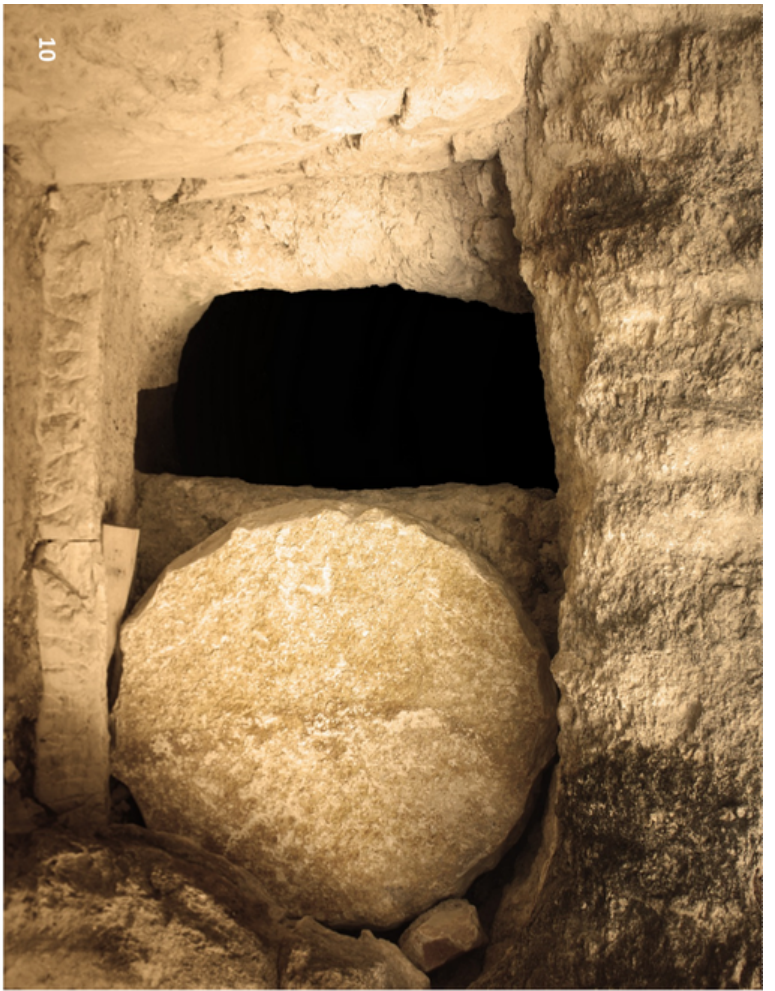
**I AM THE
RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.
WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN
ME, THOUGH
HE DIE, YET
SHALL HE LIVE.**

JOHN 11:25











Easter Egg Bible Game!



INSTRUCTIONS: Print, cut apart, and put each question in a plastic Easter egg and hide them ahead of time. After the lesson, have children take turns finding the eggs and answering questions.

Why did God create eggs and everything else in the universe?

[To show how wise, powerful and awesome he is. He deserves our love and obedience.]

Can you make the noises of three animals that lay eggs?

[Answers will vary but may include roaring like a dinosaur, chirping like a bird, or croaking like a frog.]

How is Jesus different from all other people?

[Jesus is the perfect Son of God.]

Why did Jesus die on a cross?

[Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin.]

How did Jesus' friends know he came back to life again?

[The tomb was empty, an angel told them Jesus was alive, they saw Jesus.]

How does an empty egg shell remind us of Jesus coming back to life?

[The empty eggshell reminds us the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive.]

What kind of life can Jesus give you?

[Jesus gives new life with God that lasts forever.]

How does an egg remind us that Jesus gives new life?

[When an egg hatches a new life begins.]

How does believing in Jesus make you new?

[Jesus changes you and makes you part of God's family. He works in your life to help you know and enjoy God.]

What can you say to God the next time you see an Easter egg?

[Thank you that Jesus is alive and that He made the way for me to have new life with God!]