

H³ HOLIDAYS HINTS & HELPS

EASTER TRADITIONS



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EGG YOUR NEIGHBORS

Here is a fun tradition to start with your friends and neighbors, especially those with younger children. It also can be a creative way to invite another family to join you for Easter at your church.

Supplies:

- Dozen plastic Easter eggs
- Prizes: candy, small toys...
- Small note paper, consider fun colors.
- An Easter greeting card or consider having your children/family make their own card.

Preparation:

- Place candy or a small prize in each egg
- Write encouragement notes or Bible verses on small note paper and place those in each egg as well.
- As a family, write a longer encouragement note and/or invitation to your church's Easter service(s). Making sure to sign everyone's names and include your contact information.
- On the outside of the envelope write: "You Have Been Egged By _____ (your family name)."

The "Egging":

- The night before Easter (Saturday, or some time the week before Easter if you are inviting them to join you at church), go to your neighbors/friend's house. Have your children place the Easter eggs all over the front yard area.
- Place/Attach your Easter card to your neighbors/friend's front door.

Optional: Consider "egging" more than one family.

The Tradition Continues... Each year, as a family, choose a new neighbor/friend to "egg." Have your family think and pray over another family that might need encouragement or you would like to see come to church with you.

BLESSING BASKETS

Easter time of year is a time for parents to create an Easter basket for their kids, young and old.

It is a time when all the stores have a wide variety of inexpensive candy, toys, and even stuffed animals.

It ends up being a great time of year to pick up fun gifts for others, especially those families around you that may not be able to afford to provide an Easter basket for their children.

Preparation:

As a family, about a month before Easter, put out a small Easter basket on your kitchen counter or somewhere where everyone can see it. Over the next month, any loose change, allowance, or extra money that anyone wants to share can be put in the basket.

Throughout the month talk and pray as a family about a family or families that you could bless during the Easter season. A week before Easter, total up the money. Parents can add on a bit more to make sure there is enough.

The "Blessing":

Using the money, go shopping as a family to fill the 2 Easter baskets. The first Easter basket will be filled with fun items (candy, toys...) for the children of that family. The second Easter basket can be filled with food items and even a gift card so that the family can have a great Easter Sunday meal.

Call the parent(s) of that family and tell them what is going on. Bring them the food and essentials basket to help them get ready for Easter and give just the parent(s) the fun basket.

The fun basket should be/can be given by the parents to their children without your family around. The idea is to allow the parent(s) to be the ones giving their kids/family the basket on Easter morning. It makes the parent(s) who may not be able to afford an Easter basket be the hero to their children on Easter Morning!

FAMILY EASTER TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Hungarian Water Fight: In this country, people sprinkle water (or cologne/perfume, but let's stick with water) over someone and ask for a kiss.

As a family, break out the squirt guns, explain the tradition, and have the first water fight of the year! Everyone gets a kiss at the end!

French Omelet: Tradition holds that as Napoleon traveled through France, he demanded that the people gather all their eggs and make a giant omelet for his army.

On Easter morning, make your family the biggest most creative omelet possible. Allow your kids to suggest and add their own creative ingredients!

Bermudan Kites: A favorite spring activity for kids everywhere, but especially in Bermuda, are flying kites on Easter. Tradition holds that a Sunday School teacher created a cross-shaped kite to teach his students about the ascension.

As part of your kids Easter basket, or just for fun, buy everyone a kite and enjoy going out on Easter and flying a kite together. It also can be a great conversation about Christ's resurrection but also His ascension into heaven.

Greek Pot Throwing: As in the tradition of Greece, every Easter people gather on Saturday morning to throw pots out their window to celebrate the beginning of spring!

As a family, go to your local dollar store, purchase a few inexpensive earthen pots, and celebrate spring and Easter by allowing your kids to SAFELY throw a few pots out the windows!

Consider having a spiritual conversation and connection to sin being destroyed and the new life Christ brings.

On a Presidential Roll: A popular and famous thing happens every year at the White House in Washington, DC. It is the annual "Easter Egg Roll".

As a fun family tradition at your house, have your own "Easter Egg Roll" contest over the Easter weekend.

If you really want to up your game as a family enter the "lottery" to see if you can get FREE tickets to actual White House Easter Egg Roll. The date is usually in April. Applications are due in early March, and the lottery winners will get an announcement and invitation from the President and first lady mid-March! If you don't win, don't worry, try again next year. Make it a family tradition in early February to get the application and sign up! You never know you just might win and be one of the 30,000 people to attend each year!