

Resurrection Relay

A Bible Learning Activity for Easter

OVERVIEW

The point of this relay race is to quickly find passages on Easter themes in the four Gospels. The activity is intended to increase the young teens' skill in using the Bible and to help them become familiar with Gospel passages that recount the Resurrection of Jesus.

Suggested Time

About 15 minutes for the relay race and closing prayer; preparation time is extra

Group Size

The ideal group size for this strategy is sixteen participants. The activity can be done with a larger or smaller number of young people, though it will get a little drawn out with more than twenty-eight or so. See the Alternative Approaches section near the end of this strategy for suggestions on accommodating different numbers of participants.

Materials Needed

four pieces of newsprint or poster board



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- four small bowls or paper bags
- sixteen plastic eggs, four each of four different colors
- four spoons
- sixteen pieces of construction paper, approximately 3-by-6 inches, four each of approximately the same four different colors as the plastic eggs
- sixteen 1-by-3-inch strips of paper
- four Bibles
- four pieces of notebook paper
- four pens or pencils
- prizes for the winning team (optional)

PROCEDURE

Preparation. Make four signs on newsprint or poster board, one for each of the Gospels. Post the signs at one end of the meeting room. Place a Bible, a sheet of notebook paper, and a pen or pencil under each sign.

Prepare citation and question slips for each of the four Gospels. To avoid confusion you may want to work on one Gospel at a time. For each Gospel do the following things:

- Write each of the four citations listed below on a small slip of paper. Place each paper in a different colored egg. Put the four eggs and a spoon in a bowl or paper bag at the end of the room opposite the sign identifying the Gospel.
- Write the question associated with each citation on a piece of construction paper that is approximately the same color as the egg that contains the citation. Place the four questions facedown near the Bible.

The citations and their corresponding questions are as follows:

Citations	Questions
Matt. 28:1 Matt. 28:7 Matt. 28:13 Matt. 28:19	With whom did Mary Magdalene go to inspect the tomb? Who were the women supposed to tell that Jesus had risen? What did the chief priests bribe the soldiers to do? What did Jesus tell the Apostles to do to all the nations?
Mark 16:1 Mark 16:5 Mark 16:9 Mark 16:19	Why did the women take perfumed oils to the tomb? Whom did the women see when they entered the tomb? To whom did the risen Jesus first appear? Where is Jesus' seat in heaven?
Luke 24:2 Luke 24:13 Luke 24:30–31 Luke 24:39	What did the women find when they went to the tomb? Where were the two disciples going? When did the two disciples recognize Jesus? What did Jesus show the Apostles in order to prove his identity?

John 20:13 Why was Mary Magdalene weeping?

John 20:15–16 When did Mary recognize Jesus?

John 20:25 What would have to happen for Thomas to believe that Jesus was alive?

John 20:29 Whom did Jesus bless?

1. Point out the signs identifying the four Gospels, and the bowls or bags of eggs. Divide the participants into four teams, one for each Gospel, and direct the teams each to line up behind a bowl or bag of eggs. Ask the first person in line from each team to go to the team's finish line at the opposite end of the room, under the sign that identifies the team's Gospel. That person is the team's Bible scholar.

2. Explain the following process in your own words:



The first person in the line picks an egg out of the bowl or bag, places it in the spoon, and runs to the team's Bible scholar at the other end of the room. If the egg falls out of the spoon, the runner must go back to the starting line and run again.

Once the runner reaches the team's Bible scholar, he or she picks up the question slip that matches the egg in color, and opens the egg and removes the citation inside it. The runner and the Bible scholar read the question, and look up the citation to find its answer. The runner writes the answer to the question on the notebook paper, then closes the Bible.

The runner now becomes the Bible scholar, and the former Bible scholar takes the spoon, runs back to the team, gives the spoon to the next person in line, and runs to the back of the line. The person who now has the spoon chooses an egg and repeats the procedure.

The game continues in this manner until all the teams' questions are answered. The team that finishes first and finds all the correct answers wins the game.

- **3.** Facilitate the game. At the end, if you wish to, award the winners each a simple prize, such as a bookmark, a holy card, or a piece of Easter candy.
 - **4.** Gather the young people and lead them in the following litany:



Leader. On the third day, they went to Jesus' tomb and did not find him there. We respond . . .

All. Alleluia! He is risen, alleluia!

Leader. We thank you, Jesus, for dying for our sins. We respond . . . All. Alleluia! He is risen, alleluia!

Leader. His friends saw him but at first did not recognize him. We respond . . .

All. Alleluia! He is risen, alleluia!

Leader. We have not seen and yet we believe and respond . . .

All. Alleluia! He is risen, alleluia!

Leader. Thank you, God, for giving us the Gospels. They are faithful reminders that death is not the end and that your promise of eternal life has been fulfilled. And so we respond . . .

All. Alleluia! He is risen, alleluia!

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- If you have fewer than ten participants, create just two teams and give each team two sets of eggs and questions. If you have more than sixteen people in your group, find more Easter passages for each team, and write additional questions, so that each team member gets at least one citation and question.
- To make the game a little more challenging, mix up the passages among the teams so that no team is dealing with only one Gospel. Be sure to match the questions and citations for each team.
- If the game goes quickly and the young people are eager to try again, assign each team to a different Gospel.
- Invite the young people to make a bookmark of their favorite Resurrection passage: Give each person a lengthwise half of an index card. Make available a variety of decorating supplies. Tell the participants to write their favorite Resurrection passage on the bookmark and decorate the bookmark.
- Instead of doing the activity as a relay race, simply do it as a team competition. Give every young person on each team a Bible and designate a team captain. Ask one of the questions, announce its corresponding Bible passage, and tell the teams to look up the citation and find an answer. Follow these rules:
 - Only the team captain can answer the question for the team.
 - The first team to give the correct answer gets a point.
 - The game continues for no more than 15 minutes or until all the questions have been answered.
- This relay is not restricted to Easter passages. It can be used with other passages any time you want to give young teens a fun experience with searching the Scriptures.