

PROPS FOR EASTER

by Shelly Sellepack



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Props for Easter

A children's presentation for Easter

by Shelly Sellepack

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator

Child 1

Child 2

Child with Jar

Child with Towel

Child with Bread and Goblet

Child with Coins

Child with Praying Hands

Child with Lily

Child with Crown of Thorns

Child with Cross

Child with Nails

Child with Dice

Child with Sponge

Child with Torn Curtain

Child with Dogwood

Child with Rock

Child with Lamb

Child with Eggs

Child with Basket

Reader (May be one or as many as six)

PRODUCTION NOTES

The two or three children in the introductory scene may wear slippers, pajamas and robes. Costuming for all other children is flexible. Use shepherd, disciple and soldier costumes from other plays, or have the children dress in their Sunday best.

Blocking is also flexible. The children may sit or stand in the front until it is their turn, or they may sit in the first pew. Although it is best for the children in the introductory scene to memorize their parts, all other parts may be read from a script placed up front by the microphone. If you have a large group of children, a younger child may hold the object while an older child reads the lines.

The props needed are palm fronds — one per child — and a large wicker laundry-type basket (possibly decorated with pastel ribbons) placed downstage center, filled with the following items: perfume bottle, towel and bowl appropriate for foot washing, small loaf of bread and wine goblet, small bag filled with clinking coins, photo or statue of praying hands, lily plant, small grapevine wreath for crown of thorns, cross, three large nails, several dice, natural sponge, one yard of thin fabric, slightly scored at top center (get extra to practice with), sprig of artificial dogwood, large rock, stuffed lamb, colorful plastic Easter eggs or real dyed eggs.

In the weeks prior to the play, during rehearsals, have the children make crafts representing the various parts of the Easter story referred to in the program. A small lamb covered with cotton balls and a cross made of popsicle sticks are two examples. Other items may be purchased and altered, such as a large sponge snipped into small pieces. Dice may be purchased at a dollar store. There should be enough for each adult in the congregation.

When this program was originally performed, our children exited during the final hymn. They formed a line in the rear of the sanctuary, and each child (or team of children) presented the congregation with their crafts. The children handed out decorated bakery bags first (so the people could carry the other items!), followed by representations of all the items referred to in the program; i.e. dice, a small piece of sponge, a piece of cloth. Use your imagination, and let the children prepare as many of the items as possible. This not only gives the children a way to offer themselves to the congregation, but it gives the adults an opportunity to express their appreciation to the children directly.

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1 *(The NARRATOR is in place behind a podium at one side*
 2 *of the chancel area.)*

3 **NARRATOR:** The sights and sounds of Easter surround
 4 us — chocolate bunnies and marshmallow candies, little
 5 chicks and white lilies, colored eggs and jelly beans.
 6 But to Christians, Easter means so much more. We
 7 remember that the dawning of the sun on that long ago
 8 Easter morning revealed an empty tomb. And therein,
 9 among the cast-off burial cloths, lay the hopes of all
 10 generations. *(CHILD 1 and CHILD 2, dressed in pajamas*
 11 *and slippers, skip to the front, where there is a large Easter*
 12 *basket.)*

13 **CHILD 1:** The Easter Bunny came!

14 **CHILD 2:** Look at the big basket the Easter Bunny left for
 15 us!

16 **CHILD 1:** I hope I get lots of chocolate!

17 **CHILD 2:** I really want some of those marshmallow chicks!
 18 *(CHILD 1 and CHILD 2 look into the basket, dig a bit, then*
 19 *look up at each other in disbelief.)*

20 **CHILDS 1 AND 2:** *(Ad lib)* Huh? What?

21 **CHILD 1:** What's this stuff?

22 **CHILD 2:** Where's my candy?

23 **NARRATOR:** Hey, you two, what's up?

24 **CHILD 1:** We thought the Easter bunny would come last
 25 night and give us candy.

26 **CHILD 2:** Yeah, but he just left us some really strange stuff.

27 **NARRATOR:** You know, Easter isn't really about bunnies
 28 and candy.

29 **CHILDS 1 AND 2:** *(Together)* It isn't?

30 **NARRATOR:** No, it isn't. The story of Easter really begins on
 31 Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a
 32 donkey. All the people were excited, thinking that Jesus
 33 had come to be their king. They waved palm branches
 34 and shouted, "Hallelujah!" Let's all sing together to
 35 remember how the people loved and praised Jesus that

1 day. Please stand and sing with us hymn number
 2 _____. (Choose an appropriate congregational hymn for
 3 celebrating Palm Sunday. As congregation sings, CHILDREN
 4 process, waving palm branches. CHILDREN leave their
 5 branches in the front pew and assemble in a line up front.)

6 **CHILD WITH JAR:** (*CHILD goes to the basket and takes out a*
 7 *perfume bottle, then steps to the microphone.*) Shortly after
 8 Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he and his followers met
 9 for supper in the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised
 10 from the dead. During this meal, Mary, the sister of
 11 Lazarus, came to Jesus holding a bottle of expensive
 12 perfume. She broke open the bottle and poured it over
 13 Jesus. (*CHILD pretends to pour perfume out of the jar.*)
 14 Some of the guests complained of the great waste, since
 15 this small bottle could have been sold and the money
 16 given to the poor. But Jesus said: "Leave her alone!
 17 Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful
 18 thing for me. You will always have the poor with you.
 19 And whenever you want to, you can give to them. But
 20 you won't always have me here with you. She has done
 21 all she could by pouring perfume on my body to
 22 prepare it for burial. You may be sure that wherever
 23 the good news is told all over the world, people will
 24 remember what she has done" (Mark 14:6-9). This
 25 perfume bottle reminds us to give generously. (*CHILD*
 26 *WITH JAR returns to the line.*)

27 **CHILD WITH TOWEL:** (*CHILD goes to the basket and takes out a*
 28 *towel and bowl.*) When the Passover feast began on
 29 Thursday of that same week, the disciples met in an
 30 upper room to celebrate. Before the meal began, Jesus
 31 took a bowl of water and a towel and offered to wash the
 32 disciples' feet, since they were dusty and hot. But this
 33 custom was usually reserved for the lowest of servants,
 34 and Peter cried out that Jesus should not wash his feet.
 35 Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you don't really

1 belong to me” (John 13:8). The towel reminds us to serve
 2 others. (*CHILD WITH TOWEL returns to the line.*)

3 **CHILD WITH BREAD AND GOBLET:** (*CHILD goes to basket*
 4 *and takes out the bread and goblet.*) After the Passover
 5 supper, Jesus broke a loaf of bread and passed it
 6 around the table. He said, “This is my body, which is
 7 given for you.” And then he passed a cup of wine,
 8 telling everyone to drink from it. He said, “This is my
 9 blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes
 10 his new agreement” (Luke 22:19b-20). I’m sure the
 11 disciples wondered what he really meant. The bread
 12 and cup remind us that to receive God’s grace, we must
 13 allow Jesus to come inside of us and become part of us.
 14 (*CHILD WITH BREAD AND GOBLET returns to the line.*)

15 **CHILD WITH COINS:** (*CHILD goes to the basket and takes out*
 16 *the bag filled with clinking coins.*) While the disciples and
 17 Jesus were finishing up their meal, Judas snuck out. In
 18 a secret meeting with the chief priests and scribes,
 19 Judas offered to give Jesus up to be arrested. The
 20 payment was thirty pieces of silver. (*CHILD jingles bag*
 21 *of coins.*) The silver coins remind us that sometimes it
 22 doesn’t take much for us to betray Jesus. (*CHILD WITH*
 23 *COINS returns to the line.*)

24 **NARRATOR:** When Jesus and the disciples were through
 25 with their supper, they sang a hymn together. Please
 26 join with us in singing hymn number _____. (*Choose*
 27 *an appropriate congregational hymn or chorus.*)

28 **CHILD WITH PRAYING HANDS:** (*CHILD goes to the basket*
 29 *and takes out a photo of the famous praying hands, or*
 30 *pantomimes praying hands.*) After Jesus’ last supper, he
 31 and the other disciples went up onto the Mount of
 32 Olives, into the Garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus
 33 knelt and prayed for the strength to do what God was
 34 asking him to do. There, during his prayer, Jesus’
 35 sweat became like drops of blood and fell to the

1 ground. The praying hands remind us to pray about the
 2 hard things in our lives. (*CHILD WITH PRAYING*
 3 *HANDS returns to the line.*)

4 **CHILD WITH LILY:** (*CHILD takes a lily off the altar.*) The
 5 tradition is that beautiful white lilies like this one grew
 6 up from the drops of blood Jesus shed during his
 7 prayer in the garden. Today, we use them to symbolize
 8 his struggle and his victory over fear and death. The
 9 lily reminds us that terrible pains and struggles can
 10 make us beautiful. (*CHILD WITH LILY returns to the line.*)

11 **CHILD WITH CROWN OF THORNS:** (*CHILD goes to the basket*
 12 *and takes out crown of thorns.*) Jesus was arrested and
 13 put on trial that same night. And later, when he was
 14 convicted and sentenced, the soldiers shoved a crown
 15 made of thorns down onto his forehead. They made fun
 16 of him, insulted him and spit on him. They called him
 17 King of the Jews. The crown of thorns reminds us that
 18 saying cruel things about others is wrong. (*CHILD*
 19 *WITH CROWN OF THORNS returns to the line.*)

20 **CHILD WITH CROSS:** (*CHILD takes a cross out of the basket.*)
 21 The cross reminds us that Jesus died for our sins.
 22 (*CHILD WITH CROSS returns to the line.*)

23 **CHILD WITH NAILS:** (*CHILD takes three large nails out of the*
 24 *basket.*) The nails remind us of the pain Jesus suffered
 25 for us. (*CHILD WITH NAILS returns to the line.*)

26 **CHILD WITH DICE:** (*CHILD takes the dice out of the basket.*)
 27 As Jesus was on the cross, the soldiers gathered below
 28 him and played a game. The winner got to keep Jesus'
 29 clothes. The dice remind us that we should take a
 30 chance on Jesus. (*CHILD shakes and rolls the dice on a*
 31 *hard surface, then returns to the line.*)

32 **CHILD WITH SPONGE:** (*CHILD takes sponge out of basket.*)
 33 One person felt sorry for Jesus. He filled a sponge with
 34 sour wine and lifted it up on a pole so Jesus could take
 35 a drink. The sponge reminds us to offer cups of cold

1 water to the poor and thirsty. (*CHILD WITH SPONGE*
2 *returns to the line.*)

3 **CHILD WITH TORN CURTAIN:** (*CHILD takes a cloth that has*
4 *been scored slightly out of the basket, holding it high with*
5 *scored section at top.*) In the temple, a curtain was hung
6 to separate the people from God. The moment Jesus
7 died, the curtain was torn in two, from the top to the
8 bottom. (*CHILD tears cloth.*) The torn curtain reminds us
9 that because of what Jesus did, there is nothing
10 separating us from God. (*CHILD WITH TORN CURTAIN*
11 *returns to the line.*)

12 **CHILD WITH DOGWOOD:** (*CHILD takes dogwood sprig from*
13 *basket.*) Legend has it that because the dogwood tree
14 was large and strong, it was used to make the cross on
15 which Jesus was crucified. This upset the tree so much
16 that Jesus took pity on it. From then on the tree was
17 small, and its branches were bent and twisted. The
18 blossoms formed a cross with two long and two short
19 petals, and the center of each petal was stained with
20 blood. In the very middle of the blossom was the crown
21 of thorns. The dogwood tree and its blossoms remind
22 us that all of creation was saved because of Jesus'
23 great sacrifice. (*CHILD WITH DOGWOOD returns to the*
24 *line.*)

25 **CHILD WITH ROCK:** (*CHILD takes a rock out of the basket.*)
26 When Jesus was buried, the chief priests were afraid
27 that his followers would steal his body and pretend he
28 had risen from the dead. To keep this from happening,
29 they rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb. It took
30 many men to place the stone, and there was no way a
31 small band of disciples could remove it. Then, soldiers
32 were placed in front of the tomb to guard it. The rock
33 reminds us that there are huge problems in our lives
34 that we can't even push, but God can easily move them
35 aside for us. (*CHILD WITH ROCK returns to the line.*)



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