

## Easter Party

Begin your regular session by showing the children a large, closed box or gift bag in which you've placed items for an Easter celebration—colorful napkins and a special tablecloth, cookies or hot cross buns, juice boxes, streamers, balloons, and so on. (If you use a box, you may want to wrap it in colorful wrapping paper and add a bow.) Ask the children if they believe you've placed things for an Easter celebration in your box—and then assure them that you have. Explain that for now, they won't be able to see what's in your box; they'll just have to believe what you've told them. Set your box aside until the time you're ready to celebrate.

When it's time for the party, ask the children one more time whether they believe you've packed the box or bag with things that will help you celebrate Easter together. Then invite them to open the box/gift bag and remove its contents. Decide together how to use the items to celebrate the wonderful news of Easter—that Jesus is alive! That's something we can all believe is true! Involve the children in setting the table and distributing the food. Then gather around the table for your party.

Conclude your session with the following litany, after teaching children the simple response:

**Leader:** Dear Jesus, you love us so much.

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** You died on the cross for us.

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** And you came back to life for us!

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** We know that it's true!

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** And we love you too!

**All:** Amen.