



Youth Group Lesson on Easter

Title: Empty is a Good Thing!

Bible: Luke 24: 1-8; Mark 8: 31; Romans 6: 6-11

Introduction

When you think about Easter, what do you think about? (repeat their answers)

Easter bunny...

Candy...

Family get togethers...

Pastel colors?

All of those things are good and cute, but when you think about the true meaning of Easter, those seem so empty.

And when it comes to the true meaning of Easter, empty is a good thing!

Normally the concept of something being empty isn't really a good thing is it?

Empty...it brings about unneeded stress.

Empty gift cards...

Empty coffee cup...

Empty wallet!!

So, empty equals no good right?

You see everybody and their momma gets together for Easter to celebrate a holiday that is to them...empty

But I'm here to tell you today that...

The Message

Point #1: Empty is a good thing.

When we look at Easter in the proper light, and we understand what really happened, and what was going on, and why we celebrate Easter...empty is a good thing.

When Jesus was murdered and nailed to a cross, they buried him in a tomb, basically a cave, and rolled a huge heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Then three days later something unbelievable happened. The tomb was empty.

- **Luke 24: 1-8** it says this...
- *1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." 8 Then they remembered that he had said this.*

Point #2: Empty is proof.

Now let's back up a minute. Let's look earlier during Jesus' ministry when he said had to go through this to his disciples.

- **Mark 8: 31 (NLT)**
- *31 Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.*

Proof Jesus is who he says he is.

Ever heard someone make a bunch of claims, but couldn't back it up? Jesus didn't do that.

We just read in Mark that Jesus said he would die and rise again after three days...and he backed it up. Now I can follow somebody who makes a claim as huge as this, and then backs it up!!

Point #3: Empty is powerful.

Jesus has power over death

Because Jesus died and rose again, because he Jesus is who he says he is, Jesus has power of sin's greatest weapon...death.

You know for something to have life, something else has to die. Did anyone eat some fruit today? It had to be disconnected from its tree, its life source; it had to die to give you life.

Jesus is the one who says I can give you life, I can make it so that you will never really die...that even after life on earth is done with, you will live with me forever....because that is how much I love you!!

The empty tomb shows us that Jesus has power over death, he looked death straight in the eyes, he took death's best sting....and overcame it!! How amazing is that!!

Point #4: Empty is permanent.

You know plenty of people visit Jerusalem every year. Plenty of people walked down some of the same roads that Jesus may have walked down. One of the places people love to visit is the place where historians believe Jesus was buried...and guess what? Till this day the tomb is still empty!!!

- **Romans 6: 9 (NLT)**
- *⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.*

Jesus wasn't in the tomb 3 days after he died....he isn't in the tomb today....and he never will be!! Jesus is God and is alive forever! His body wasn't stolen, it wasn't in the wrong tomb, it wasn't some magic trick....

So, when we look at the true meaning of Easter and everything Jesus did for us on the cross...empty is a good thing!!

Empty means Jesus is who he says he is,

Empty means Jesus has power over death,

And empty is permanent...

Jesus is permanently alive and death will never overcome him again. When we decide to follow him instead of following our own selfish desires, we too can begin to really live!

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite Easter candy?
2. Why is the concept of something being empty usually considered a bad thing?
3. When it comes to Easter, how is empty a good thing?
4. What thing in your life seems “empty” right now?