

## The Colors of Easter – Parents Guide

Thanks for joining us on this colorful countdown to Resurrection Sunday! This countdown is designed to walk kids through six colors, each one symbolic of part of the Easter account. The Colors of Easter begins the Monday before Easter and runs through Saturday in the form of a half dozen filled Easter eggs. In our house the egg will be hidden each day, but you may choose to display them in a basket or even a small egg carton.

Below you'll find a list of supplies as well as the guide for the individual days of the countdown. The guide includes instructions on filling the egg and an outline for the Bible reading, applications, activity, and prayer for the day.

Each day follows the “RAMP it up” method, which you can read more about on the resources page at [comesojourn.com](http://comesojourn.com). This is a way to help your children dig deeper into the Word, making it real to them with age-appropriate applications, and helping it stick with memorable activities. It also encourages the habit of prayer in association with Bible reading. The “make it stick” activities in this case are cumulative, adding new colors each day to the Road to Easter page, creating a scene full of symbolic colors by the time Resurrection Sunday arrives.

I hope this colorful Easter countdown will be a fun and meaningful way for you and your family to celebrate as you prepare for Resurrection Sunday.

### SUPPLIES:

- Daily notes – printed and cut (last page of this parent guide)
- Road to Easter page\* – you can print our pre-made version or create your own
- 6 plastic Easter eggs
- Washable green stamp pad or paint OR green leaves
- Paper towel strips – cut several small rectangular pieces
- Blue food coloring
- Black construction paper
- Red construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Yellow/Gold glitter glue or glitter
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors

Note: Some of the supplies will not fit into the eggs as you fill each one, just keep them on hand for later! If needed, any (or all) of the steps can be adapted by using crayons or markers to simply draw and color the piece of the picture for that day.

\*Hint – I recommend giving your child(ren) the Road to Easter page the night before you begin your countdown. It's a good way to introduce the concept and creates a sense of anticipation.

## Day 1: Green – Palm Branches of the Triumphal Entry

*Fill the egg: GREEN note*

*Other supplies: stamp pad/paint/leaves (depending on your project choice below)*

*Note – you will also need to give your child the Road to Easter page today, if you haven't already.*

**Read:** Matthew 21:1-11

**Apply:** The people cried out “Hosanna to the Son of David” as Jesus entered Jerusalem. Hosanna is a shout of praise, adoration, and joy. We should also praise and adore Jesus. He is our source of joy! Ask your child to think of several specific reasons to praise God.

**Make it stick:** Using a washable green stamp pad or paint, help your little one make thumb print leaves along the path to Jerusalem on the Road to Easter page. Alternatively, if the leaves are growing where you live, pick some small ones to glue on the path.

**Pray:** Go back to those praises your child thought about (during apply section) and pray those in adoration of Him together.

## Day 2: Blue – Water to Wash the Disciples' Feet

*Fill the egg: BLUE note, strips of paper towel (cut several to a couple inches long)*

*Other supplies: blue food coloring, glue*

**Read:** John 13:1-5, 12-15

**Apply:** When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He was showing them an example of love. He was demonstrating what it means to be a servant to others. We can be like Christ and show an example of His love when we are willing to serve others. Ask your child to think of one way he or she can show love through serving someone. Encourage them to carry this out as much as possible.

**Make it stick:** Fill a small bowl with water and add 1-2 drops of blue food coloring. Let your child take the strips of paper towel from the egg and drape them over the side of the bowl so that one end is in the water. Once the paper towel has soaked up some blue water, take it out and lay it on a flat surface to dry. When dry, glue it on the Road to Easter page in/around the bowl drawing, ripping or cutting smaller to fit as needed.

**Pray:** Pray together that you and your children will have servant hearts, to see and take opportunities to show God's love through serving those around you.

### Day 3: Black – Sin

*Fill the egg: BLACK note*

*Other supplies: black construction paper, scissors, glue, tape*

**Read:** Romans 3:23, 6:23

**Apply:** Who has sinned? (All, everyone) What is the wages/cost of sin? (Death) How do you think God feels about sin? How does He feel when we sin?

**Make it stick:** Create a stone tomb to represent the cost of sin and later illustrate part of the Resurrection account. Let your child crumple the black construction paper to make it look rough, then flatten and cut into a cave shape (like a thick letter U). Glue this to the Road to Easter page, bottom right side is a good spot. Crumple another small piece of the black construction paper and cut it into a circle, this will be your stone to cover the tomb. Tape it on the opening of the tomb (you'll want to be able to remove it later!)

**Pray:** God wants us to tell Him we're sorry when we sin and ask for forgiveness. Guide your child in praying, recognizing that, while our sins make God sad, He does forgive (hint hint – wait for tomorrow!)

### Day 4: Red – Christ's Blood

*Fill the egg: RED note, 2 strips of red construction paper (pre-cut to make the shape of a cross when put together)*

*Other supplies: glue*

**Read:** Mark 15:22-39

**Apply:** Jesus, who never sinned, died for our sins. He took our place. Remember from yesterday – all have sinned and the wages of sin is death. Why did Jesus die for us? Can you imagine how much God loves you?

**Make it stick:** Your child will build a cross with the red paper, representing the blood that Jesus shed. Glue the two pieces in the shape of a cross on top of the hill on the Road to Easter page.

**Pray:** Thank God for His amazing gift – His only Son – who gave His life for us so that our sins may be forgiven.

## Day 5: White – Washed as White as Snow

*Fill the egg: WHITE note, cotton balls*

*Other supplies: glue*

**Read:** Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:9

**Apply:** Thanks to Jesus' sacrifice, His death for us, our sins can be washed away. Imagine you jumped into a huge puddle after a rainy day and splashed mud all over your clothes. That mud is like your sins, sticking to you and staining you. But now imagine that your clothes are spinning around in the washing machine and when you pull them out they're fresh and clean again. That's what Jesus' death did for us – He washes the sin away from our lives, forgives us, and makes us clean before God.

**Make it stick:** Use the cotton balls to create a fluffy cloud on the Road to Easter page, top right corner.

**Pray:** Thank God that we can be clean, as white as snow, because of Jesus.

## Day 6: Yellow – Heaven

*Fill the egg: YELLOW note*

*Other supplies: yellow/gold glitter glue or glitter*

**Read:** Matthew 28:1-8, Mark 16:19, John 14:1-3

**Apply:** In Matthew we read about Jesus rising from the dead. He died for our sins but then He rose again! Remember that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Jesus showed that in His resurrection. In Mark we read that Jesus then went back to Heaven, and in John we read that He is there, preparing a place for us. If we believe and accept the free gift of Christ's death and resurrection, we will be with Him in heaven someday! How does that make you feel?

**Make it stick:** Have your child remove the stone away from the tomb! It is empty, Jesus is Risen! Using gold glitter glue or glitter, make rays of light coming from the cloud and the empty tomb.

**Pray:** Praise God that Jesus rose from the grave, defeating death. Thank God that He prepares a place for us if we put our trust in Him.

## **The Colors of Easter – Daily Notes**

Cut out the following color notes to fill your eggs. The color theme and Bible reference is included, use the parent guide to lead your child(ren) through the rest of the steps.

**GREEN:** Palm Branches of the Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-11

**BLUE:** Water to Wash the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-5, 12-15

**BLACK:** Sin

Romans 3:23, 6:23

**RED:** Christ's Blood

Mark 15:22-39

**WHITE:** Washed as White as Snow

Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:9

**YELLOW:** Heaven

Matthew 28:1-8, Mark 16:19, John 14:1-3