



Easter with children is so often about the items pictured below, egg hunts, Easter dresses, and dyeing eggs. Fun, but Easter is about so much more! When my girls were little, I often looked for ways to bring out the true meaning of the holiday (like the Resurrection Cookies listed below) but struggled to find the time to follow through. Christmas seemed to have many 'ready-made' reminders—Advent calendars, nativity sets, Biblically based Christmas carols, and more. What did Easter have? Bunnies, eggs, and chocolate! How does any of that relate to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? In a recent FamilyLife Today® radio interview, Barbara Rainey shared this same experience saying:



### A Do-It-Yourself Easter Idea—**Resurrection Cookies** (meringues) - Preheat oven to **300 degrees**.

Read the whole recipe before beginning, it is **much easier than it looks!** Much of the directions relate to the story to tell with your children while making the cookies. Try to do it together with the children on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday.

Place **1 cup pecans** in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, the Roman soldiers beat him. Read John 19:1-3

Put **1 teaspoon vinegar** into mixing bowl. Let children smell the vinegar. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30

Add **3 egg whites** to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11

Sprinkle a **pinch of salt** into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sins. Read Luke 23:27

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add **1 cup of sugar**, a little bit at a time while beating mixture. (See next step.) Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 11 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto waxed paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:65-66

Put cookie sheet in oven. Close door and turn oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and "seal" the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22. **GO TO BED!!**

On Resurrection morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie! Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection Day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9

"I remember thinking; 'I want to do something about Easter. I want to make it more important.' I knew it was more important, but I didn't know what to do. I didn't have the bandwidth, because I was swamped with kids, to be creative and think of something...We talked about it, but I wanted an activity. I wanted someone to say: 'Here, read this to your kids,' 'Here, do this with your children, and it will help them put the cross in context with the whole Bible and with God's plan from the very beginning.'"



It was out of that feeling of being swamped that the original Resurrection Eggs® resource was born. In the early 1990's, FamilyLife Today had a guest share a do-it-yourself craft idea of making a set of plastic eggs with items in them to tell the Easter story. Many moms wrote in saying that they loved the idea, but simply didn't have the time to make the kits. In 1995, FamilyLife® offered the first pre-made sets of Resurrection Eggs. To date, more than 1.5 million sets of Resurrection Eggs have been produced in English, Russian, and Spanish!

FamilyLife continues to develop products to help parents 'in the trenches' connect with their children about Biblical truth. I'm so thankful that Barbara did not forget those early days, and has been using her 'empty-nest bandwidth' to fill in that Easter gap! Her latest endeavor has resulted in a Advent for Easter called "Waiting for the Lamb". This kit contains a two-sided banner with a 40 day count down from Lent to Easter, as well as a flip book with daily devotions. On Easter morning, the banner gets flipped from the countdown side to the 'He is Risen' side. And I think it is pretty enough to put up in any home—kids or no kids. You may think 40 days of devotions is a lot but, as Barbara says "Some is better than none. So start. Even if you only get ten of the forty days done, it's better than nothing; because you can do it again next year." Now that sounds like good advice from a mom who has raised six kids, don't you think!



In Him,

### Tear & Prayer

**Pray for the Riedy Family**  
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**Pray** for Eric's parents-health & continued adjustment to assisted living. Also for the prep and sale of the family home. Eric & Charissa will be in PA for Spring Break (March 16-21) helping out

**Pray** for the FamilyLife parenting initiative-kicked off with the nation-wide release of the Like Arrows movie & followed up with the Art of Parenting resources. Movie tickets will sell out fast-see <http://familylifeministries.org/likearrows/> for locations

**Pray** for wisdom as we make summer travel plans

**Praise** for a meaningful & productive trip to MI for Eric last month-God working in many lives

**Praise** for Eric getting in to genetic testing months earlier than scheduled pray for wisdom as doctors analyze the results & health impacts