



GOAL: Easter is the most important of Christian festivals - and this year, Jesus invites you to celebrate it in your street in ways that will draw in your lost neighbors!

While you might be tempted to mourn not having regular church services this Easter, instead allow the Lord Jesus to redeem the situation by releasing you to bring Easter life into your street!

At this time of great fear, frustration, and anxiety, the message of the cross and resurrection - forgiveness, new life, hope, all of which are rooted in love - truly will sound like good news to many of your neighbors. This could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to boldly start spiritual conversations with the unchurched!

PRACTICALLY Whether you chose to engage in bringing God's presence into your street on Good Friday, to create a fun neighborly Easter event, or to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus online, you can select a practical and workable plan from this list.

HOW TO FOCUS

As you ponder how to 'do' Easter where you live, this resource is here to give you some specific, worked through plans!

You can take these and implement them immediately, perhaps with a few personal twists... or you can let them stir up a fresh idea that you put into action. The main thing is: don't hang around - pick something and do it, even if it's not 100% perfectly executed!

Many of the ideas you'll read here are built upon in far more breadth in our larger resource, **Church in Your Street**. There you'll find incredibly practical help in areas such as praying for your street, creating an online community, tons of serving ideas, a simple process for being openly spiritual, hosting an outdoor prayer time, starting a simple home church, and running an online home church.





As in this resource, the goal throughout is to give you practical coaching, bags of ideas, tactical tips, examples of what to say, customizable letters, checklists, and more!

You can find out more about **Church in Your Street** by [going here on our website](#).

EGG HUNT VARIATIONS

This year regular egg hunts won't be happening, since the traditional scrum of kiddos flinging each other out of the way in pursuit of plastic enshrined gold (well, sugar and chocolate!) might, apparently, be in violation of social distancing rules! Mind you, no doubt the children you know are willing to take that risk!!

However, it does seem tough to cancel all of the fun... so here are a couple of ways to redeem the situation where you live - through either an Easter Treasure Hunt, or the fun of You've Been Egged!

1. YOU'VE BEEN EGGED!

This is a fun way to surprise a neighboring family with Easter joy, both through candy and also a gentle reminder that resurrection of Jesus is the reason we celebrate!

Practically:

- Fill some plastic eggs (or small sandwich bags) with candy (making sure you put desirable candy in the eggs - this will flop if they're under-filled with terrible quality stuff!)
- Leave one egg empty, to represent the empty tomb and the fact that Jesus is risen!
- Very quietly hide them in your neighbor's front yard. The level of hiding difficulty should correspond to the age of the children there.
- Leave an empty Easter basket/ bag on the doorstep, along with a note to say, "You've Been Egged!" In the note say how many eggs you've hidden, so they know when to stop hunting!
- Ring the doorbell and run away!
- Don't forget to wash your hands carefully before filling the eggs, and before hiding them. You might want to add that you did that as a comment on the note you leave.





- A beautiful printable template for the note is available for free here: <https://oldsaltfarm.com/youve-been-egged-easter-service-activity>
- If you think parents would prefer to know in advance (or to check on allergies), have a quiet word with them. This would also help if the configuration of their living space means that the kids are likely to see you hiding the eggs!

2. EASTER TREASURE HUNT

Create a series of clues that steer households around your street/ neighborhood, where they have to answer specific questions on what they see. At the end, they receive Easter candy!

Practically:

- Set a time during Easter weekend for the Treasure Hunt, e.g. Saturday 2 - 4pm.
- Create the questions in electronic form, so that they can be downloaded or texted at the start point for those who forget their sheets of paper
- Some of these questions will involve you asking certain households to set up something especially for that hunt, so ask for (or approach) some volunteers in advance.

Examples of questions might be:

1. How many soft toys are in the window of #4030 Happy Ave?
2. Which house/apt has a bright red front door?
3. What is written on the doormat of #5987?
4. Which country's flag is being flown outside #3055?
5. Look for a large picture of a cartoon character in a front window on the street. Who is it of?
6. Which house has a fountain out front?
7. How many cars are on the driveway of #1120?
8. What Easter message is in the window of the last apartment before the parking area?
9. Count how many teddy bears you can see in the windows of all the houses in your street (if your street is doing the Bear Hunt - see our *Serve Your Street* resource in the **Church in Your Street** pack for more on this!)





Keep in mind sensible boundaries for where treasure hunters should go - for instance, no crossing busy roads unless you can set up adult supervision at key crossing points.

Prizes are awarded at the end for groups that complete the route (even if they can't answer all of the questions). You will want them to come to the front yard of a specific home, or an open space where you can set up. In order to maintain social distancing, groups will simply read out their answers to you - it's easy to chat from 6 feet away!

Prizes can be given out in pre-prepared baggies. Make sure you have plenty of bags made up, and have some supplies in reserve!! You can communicate to parents that the prizes were made up in a clean, healthy home, by people wearing gloves/ well-washed hands.

In advance of the event, invite neighbors to contribute candy - many would love to do that, even if they don't have children at home. You will need a pack of sandwich bags as well. Set a deadline the day before for donations, so that you aren't scrambling at the last moment to do everything.

Also try to estimate how many children might be there (determined by how far you are distributing the invites). You might ask for an RSVP.

Here is the letter that we wrote - feel free to cut and paste!

[date]

Hello neighbors!

We're organizing a small neighborhood Treasure Hunt for this coming Easter Saturday and we'd love you to join us!

There is so much craziness going on right now that we thought we need some community fun and joy, particularly as it's Easter!

Instead of an Easter Egg Hunt, we'll give prizes (a small bag of candy, which will be prepared by healthy people wearing masks and gloves) to kids big and small who find the answers to a number of questions that have their solution on our street (see other side).

To join in:





- The neighborhood Easter Treasure Hunt will take place **next Saturday April 11th between 2 and 4pm.**
- The questions that you'll be answering are all on the back of this letter - shhh! Don't show children in advance!!
- On Saturday, take this paper and a pen around the neighborhood and answer as many questions as you can. If you want to copy this so that children can have their own paper, that's not a problem.
- Some of the answers won't be in place before then, so don't start early!
- All of the answers will be found on Happy Avenue between Maine and Broadway.
- While answering the questions, please stay 6' away from other families.
- When you are finished, come to the front yard of our home at #1234 Happy Ave to read out your answers and claim your prizes!

If you plan on joining us, it would be so helpful if you could email [give your email] or text xxx.xxx.xxxx by Thursday 9th to say roughly how many children will be in your party, so we can have enough prizes! If you want to invite a family who live nearby but not in our street, please do so.

Alternatively, if you'd simply like to watch the proceedings, then next Saturday might be a fun time to sit out front and wave to your neighbors!

Also, if you would like to donate candy, that would be much appreciated by the hungry hordes! Please either leave it on our front doorstep at #1234 (by Thursday 9th), or we can collect if you let us know. Thank you!

We hope to see you next weekend - Happy Easter!

And if there's anything we can do to help you out in these days, please don't hesitate to ask.

[your names + your cell phone numbers]

PS Don't forget to join our street Facebook group - '[add name of group]'



EASTER ART

Get creative in your community! Have a competition and prizes, or just suggest some friendly neighborhood fun with one or more of the following ideas:

- Using sidewalk chalk, each household designs an encouraging Easter message/ picture for the community.
- Using painters tape, design a cross shape on your front door/ front window/ front path or driveway, which is then subdivided into a mosaic pattern. Using washable paint or chalks, color in that mosaic in the brightest colors you can find!
- Alternatively, you could create a mosaic butterfly template, which could be printed out and colored and put in windows, perhaps with the word 'HOPE' as part of it. Butterflies symbolize new life from out of a cocoon - it is a gentle way of inviting neighbors to celebrate the meaning behind Easter. Perfect for this time!
- Coordinate a community-wide kite flying on Easter Day. Ask those who wish to celebrate the resurrection to fly kites from their houses at a certain time, to make the skies more festive!

BLESSINGS

Create little Easter blessings to give neighbors. Three ideas are:

1. Buy a larger bunch of flowers, and then turn them into small posies (think of something that is more the size of a buttonhole, perhaps with the stems wrapped in aluminum foil). These can be given to a number of ladies on your street on Easter morning. Include a personal, positive, and encouraging note, perhaps including letting them know that you are praying for them regularly.
2. Buy some (better quality!) chocolates and drop them off at homes for adults, again with an Easter note.
3. Bake some Easter goodies (as long as you and your household are healthy), and personally deliver them to neighbors you know, along with a personal Easter card.





COMMUNITY BUILDING

Canned food donations

As you advertise your Easter activities with neighbors, invite people to bring canned or boxed food for a local food bank. Seeing the church serve others can offer unbelievers a different view of the church and ultimately cause them to be more open to hearing the Gospel. Also, most people welcome a simple, practical opportunity to give to a legit cause in a time of crisis.

Front Lawn Community Meal

Potlucks might be out, but we can still be creative and have community! How about inviting neighbors to bring chairs (and table) and gather outside a few homes / in an open space. Each household brings their own drink, snacks, or meal (depending on what you'd like to do!). People can maintain 6 feet social distancing, but still chat and feel part of a larger whole.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

Prayer walk your neighborhood on Good Friday. As you remember what Christ has done for us at the cross, pray for specific neighbors, businesses, schools etc, that they might themselves encounter the reality of God's love for them this Easter.

Some things to pray for include:

- The Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin (John 16:8-11)
- God to stoke a hungry pursuit of forgiveness and right relationship with Him
- Eyes to be opened to see that the divide between God and humanity has been torn apart by Jesus' work on the cross
- Hope
- Release from addictions and unhealthy patterns of behavior
- The breaking of strongholds of the enemy over your community
- A revelation of the love of God for each individual
- The peace of Jesus, released through His death and resurrection, to be poured out in your street





- Those who are sick to experience that *"by his wounds we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5)
- Specific neighbors (name them) to, like the centurion at the foot of the cross, recognize that Jesus truly is the Son of God

You might find it meaningful to quietly read - whether to yourself or by declaring them out loud - particular portions of Scripture that relate to Easter. Some obvious passages include:

Psalm 22

Isaiah 53:3-9

Matthew 27:11-54

Mark 10:45

John 3:16-17

Romans 5:6-10

1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

ONLINE EASTER DAY CELEBRATION - 'EASTER IN A BOX'

You could create 'Easter in a Box' kits for a group of households to share in online, or for households to do by themselves. Design it in such a way that you can offer it to neighbors who might be spiritually open (e.g. those who go to church just at Christmas or Easter). Things to include would be:

- A creative worship activity that is fun to do. For instance, on a piece of paper draw a large outline of a cross. Inside the cross write as many things that you can think of for which you are thankful to God this Easter.
- One or two appropriate Bible passages for someone to read aloud, e.g. Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, or John 20:1-18.
- A fun family friendly retelling of the Easter story, such as either of these:
 - * <https://vimeo.com/39716113> (a cartoon telling of the Easter story, aimed at children)
 - * <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdn1R90kX9A> (adults who act out the telling of the story by kids - this is very funny! Probably would work well after reading the Bible)



- A link to a video that gives a short and engaging walk through of the Easter message (e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygQhnqSn3TA>)
- A time of prayer. Either you could have an open time of prayer, or you could invite people to pray silently, with you saying a prayer out loud after half a minute or so. Some topics to cover might be:
 - * Give thanks for all God's blessings in your life
 - * Thank Jesus for loving us enough to die for us, so that we can be brought back into the family of God
 - * Pray for those dealing with coronavirus
 - * Ask God to bring to mind the name of someone you could serve or encourage this week
 - * End by praying together the Lord's Prayer (share the words on your screen if you're doing this)
- Communion
 - * Each home would want to find some bread and wine/ juice/ similar thing.
 - * Read 1 John 1:9. Invite people to silently confess any sins, and to receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers us. After half a minute of silence, pray something like: *"Lord Jesus we need You. Thank You for dying on the cross in our place. Thank You that through Your death and resurrection You break the curse of sin, and restore us to Your family forever. We receive Your forgiveness, wholeness, and new life afresh. Amen."*
 - * Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
 - * Pray something like this: *"Lord Jesus, please pour out Your Holy Spirit on us as we gather before You. May these gifts of bread and wine be for us Your body and blood - given to us that we might be brought back to God. In turn, may each of us be empowered to represent You to the world around us. In this season of social distancing, may we know that You are never distant from us."*
 - * Everyone takes the elements
 - * Invite someone to pray a prayer of thanksgiving to conclude





OUTDOOR EASTER DAY CELEBRATION

Gather in a front yard or a local park, while maintaining social distancing rules. Plan on this lasting for about 15-20 minutes.

- * Welcome everyone, and explain the plan
- * Share a short opening prayer, where you thank God for Easter and all that it means
- * Sing an Easter hymn. Pick something that is easy to sing without instruments (assuming you don't have any), and is joyful in tone - e.g. Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Crown Him with Many Crowns, Amazing Grace, In Christ Alone. Tell them the hymn title, and together all look it up on your phones. Think in advance about how many verses you'll sing (we'd suggest 2 or 3, depending on how long they are). Alternatively, you could just listen to the song over a loudspeaker.
- * Say you're going to have a short time of prayer, and that you'll be ending by all praying the Lord's Prayer together in modern English - invite people to google, 'Lord's Prayer modern version' to have it ready!
- * See if there are any local/ felt needs to pray about, and then invite a couple of people to pray out loud about those needs. Wrap up by you praying something short but faith-filled!
- * Invite everyone to pray the Lord's Prayer together
- * Have someone read an Easter Bible passage aloud, e.g. Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, or John 20:1-18
- * Present a 3-5 minute encouraging reflection about Easter, based from the Bible passage that was read.
- * Take communion together (have crackers and grape juice in disposable cups available on a table - each household takes crackers and cup and share it together).
- * If the hymn singing went well, try another hymn here!
- * Say a blessing to end e.g. "May you and your family be blessed as you celebrate the true meaning of Easter, from the reflection of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday and on into the certain hope of eternal life."





INVITING NEIGHBORS TO AN EASTER CELEBRATION

We added these paragraphs to the letter we showed you above, where we invite people to the Easter Treasure Hunt. This version invites people to the online service. You can adapt it for the outdoor celebration - or use the letter that is included in the *Hold an Outdoor Prayer Time* section of **Church in Your Street**.

[at the top of the letter]

We'd like to invite you to be part of two different neighborly events next Easter weekend....
[add, 'Firstly,' to the section that sets up the egg treasure hunt]

[after writing about the Egg hunt]

The second thing we're organizing is a short (15-20 mins), simple, online Easter Day service for our neighborhood. Now more than ever, we need inspiration, hope, and the peace and presence of God.

The service will include a reading from the bible, prayer for our community, a short (fun!) video of the Easter story, and sharing in communion together. This is open to anyone, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. You won't be asked to say anything out loud if you don't want to, but we hope it will help you feel connected - with God, and with your neighbors.

We'd love to have you join us! The service will be at 10.30am on Sunday April 12th via Zoom. The link will be (if you hit any snags on the day, just text one of us).

[then add in end of letter content from above]





NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST

As we wrote at the beginning, the goal of Easter in Your Street is to give you practical plans, which you can immediately implement, perhaps with a few personal twists... or you can let them stir up a fresh idea that you put into action.

The main thing is: don't hang around - **pick something and do it**, even if it's not 100% perfectly executed! Time is short, so don't let the perfect be the enemy of what is good! Dive in, pray your socks off, have fun, and see what Jesus will do through you in reaching your lost neighbors and friends this Easter!

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

CHECKLIST

EASTER EGGS

- If you're doing an Easter Egg activity, what are you going to do, and when?

YOU'VE BEEN EGGED

- Gather candy and fill baggies
- Print out the template for the note you'll leave
- Pick your targets, decide if you need to talk to parents first, and plant your candy!
-

TREASURE HUNT

- Write a letter to your neighbors
- Design your treasure hunt clues
- Print the letter





- Deliver the letter
- Purchase/ collect candy, and make up baggies of candy
- Approach the houses/ apartments who will be placing something unusual in their window or yard
-

EASTER ART

- What art are you doing?
- How will you invite neighbors to join in?
-

BLESSINGS

- Who are you going to bless, and how?
-

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- What are you going to offer to your neighbors?
- How will you communicate this?
- What needs organizing by you in advance?
-

WORSHIP

- Which of the different ideas are you going to try?
- For the Sunday services, design your plan for the gathering.
- How are you going to advertise to invite others to join you on Easter Sunday?
-

GO FURTHER

- Check out the full **Church in Your Street** pack - including the free sample, 'Be Spiritual on Your Street' - by clicking here: <https://www.dandelionresourcing.com/church-in-your-street/>