

EASTER ASSEMBLY 1a:

Easter Charity (Story Version)

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- THEMES: Easter eggs / Giving to charity / Famine and starvation
- AIM: To remember those in the world who are starving this Easter
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be delivered by an adult. It consists of a discussion introduction, a story, summary and prayer. A scripted version of the same assembly, which can be performed by a class of children, is also included below.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text* = text that can be read straight out.
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SONG 1: We Can't Wait For Easter

INTRO: Talk to the children about all the Easter eggs they've received in the past or that they hope to receive soon. Questions to ask them are:

*What's the very best Easter egg you've ever received?
Or what's the biggest Easter egg you've ever received?
How many of you give Easter eggs to others?
Who do you give Easter eggs to?
Why do you give Easter eggs to other people?
How do you feel when you give Easter eggs to others?*

STORY: *The Unexpected Gift*

It was a few days before Easter and Jodie was very excited. School had just finished for the holidays; the weather was lovely, and the flowers were starting to bloom in the garden. Life was great. But the thing Jodie was most excited about was the visits which would soon start. At this time of year all her relations came to call. Aunts, Uncles, Grandmas, Grandads, old friends, neighbours and so on. Sure, it got a little boring sometimes with all the grown-up talking and she especially hated the sloppy kisses from her Great Aunt. Yuck! But in the end, it was always worth it because of all the gorgeous Easter eggs that she received in return. The previous year she had ended up with fifteen eggs and she was hoping to beat that number this year! But then, within a short moment, Jodie's bubble of happiness was cruelly burst as her Mum delivered some devastating news.

"Jodie," she said in a slightly stern way, "remember how last year you ended up with enough Easter eggs to sink a ship?"

"Definitely," replied Jodie excitedly, "it was brilliant!"

"Well," her mum continued, "that was far too unhealthy. So many Easter eggs for just one little girl is not a good thing. They're very fattening and extremely bad for your teeth!" Jodie was starting to get a bad feeling. She didn't like where this conversation was heading. "So anyway," continued her mum, "I've phoned all our friends and relatives who are coming to visit us over Easter and

I've asked them not to bring you any Easter eggs this year, but if they want to bring you something, then perhaps they should just give you money instead."

"NOOOOOOO!" screamed Jodie in complete horror.

"Calm down. Don't worry," her mum said reassuringly, "I've not said you can't have any Easter eggs at all. Once you get your Easter money you can choose to buy some Easter eggs if you want? Or you could get some new clothes or buy a game or just put the money in the bank perhaps? Just as long as you don't end up with so many Easter eggs, that you're still eating them at Christmas!"

Jodie started sobbing and continued to stay in a grumpy mood for the next few days. The grown-ups came and went. She suffered all the yucky hugging and sloppy kissing and all the boring grown-up chatting, but it wasn't the same without a yummy Easter egg to pass the time with.

However, by the time Easter Saturday came, Jodie found she had somehow managed to harvest £32.50 from all her family's visitors! So as soon as the last soppy great aunt had vanished out of the door, she made her mum take her to the closest supermarket in order to get some Easter eggs straight away.

On the way there, they firstly passed the bank and after some nudging from her Mum, Jodie, reluctantly went inside and put £10 into her bank account. She knew that it was the right thing to do, but she didn't like admitting it and made a bit of a fuss!

Then just as they were about to go into the supermarket, they were stopped by an old lady waving a collection bucket in front of them. Jodie thought the old woman looked a bit like the 'bird lady' from the film 'Mary Poppins'. As they'd approached her Jodie had actually thought she could hear the lady saying, 'feed the birds, tuppence a bag'. But now she realised the lady had really been saying something like, 'feed the hungry, ten pence a meal'.

A picture on her bucket showed a child about her age who clearly hadn't had any food in a very long time. Beside the old lady was a poster which showed the same child. The poster read...

"How much to feed a starving child? 10p for one meal, 20p for one day, £1.40 for one week, £6 for one month. So little can mean so much!"

Jodie noticed that most people passing by didn't even notice the old lady with her charity bucket. And those who did notice were just throwing in tiny coins without giving a second glance.

WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this story (around another page and a half in length)
2. It suggests then singing a further song: 'Ho-San-Ho' (An African Palm Sunday Song)
3. It then concludes with a summary and a prayer.