

HALLELUJAH HUNTS

Use the traditional egg hunt to give your kids an opportunity to search for treasure with one of these unusual hunts.

New Life Hunt—Hunt outdoors for signs of spring. For example, kids might find new green grass, a robin's egg- shell, or a flower. To minimize environmental interference, have the children shout "New Life!" when they find something, and have all the children run to the child to see what's been found without removing or disturbing it. At the end of a specified time, gather the children to discuss how each item is a sign of the new life we have in Christ.

Bible Verse Hunt—Write parts of a Bible verse on squares of brightly colored paper or Post-It notes. Hide the squares around your room or in an outdoor area. When all the squares are found, have the children put the verse together in correct order.

Hunt for Lunch—Pack simple lunches in paper bags. Hide the bags, then have children find them. After each child has found a lunch, provide drinks and enjoy a fellowship lunch with the children.

Friendship Hunt—Form two groups. Give the children pencils and paper strips. Have children each write their name on a strip. Then have both groups trade strips so each child has one strip. On the back of the strips, have children each write or draw something good about the child whose strip they have.

Have a volunteer hide the strips in another area. Then have children hunt for their own strips. At the end, have children read their strips to the entire group.

Helping Hunt—Plan ahead for a springtime food drive, culminating on Palm Sunday. In your publicity, ask church families to contribute items for a meal, such as a boxed-dinner mix, a canned vegetable, and a canned fruit; or tuna, crackers, mayonnaise, and cookies.

Early Easter morning, hide all the items. Form pairs, and give each pair a large grocery bag. Ask each pair to hunt for items to make one full meal. When they've selected their items, have them label the bag so the contents are identified, such as "lunch for two" or "dinner for a family." Then have the partners work together to create a card with a mealtime prayer to put in their bag. Double check the bags to ensure that the food is evenly distributed. Kids can collect the bags for your church food pantry or a local shelter.

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