



Dad or Mom: *So today we are going to talk about the very first Easter and the very first Easter Hunt. Yep, on the first Easter morning there was a mad, crazy hunt going on. People were running around, racing, chasing, crying; some people finding what they were looking for, while others were not. All the classic moments of a good Easter hunt.*

Family Questions: What do you miss about Easter Egg Hunts? Who always gets the most eggs? Etc. etc.

Dad or Mom: *Alright, let's look in the Bible about the very first Easter Morning and the first "Easter Hunt."*

Read: John 20:1–18. Since it is a longer passage, read it aloud or have your son or daughter read just a couple verses each.

Dad or Mom: *Okay, It is the first Easter morning. Christ has died on Friday, what we call "Good Friday". That's what we remembered just two days ago. It is now Sunday Morning and...*

[Questions to Ask]

- Who are the first people there in the morning? What is their reaction?
- Who is the first person to start the "hunt?" Do we know? What is their reaction?
- Who is the second person after them to finally make it? What is his immediate reaction?
- Who is the final person hunting?
- What is her initial reaction?
- What happens?

Dad Or Mom: *So think about the first "Easter Hunt". Think about the people and their actions, reactions and thoughts. Let's look at another verse and then we will come back to this one.*

Read: Matt 7:7–8. Have your son or daughter read the passage aloud if they want.

Dad or Mom: *There are some promises in this passage. Did you notice that there was more than one way to "hunt?" There are 3 mentioned: "Seek," "Ask," and "Knock." There is only one way to be saved and one Savior, but each of us "hunts" and comes to Him in different ways. (You know your kids...so who is asking questions and thinking. Who is looking around but just looking. And which one of your kids has things standing in their way that need to be "opened up" for us (sports, gaming, friends, everything else is more important than Jesus? etc.) Let's look back at our key passage in John 20.*

Other Disciple: John 20 vs. 3–4

Dad or Mom: *It doesn't say it here, but the "other disciple that Jesus loved" is John the guy who is writing the story. He is probably embarrassed. He outruns his friend and wins the race, but doesn't go inside. He completely wimps out! Although you have to give him a bit of a break, he is running around a cemetery by himself with the idea that there might be a "walking dead" guy around. Here is the point. He gets to the door of the tomb and doesn't go in. There is something stopping him—it may be fear or something else. He might have "knocked" or yelled, "Hey Jesus, you in there?"*

Reflective Challenge: Think about the idea of an Easter Egg Hunt. There is always that one kid standing off to one side with his basket not sure if he really wants to get involved. He is scared for some reason. You might not even understand why because there is all this fun going on. Kids are discovering all this great candy and prizes, and he is just standing there waiting.

Could that be you in way maybe? You are standing at the biggest, most important hunt of your life. People all around you are discovering who Jesus is and what he did on the cross and through His resurrection. You, however, are just standing there trying to decide.

Reflective Question: (Make it personal to your child) "What is keeping you from going all the way for God? You have run right up to where you want to be—you need to be—but there is something stopping you. What is it? You are standing at the door, why aren't you "knocking? What can Mom or Dad do for you or with you?"

Transition: Let's look at the next person and reaction.

Point #2: Peter 20 vs. 6–8

Dad or Mom: *So Peter finally gets there, such a slow poke, right? Peter doesn't even hesitate, he just runs right in and "Seeks" to find Jesus. He immediately is looking to discover what he can. He wants to know the truth. When he discovers what he is hunting for, He believes. He may not completely get it all yet (look at verse 9) but he believes.*

Peter has always been like that in the stories of the Bible. He is a "Go-Getter" kind of guy. He doesn't waste time or hold back on what he has to say or what he thinks.

Reflective Challenge: Now, think again about an Easter Egg Hunt. There are those kids that jump right in. They have their basket and they are ready to go. Mom and Dad have to hold them back until it is time to start. They have already spotted a few eggs out there. They are looking around to see what they can see and believe with all their heart that they are going home with a basket full of candy!

Or, is this you? You are excited about what you have discovered all ready. You might not be the “fastest” or the first one to get there, but when you do get there you believe and you are all in.

Reflective Question: What are you seeing in your world? (listen to them) What are the things that God is revealing to you? (push and let them dig a little) Are you allowing yourself to slow down and observe the world and allowing God to reveal Himself to you? Are you seeking what can be found? Are Dad and Mom helping you slow down? (This is for you too Mom and Dad.)

Transition: OK let’s look at the first person in the scene and the last person to still to be there at the end who is still hunting

Point #3: Mary Magdalene 20 vs. 11–18

Dad or Mom: *Everyone is gone, they have come and then ran back off. The only one left is Mary Magdalene. She still hasn’t come up with the answer she wants. She is upset, crying, and is asking questions. The guys show up, do their things, and then leave her still with no good answers. Then what happens? She meets a Gardener. She starts grilling him with questions: Where is Jesus? Where did you put Him? Tell me! Then Jesus reveals himself, TADA! He kicks back his hoodie (or something like that), and shows Mary that he is JESUS! She then has the opportunity to go and tell the disciples.*

Reflective Challenge: Last time. Think about an Easter Egg Hunt. There is always one kid crying because he can’t find any eggs. His mom and dad are trying to show him where the eggs are at, but he is too worked up and upset. He just keeps asking “where are they?” or “why can’t I find any?” They have a ton of questions, but they are not really looking. Everyone else is doing their thing, and there is that one kid off to one side just trying to figure it out. Is that you? Are you at the point that there is nothing really holding you back, but you have not believed yet? You have seen/observed enough, but you still have questions? You honestly want to discover the real Jesus and find him for yourself but you’re just not sure yet?

Reflective Questions: What are the questions that are holding you back? Where are you going for answers? Can Dad and Mom help you here? Are there questions you want to ask me but haven’t. Why?

Your Story

- Of the three people we talked about today which one are you? Why?
- What are the things that block people from going all in with Jesus?
- What are things you have observed/seen about Jesus as you have studied for yourself?
- What are the questions people have about Jesus and about us as his followers?