



Basket of Rocks

On Good Friday, kids go on a rock hunt to fill their baskets with rocks. If it happens to be raining, don't worry, you can make "rocks" with crumpled newspaper. The baskets represent our hearts, and the rocks symbolize the sin in our lives that make our hearts hard. You may even want to write different sins on each stone.

Next, cover the rocks with a red cloth. I used a cloth napkin, but you can use anything that you have lying around the house — a red piece of clothing, red construction paper, etc. The red color represents Jesus' blood that was poured out to cover our sins. Before Jesus was crucified, he explained to his disciples that his blood would be "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

Allow the rocks to sit covered until Easter Sunday, when the rocks are replaced with good and sweet things. Explain that the rocks are gone, and "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). When we put our faith in God, he replaces our hard hearts with new hearts:

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

Thank God for all he has done for us and pray that his Spirit will help us to stay away from the rocks (sin) that make our hearts hard!