

Children's sermon: April 24, 2011 (Easter Sunday)

**"An inflated gift"**

So ... you want the WHOLE STORY!@!!

Here is Jesus ---- disguised as a 16" softball. He had an amazing three years: healing, loving, preaching, making the world a better place ... teaching his followers about God's amazing power and presence.

It's Thursday night ---- Passover night. He invites his 12 disciples for what we know as "the last supper."

During this supper Jesus tells his followers (disguised as golf balls) ... he has to leave them.

Talk about being sad!@!!

And we know what happened ... on Friday ... Jesus dies.

After he dies ... Jesus' friends put his body into the tomb ----- disguised as this bucket.

Jesus said some things to his followers ... and it's making them think today ---- Easter Sunday.

He said he would be back.

He said he would "look different."

He said things would change!@!!

He said he was going to a place where they couldn't go.

But ----- HE WOULD ALWAYS BE WITH THEM!!

It's Easter Sunday.

Look here ----- it's "the tomb" ... it's where they laid Jesus after he died.

But ----- even the tomb looks different ... it's a different color, right?

It kind-of glows.

Would one of you be willing to look inside the tomb???

Remember what happened when Mary went to the tomb on Easter???

The tomb is different ----- THE DOOR IS OPEN.

An angel is sitting there. Then she meets a man in the garden ... and doesn't know he is Jesus!@!!

How about that??

OK ... Danny ----- look inside.

No plain ol' softball in there!!

Take it out. YES!!

Look at this ball ----- big, bright, full of colors!@!!

IT'S NOT THE SAME!@!!

When Mary and the disciples finally see Jesus after he died ----- HE DOES LOOK DIFFERENT.  
HE GLOWED ... SHE SHINED LIKE THE SUN ... HE IS THE SON ... HE LIVES IN THE HEART AND SOUL OF  
EACH OF YOU ..... especially when you love, and care, and share, and reach-out!!

I have a ball for you. Turn around ----- there is our YOUTH GROUP ... with bags full of balls!@!

Different shapes, different sizes ... full of love ----- JUST LIKE JESUS AND YOU!!

Enjoy ... share the love ... have a ball!@!! ----- HAPPY EASTER.