

April Fools

Before the meeting:

1. Purchase Bean Boozled Jelly Beans. Make sure you have enough jellybeans for everyone in your group to play at least once. Also give each student a cup or bowl to spit into just in case!
2. Plan out some fun snacks for this meeting! I used an empty coffee ground container (washed out well) and filled it with Oreo cookies that I put in the blender. They look just like coffee grounds! Then I filled an empty mayonnaise gallon jug with vanilla pudding. It was so fun to watch the students turn their noses up in disgust as I was serving their snacks.
3. Decide how you want the students to play the trivia game. You may need to collect additional supplies for the “buzzer” and for keeping score.
4. Print out the trivia game answers and have them handy. Just don't let the students see them ahead of time!

At the meeting

As the students arrive, serve them a special April Fools snack!

April Fools Agenda

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Please help us to be willing and active believers. Please do not let our hearts be hardened, but instead open our hearts to receive Your truth. Rip away any veil that covers our hearts, any false teaching that confuses our minds. Help us to hear your Word with power and conviction as the Word of God and not the word of man. Give us understanding, so that the enemy will not be able to steal Your Word from our hearts. Amen.

Announcements: (Announce upcoming youth group activities or any other announcements you have for the group)

What is April Fools?:

What the Bible Says:

Psalms 14:1 “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” Their deeds are loathsome and corrupt; not one does what is good.”

Proverbs 10:21 “The lips of the just nourish many, but fools die for want of sense.”

Proverbs 18:2,6 “Fools take no delight in understanding, but only in displaying what they think.” “The lips of fools walk into a fight, and their mouths are asking for a beating.”

What History.com says:

On this day in 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools’ Day by playing practical jokes on each other.

Although the day, also called All Fools’ Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that April Fools’ Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes. These included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as “poisson d’avril” (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

Historians have also linked April Fools’ Day to ancient festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises. There’s also speculation that April Fools’ Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

April Fools’ Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with “hunting the gowk,” in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people’s derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or “kick me” signs on them.

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools’ Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and Web sites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences.

April Fools Trivia:

Divide the group into teams and have them compete against each other. You can do this like a gameshow or relay. I have game buzzers I found on Amazon, but you could have them raise their hands, make a noise, or put an Easter egg between the contestants and whoever grabs first can answer.

1. How many Easters have fallen on April 1st since 1700?

- A. 9
- B. 10
- C. 11
- D. 12

2. When is Easter due to fall on Easter again?

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2029

3. What popular gag item did Samuel Sorenson Adams invent in the 1940's?

- A. Ear Plugs
- B. Nose Wiper
- C. Whoopee Cushion
- D. Pencil Sharpener

4. In what country did Pope Gregory 13th change the beginning of the new year from April 1st to January 1st in 1582?

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. France
- D. Poland

5. What popular magazine featured a false article on April 1, 1985 called "The Curious Case of Sidd Finch" which told the tale of a young man who could throw a baseball 168 mph.

- A. American Sniper
- B. Cosmopolitan
- C. Sports Illustrated
- D. Daily Journal

6. As a prank in 2009, where did Expedia say travelers could go for only \$99?

- A. The moon
- B. Chicago
- C. Mars
- D. Cincinnati, Ohio

7. What book written in 1392 was the first to link April Fools Day to jokes and pranks?

- A. April Fools Day
- B. Fools Rush In
- C. Canterbury Tales
- D. Pinocchio

8. According to tradition, what time are April Fools pranks supposed to end in all countries except the US?

- A. Midnight
- B. 10 a.m.
- C. Noon
- D. 10 p.m.

9. On April 1, 1957, a BBC program "Panorama" featured a report of Swiss harvesting what from trees?

- A. Fruit
- B. Nuts
- C. Spaghetti
- D. Leaves

10. What famous food chain announced on April 1, 1996, that it was purchasing the Liberty Bell to help with the national debt and would rename it the Taco Liberty Bell?

- A. KFC
- B. McDonalds
- C. Taco Bell
- D. Steak and Shake

11. Google in 2013 unveiled a prank named what and called "the next scentsation in search" because one could search aromas and sniff them, through his/her computer.

- A. Google Eyes
- B. Google Ears
- C. Google Nose
- D. Google Toes

12. What broadcasting company put out a video of the newly discovered flying penguin species from April 1, 2010, and interviewed a professor claiming to have developed smell-o-vision in 1965?

- A. NBC
- B. CBS
- C. BBC
- D. ABC

13. In Scotland, April Fool's Day is often called "Hunt the Gowk Day". What is a Gowk?

- A. A wild pig
- B. A witch
- C. A bird
- D. A fairy

14. "April, April, you stupid herring, I can fool you to wherever I want." In which country would the joker recite this to their victim?

- A. Mexico
- B. France
- C. Sweden
- D. Canada

15. What long-lived soap opera made its debut on the first of April 1963?

- A. The Days of Our Lives
- B. Coronation Street
- C. General Hospital
- D. The Young and the Restless

16. The French often stick cutout of what kind of creature onto people's backs on April 1st?
- A. Goats
 - B. Monkeys
 - C. Fish
 - D. Pigs
17. Which famous celebrity was shot on April 1st, 1984?
- A. Elvis Presley
 - B. Sam Cooke
 - C. Marvin Gaye
 - D. John Lennon
18. What island was hit by a tsunami on April 1st, 1946?
- A. Madagascar
 - B. Sicily
 - C. Hawaii
 - D. Japan
19. The Iranians celebrate a day of pranks, on or about the First of April. What do they call this day?
- A. Prima Aprils
 - B. Pesce D'Aprile
 - C. Sizdah Bedar
 - D. Maj-Kat
20. A theory by a professor at the University of Wisconsin states that the origin of April Fool's Day goes back to which biblical figure?
- A. Judas
 - B. Moses
 - C. Noah
 - D. Cain
21. Many believe that the origin of April Fools deals with the adoption of which new calendar?
- A. Romanian
 - B. Solar
 - C. Gregorian
 - D. Julian
22. Which handy kitchen appliance went on sale on the first of April, 1889?
- A. Blender
 - B. Percolator
 - C. Dishwasher

Bean Boozled Challenge: This can be played in several ways. We usually have the beans divided into colors with 2 beans in each cup. You can have one cup per student, or pair students up by 2s. For smaller groups it works best for everyone to have their moment to try the jellybean. For bigger groups, you will want to pair up or it will take a while. You know your group, so whatever works best for your group. If you have a lot of jellybeans and time, you can mix it up and play a few different ways.