



Easter

at Home
Made Easy

FAMILYLIFE[®]
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

| A Cru Ministry |



You already know Easter's more than jellybeans, pastels, and mashed potatoes. But if you're like us, Easter sneaks up on you like—well, a rabbit. And perhaps more so than ever, as we're all navigating a worldwide pandemic.

(Maybe you're just trying to make sure you have more than ketchup in the fridge for dinner.)

How can you make the most of celebrating the most meaningful moment in history in history—particularly in dark, scary times?

It's easier than you think.

Just for you, we've created these materials to help you celebrate Easter meaningfully together as a family, even if Church isn't an option this year:

- Nine Ways to Create a Meaningful Easter
- You-can-totally-do-this ideas to hold your own Easter family worship service
- An activity book to use alongside our Resurrection Eggs®
- An Easter Countdown paper chain, with simple on-the-spot activities and discussions for kids
- Holy Week guided journaling pages for you, to truly celebrate from the inside out

This year, don't let Easter stay hidden. Open up the Resurrection for your family.

Feel free to use this however works best for you. Throughout the download there are links to help you dig deeper into other resources. And some places in the download will work best if you print the activity pages. Do what your family needs to get the most out of it!



9 WAYS TO

CREATE A MEANINGFUL EASTER

Rediscover the beauty of this important holiday.

BY JULIA DESCARPENTRIE

Easter is such a powerful and holy season. But it is quickly being overshadowed by an overgrown rabbit, and its real meaning is often lost on over-sugared children. Even many adults are unsure as to why we celebrate Easter. Discover (or rediscover) the beauty of this pivotal event in the relationship between God and man with these ideas for creating a more meaningful Easter:

1. If you are unfamiliar with why Easter is celebrated, read the account of Jesus' death and resurrection in Luke 23-24:7.
2. Rediscover why you celebrate Easter. Pull yourself away from the plastic eggs, fluffy bunnies, and chicks. Spend some time remembering what God has done for you to cure "[Easter apathy](#)."
3. Open up Easter for your kids with FamilyLife's [Resurrection Eggs](#)[®]. Each set of 12 colorful plastic eggs contains objects that illustrate the true story of Easter. Hide the Resurrection Eggs along with plastic eggs that are filled with candy. After all of the eggs are found, open them together. Using the Resurrection Eggs, explain the miracle of Christ's resurrection while the children munch on Easter treats.
4. If your kids have Easter baskets, try and keep the focus off of the "stuff." How about a new children's devotional or book? Include a bookmark with a Scripture about a character trait that you would like for them to grow in this year, or include a cross necklace if you have a daughter. Explain the significance of the cross. Kids love Scripture set to music, such as the Seeds of Faith, Seeds of Courage, or Seeds of Praise DVDs.

5. Make Resurrection Rolls, talking together about why the rolls... Be sure to include an explanation on why the rolls are “empty” (to signify the empty tomb—Christ is risen!).
6. Encourage your kids to put together a play about what happened during Holy Week.
7. The film, *JESUS*, is the account of Jesus’ life based on the Gospel of Luke. It has been translated into over 100 languages and is a great gift to co-workers or neighbors whose native language is not English. Purchase the English children’s version to share with your family. *The Gospel of John* movie, available to watch on YouTube, is also a great option—or *The Ten Commandments*, for families who’d like to find Easter parallels with the Passover together.
8. Introduce your children to the concept of dying to selfish desires to train them to focus on God and deepen their relationship with Him. You may want to fast, as a family, from food or from something that you all enjoy doing. For example, replace dessert with a time of family prayer, go without TV for a weekend, sing praises together instead of plugging in an iPod, etc.
9. Celebrate Passover (Deuteronomy 16:1-8) and the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30) with a traditional Passover Seder (a Jewish ritual feast marking the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover). What a meaningful way to teach your children that Christ is our sacrificial Lamb in fulfillment of Scripture.

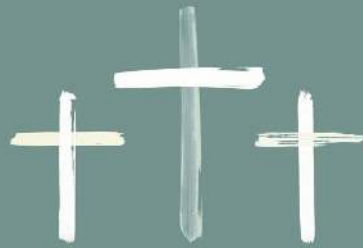
Spring is a time of new life and awakening. Encourage your family in a spiritual awakening!

DOWNLOAD

your **FREE** activity book
to use alongside our
Resurrection Eggs®

DOWNLOAD NOW





Jesus is alive

AT-HOME

EASTER SERVICE (FOR REAL FAMILIES)

in 7 Easy Steps

BY JANEL BREITENSTEIN

We know. The whole idea of your family having its own Easter service can feel straight up weird and even sad. You're away from the traditions and people that make Easter feel like something worth celebrating.

Holding a family worship time might even carry some...objections for regular, messy families who are just trying to, say, get their kids to wear underwear or eat with a spoon.

Maybe you'd say, "Um, you would never want me to preach."

"Have you heard me sing? I sound like a dying cow. In labor. Scratching her hooves on a chalkboard."

"My kids do more fighting than paying attention."

But here we are. Church is literally closed. People are hunting for hope like that Easter egg you know you hid somewhere last year.

And we need the promise of resurrection, of God's victory, now more than ever.

With minimal prep, this Easter can still be meaningful, memorable. Even though it'll look like church in your living room instead of smart-looking pastels for your church's sunrise service.

1. A FEW DAYS BEFORE, ASK YOUR KIDS TO PREPARE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THE FAMILY.

First Corinthians puts it this way: “When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up” (14:26).

So ask your kids to come with their own part of the service. Give a few ideas, based on their gifts and interests.

- Could your son lead a song he likes?
- Could your preschooler bring an Easter board book?
- Could your teen give a few insights about the Scripture passage, or lead you all in prayer?
- Could your daughter read the Bible verses?
- Could each of you talk about something God’s showing you about Easter or Jesus’ journey to the Cross?
- Could your kids draw a picture about the real, first Easter, and show it during worship time?

2. DECIDE ON A FEW SONGS TO SING ABOUT THE RESURRECTION.

Maybe the idea of leading singing feels kind of like that dream of arriving in the carpool line in your undies. But you’ve got this, m’kay?

Find a YouTube video with lyrics, or download the song to play (you can read lyrics on your phones). Start with songs that are upbeat.

Allow kids to dance, play instruments, make up actions, or whatever expresses their delight about Easter--whatever helps make their noise more joyful toward Jesus.

Need some fresh-as-green-grass song ideas?

- *When Death Was Arrested*
- *Lion and the Lamb*
- *For the Cross*
- *Your Love Awakens Me*
- *Glorious Day*
- *God is Able*
- *Exalted over All*
- *O Praise the Name (Anástasis)*

Old-school, Easter-classic song ideas:

- *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*
- *Up from the Grave He Arose*
- *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

3. SELECT YOUR WARM-UP(S) TO THE BIBLE READING.

First Corinthians puts it this way: “When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up” (14:26).

So ask your kids to come with their own part of the service. Give a few ideas, based on their gifts and interests.

- Providing it’s in line with your church’s convictions, **Grab crackers (or bread) and juice** for your own family Lord’s Supper/Communion. (Read from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.)
- **YouTube** has a number of biblically-based videos to pick from and watch together. Searching using “resurrection Easter kids”.
- Spend 30 seconds in silent prayer where you **allow God to talk to your hearts about what you need to repent** (“say sorry to God and each other”) for (see Matthew 5:24).
- Pass out **markers and paper** for kids to draw what they’ll be hearing: a comic strip, a poster for their bedroom, or some Scripture art.
- If you’re reading the Resurrection story, perhaps have kids close their eyes. Ask questions using the **five senses** and **emotion**.
 - What might the women’s spices have smelled like?
 - What could they have heard or felt at sunrise?
 - What do you imagine they felt when the tomb was open, or saw the angels?
- Using **lemon juice or milk on Q-Tips**, have kids write a verse in “invisible ink” on paper. When the paper is held up to a heat source (like a light bulb—careful!), the verse reveals itself. After Jesus rose to life, Jesus’ words and a lot of Scriptures became a lot clearer!
- Let kids **act out what they hear** in the Bible story. If you want, have a few scarves or other props ready for instant pizzazz.
- Maybe this is the time when your **kids offer their unique part of the service** from step #1.

4. PICK A PASSAGE.

- John 24:1-29; Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:15: Pick a resurrection account. Smaller kids may need a storybook-Bible version.
- Luke 24:13-35: The Road to Emmaus
- 1 Corinthians 15: Paul talks about the importance of the Resurrection (Good for older kids.)

5. ASK GOOD QUESTIONS

With younger kids, feel free to keep this simple and short!

- What are these verses saying, in your words?
- What verse sticks out to you? Why?
- What does this tell us about God, and what He wants us to know about Himself? About what's true? About what we should do as we follow God?
- Why does this matter? What's it look like in our own lives? (Tip: Jesus rising means God wins over our most powerful enemy--death. That means all the things we're scared about, all the things that could be powerful? God has control over all of that. Try applying this to COVID-19 right now!)
- What does this make you love about God? What are you thankful for?

6. PRAY TOGETHER.

Keep it real and worshipful. One of your kids can do this part, too.

7. FINISH WITH ONE MORE CELEBRATION SONG.

And just like that, you've got this.

We promise you this will not go perfectly. Someone's attitude will likely be in the ditch (it might even be yours). Chances are someone will be obnoxious. Or maybe someone will break wind.

The heart of your Easter service isn't for this to go off without a hitch, or to perform well enough for a Jesus-y Hallmark movie. As you plan, simply ask Him that He would be worshiped and adored from the heart by your family.

Remember: He was born in a stable. He chooses to be right here, where your kids keep asking, "When do we get chocolate?" His holiness purposefully collides with our humanity.

And He loves the wholehearted worship of your family every day of the year.

DOWNLOAD

your **FREE** activity book
to use alongside our
Resurrection Eggs®

DOWNLOAD NOW





Easter

PAPER CHAIN & ACTIVITIES COUNTDOWN

Have your kids make a 14-day paperchain to countdown to Easter. This download (on pages 11-15) will give you an easy activity to do with your child when you remove each day's link!

Some of the day's links have videos to watch together. For quick access, keep this page virtually handy to watch the videos recommended below.

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS

WEDNESDAY

- Watch [the Passover from The Prince of Egypt here](#), (may be scary for small children).

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- Watch [this short video for kids about the Last Supper](#).

EASTER SUNDAY

- Watch [this short video for kids about the very first Easter](#).

MONDAY

This Sunday, we'll celebrate "Palm Sunday"—a day when people had a parade for Jesus because they wanted Him to be king.

Today, trace around your hand, and then flip the drawing so the outline of your fingers points to your tummy. Make a donkey out of your handprint: Your thumb is the donkey's head, and your fingers are its legs (don't forget the tail!).

As you color, your parent can read Zechariah 9:9. This was a prophecy about Jesus told around 550 years before the parade: That Jesus would come in on a donkey!

MONDAY

TUESDAY

When Jesus died, soldiers made a crown for Him, to make fun of Him being the "King of the Jews"—only they made it out of thorns that really hurt. Try making a crown of thorns out of a paper plate with the inside circle cut out. Color or paint it brown.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Jesus died on a Jewish holiday called Passover. They celebrated another time God saved them!

Together watch [the Passover from The Prince of Egypt here](#), (may be scary for small children).

Why did the Israelites put a lamb's blood on their doors? Read what John the Baptist calls Jesus in John 1:29 and what Jesus says about Himself in John 10:9. The Israelites were slaves. Without Jesus, what are we slaves to? (Sin.)

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Next Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. That's when Jesus had His last dinner with His disciples.

During that meal, He did something funny: He washed His disciples' dirty, stinky feet! He was showing them that even though He was God, He would serve them. He considered Himself below them.

Today, I want to wash your feet to remind us that, like Jesus, we serve each other. We treat others as more important.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Today, if you have seeds somewhere in your house, plant one in some dirt you've put in an eggshell. Seeds remind us that even though they're buried and we can't see them, they make new life!

Who else can you think of that brought new life after they were buried? (Jesus!)

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Next Saturday, we will remember the day Jesus was buried.

When Jewish kids eat their Passover dinner—like Jesus did a long time ago—they play a game where an adult hides a cracker folded in a cloth napkin. It's a game to find something "buried."

Do you think you can find the cracker in the napkin if I hide it?

SATURDAY

PALM SUNDAY

Read Matthew 21:1-11 together.

Lay out your jackets, and take turns walking across them.

Why do you think people put their coats down for Jesus? Why were they excited? (They wanted Jesus to be their King. They were tired and angry of the Romans being in charge.)

PALM SUNDAY

MONDAY

Do you think it's ever good to be angry?

On the Monday before Easter, Jesus went into the Temple and got REALLY ANGRY.

Read what happened in Matthew 21:12-16.

Why was Jesus so angry? (People were cheating in God's house, and costing the poor a lot of money to buy animals to worship. That's like stealing from people who come to worship God!) What things are okay to be angry about? (When someone is hurt by someone else, etc.) The Pharisees were angry, too. Why were they angry? (They didn't want people thinking Jesus was God and praising Him.)

MONDAY

TUESDAY

PARENTS: Using a white crayon or pencil on a black piece of paper, draw a cross 1-2 inches thick and about 8 inches tall.

Grab a box of toothpicks, and let kids glue toothpicks into the shape of the cross, covering it. Ask kids, "Do you think Jesus knew He would die on a cross?"

Read Mark 9:30-32 together to find out.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY	<p>On the Wednesday before the first Easter, Jesus had dinner at the house of a man He'd healed from leprosy, called Simon.</p> <p>Read about what happened in Mark 14:1-11.</p> <p>What would that house have smelled like? Why was Judas angry, and what did he do?</p>	WEDNESDAY
MAUNDY THURSDAY	<p>The Thursday before the first Easter was the day Jesus had His last meal with His disciples and was arrested.</p> <p>Together, watch this short video for kids about the Last Supper.</p>	MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY	<p>The Friday before Easter was the saddest day in all of time: Jesus, God's Son, died on a Cross.</p> <p>Why was this the best and the worst day ever?</p> <p>Wear something black today and tomorrow to remind you these are sad days, because Jesus needed to die for our sins.</p>	GOOD FRIDAY

SATURDAY

What's one time where you had to trust God about something that made you afraid?

On the Saturday before Easter, Jesus' friends and disciples didn't know He was going to rise again. They thought He was just ... dead. They didn't know they were waiting. They just had to trust God with all their questions.

Today, decide on something good you will skip—like a snack, or dessert, or something with sugar in it—so you can remember what it was like for the disciples to wait. What will you skip?

SATURDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

It's PARTY DAY! Jesus is ALIVE!!

Together, [watch this short video](#) for kids about the very first Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY

ACTIVITY

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

As you prepare yourself and your family for Easter—somewhere in the middle of mashed potatoes and plastic eggs—we've created these interactive journaling pages to help you get your heart ready, too.

When John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he did this through calling people to repentance (Matthew 3:1-3).

We'll lead you through questions to ready your heart for Easter from the inside out.



TUESDAY

On Monday or Tuesday of Holy Week, there were two very different displays of anger in the Temple. Read about them in Matthew 21:12-16.

What was the motivation behind Jesus' anger?

TIP: *Being sold in this part of the temple were animals, incense, oil, wine, and other necessities for sacrificing in the temple, as well as money exchange so people could pay the temple tribute in the proper coins. The rates of both businesses were exorbitant, which was particularly tough on the poor.*

What lay beneath the Pharisees' indignance?

What do James 1:19-20 and 4:1-12 expose about human anger?

What typically makes you angry? What's made you angry in the last week? What do these tell you about what's going on within you?

Good Friday is about God laying aside His just anger toward our sin. How do you sense Him leading you to lay aside yours?

THURSDAY

The Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus ate His last meal with His disciples before His death—the Passover. The feast commemorated the night God pulled His people from Egypt, saving their firstborns from the horrors of the 10th plague.

Read John 1:29, 10:9. How do these names of Jesus draw connections to the first Passover? What other connections do you see between the first Passover and what Jesus would do over the next 24 hours?

God would at last rescue His people from 400 years of slavery. But it wouldn't be long before they were pining to go back! (Check out Numbers 11:4-6.)

What's one way you tend to minimize or idealize the "slavery" of a pet sin of yours?

How do you sense God asking you to respond, practically speaking, to His offer of freedom (John 8:36)? What does it look like to reject this slavery?

Ask God to open your eyes to how this sin truly affects those around you.
