



## CELEBRATING EASTER



### a family guide



## **Let's explore the Easter story together!**

**Whether you're new to Jesus or already a believer, this booklet will help your family understand what Christians believe about Easter and why it matters.**

**Easter is a central Christian celebration that tells a story of love, sacrifice, forgiveness, and hope. You don't need all the answers to use this guide.**

**Each section includes a short Bible passage, a simple explanation, and an activity to spark conversation.**

## **WHAT IS EASTER?**

**Easter is the story of Jesus' death on a cross and His resurrection—coming back to life—three days later. Christians believe this changes everything.**

**Jesus lived a perfect life, taught about God's love, and cared for people. Though He did nothing wrong, He was killed.**

**Jesus took the punishment for our sins and willingly went to the cross on our behalf. He gave His life and rose again to fulfill God's plan.**

**Easter is about hope, new life, and being made new through a personal relationship with Jesus.**



## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word gospel means “good news.”  
It is the heart of the Christian faith.

The **gospel** tells us:

God created people to know Him.  
Sin separates people from God.  
Jesus came to bring us back to God.  
Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, forgiveness  
and new life are offered.  
This gift is received through faith, not earned.

Simply put, the gospel is the story of  
God’s love shown through Jesus.

## WHAT IS A BELIEVER?

A believer is someone who trusts Jesus  
and chooses to follow Him.

**Believers** seek to:

Trust Jesus with their lives  
Learn from His teachings  
Choose love and forgiveness  
Grow in their relationship with God  
Being a believer isn’t about being perfect—it’s about  
saying yes to Jesus and beginning a journey of faith.

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## PALM SUNDAY - JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

**Palm Sunday tells the story of the day Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Large crowds gathered, cheering and waving palm branches. Many people believed Jesus was sent by God and hoped He would bring peace to their lives.**

**Jesus didn't come as a powerful ruler with soldiers. Instead, He came humbly and with love. In Luke 19:41-44, the Bible tells us that as Jesus approached Jerusalem, "he wept over it" because the people did not recognize the peace He came to bring. He said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes." Jesus felt deep sadness for the city, longing for everyone to experience true peace—the peace that comes from a relationship with God. His tears show His love and sorrow when people miss this gift. This moment invites us to ask an important question the crowds asked that day: Who is Jesus?**

**John 12:13**

**So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"**



### DO THIS AT HOME:

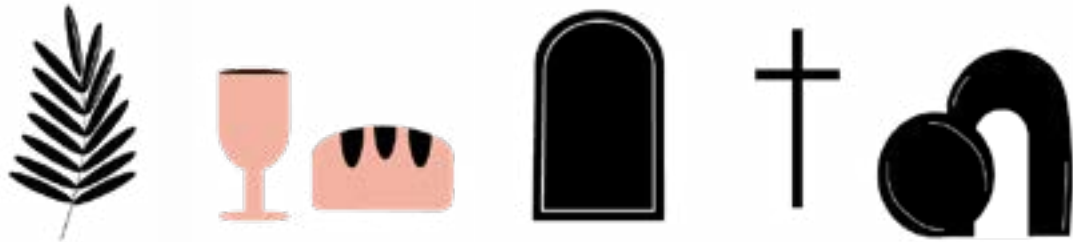
- **Wave paper palm leaves and talk about why crowds might get excited about someone they believe brings hope.**
- **Ask: "What kind of person do you think Jesus was?"**
- **Talk about what peace means to your family and where people look for peace today.**

## THE LAST SUPPER

The night before Jesus died, He shared a special meal with His closest friends. During the meal, He used bread and a cup of wine to help them understand what was about to happen. Jesus explained that His body and blood would be given as part of a new promise between God and His people—a promise of forgiveness, love, and restored relationship. He asked His friends to remember Him whenever they shared this meal together. For Christians today, this meal to remember is called communion. It is a reminder that Jesus chose love and sacrifice, even when it was difficult.

Luke 22:19-20

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” Then he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”



DO THIS AT HOME:

- Ask: “Why do you think remembering someone’s love matters?”
- Draw a picture of people sharing a meal and talk about why eating together is meaningful.

## GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

In Matthew 26:36-38, the Bible tells us that after the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and the Bible says He “began to be sorrowful and troubled.” Then Jesus said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Jesus felt deep fear and sadness about what was coming—His suffering and death on the cross. He was honest with God, asking if there was another way, yet He chose to trust His Father and move forward. This shows Jesus’ real humanity—He experienced emotions like fear and sadness just like we do—but He still obeyed God perfectly. His example reminds us that it’s okay to be honest with God about our feelings, and He understands us completely.

Luke 22:40-42

“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, ‘Pray that you will not give in to temptation.’ He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’”



### DO THIS AT HOME:

- Share something that feels hard or worries you right now.
- Ask: “What helps you when you feel scared or unsure?”
- Sit quietly for a moment and talk about how silence can help us slow down and reflect.

## GOOD FRIDAY - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

**Good Friday remembers the day Jesus was put to death on a cross. Christians believe Jesus chose to go through suffering to fulfill God's plan to reconcile His people to Himself. He took the punishment we deserve for our sins upon Himself because of His deep love for us.**

**Even while He was hurting, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness for those who were hurting Him. This moment is central to the Christian faith because it shows a powerful kind of love—love that forgives, even when it's undeserved.**

**Christians believe Jesus' death opened the way for forgiveness and healing in our relationship with God and with others.**

### Luke 23:34

**“Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided his clothes by casting lots.”**



### DO THIS AT HOME:

- **Write or draw a kind note for someone as a way to practice love.**
- **Ask: “Why do you think forgiveness is powerful?”**
- **Pray together a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus' sacrifice.**

## EASTER SUNDAY - JESUS RISES!

Easter Sunday celebrates the fact that Jesus did not stay dead. The Bible says His tomb was empty and that He rose from the dead.

For Christians, this is the most important part of the story. Jesus' resurrection means that death does not have the final word and that hope is stronger than fear, because God has conquered even death. It shows that God brings new life, even after the darkest moments because by believing in Jesus' life, death and resurrection, our eternity with Him is secured.

Easter is a celebration of hope, new beginnings, and the promise that love lasts forever.

Luke 24:6-7

“He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day rise?”



### DO THIS AT HOME:

- Celebrate together with a small treat or activity, while remembering Jesus is alive.
- Ask: “What does it mean that Jesus is alive?”
- Draw a picture of an empty tomb and write a thank-you prayer to Jesus for loving us.

**“This story invites each of us to keep asking questions, learning, and discovering who Jesus is and why His story has mattered to people for over 2,000 years.”**  
**Take time to explore what following Jesus looks like in your family this year.**



here for  
your family