

Easter

Bright
Sparks

I G N I T E

DNA

Introduction

- ▶ In this session we are going to be thinking about Easter - from The Last Supper to Easter Sunday.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ This session has more activities than normal, so you may not want to do them all at once, or just have a longer time than normal.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE
HELPED YOU?

Game - Egg and Spoon Race



- ▶ Get an egg and spoon and have a race!
- ▶ Due to the scarcity of eggs at present, it is highly recommended to use an alternative such as a small ball.
- ▶ Set up a course appropriate for your house/garden.
- ▶ As an alternative you could try passing an egg between you - either each hold a spoon in your hand or, to make it harder, hold the spoon in your mouth.

Bible Story

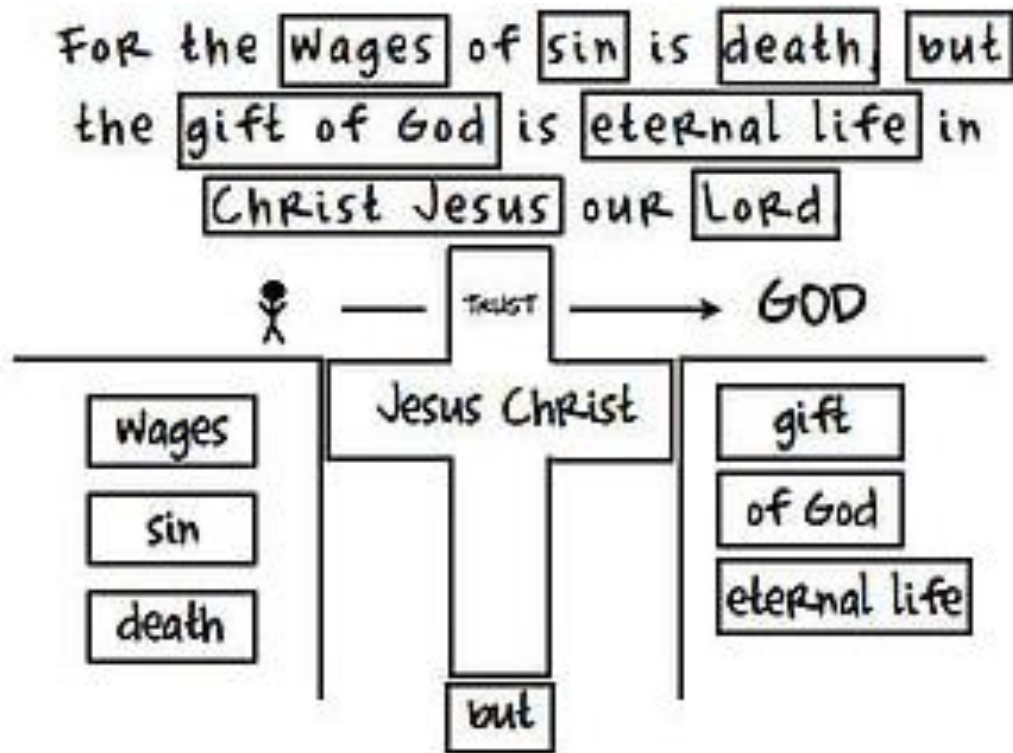
- ▶ The Bible story today is shown in the videos found on the church webpage.
- ▶ There are three choices (or watch them all):
 - ▶ The first is suitable for younger viewers and uses simple language. It is a retelling of the Easter story acted out by children.
 - ▶ The second is a cartoon version of the Easter story.
 - ▶ The third is a Lego version of the story with subtitles. You may want to get someone to read out the subtitles as you watch.

Bible Story - what can you remember?

- ▶ Get some strips of paper and some pens.
- ▶ On each strip of paper write or draw a part of the Easter story that you can remember from the video(s) you watched.
- ▶ Tape or glue each strips of paper into a circle and make them into a paper chain.
- ▶ If possible, try and put the strips of paper in the order of the events in the story.



Jesus died and rose again - so what?



- ▶ The Easter story shows us just how much God loves us. He sent His son Jesus to die for us so that we could be His friend.
- ▶ Look at the illustration on the left. People and God are separated because of the things we do wrong, but Jesus is the bridge for us: if we believe and trust in Him then we can have eternal life.
- ▶ There is a more detailed explanation on the next page.

The Bridge Illustration (more detail)

- ▶ When we go against God (sin), we upset Him and we cause there to be a gap between us - just like in the illustration on the previous page.
- ▶ If we always keep this gap between us and God, then one day it will become permanent - and that's called death. The thought of this makes God really sad. So God decided to make it possible for there not to be a gap anymore.
- ▶ God knows that we can't ever make up for all the wrong things we've done and close that gap ourselves. He sent Jesus to Earth to die, so we don't have to be separated from God. On Good Friday, we remember that Jesus died on the cross. The cross makes a bridge between us and God.
- ▶ That's not the end of the story, though: Jesus didn't stay dead! On Easter Sunday, we remember that He came back to life - we call this the resurrection. Jesus wasn't separated from His Father forever and that means that, if we choose to follow Jesus, we can't be separated from our Father God forever either - we can run across the bridge!

My sins are forgiven

- ▶ Make a cross out of Lego, sticks, knitting needles (or whatever you have around your home).
- ▶ On pieces of paper, write down things you have done wrong. The things we do wrong and don't please God are called sins.
- ▶ Screw up the pieces of paper into a ball and put them on/by the cross. Say sorry to God for the things you've done wrong.
- ▶ Read the words of Psalm 103:8-12

⁸ The LORD is merciful!
He is kind and patient,
and his love never fails.

⁹ The LORD won't always be angry
and point out our sins;
¹⁰ he doesn't punish us
as our sins deserve.

¹¹ How great is God's love for all
who worship him?
Greater than the distance
between heaven and earth!

¹² How far has the LORD taken
our sins from us?
Farther than the distance
from east to west!

- ▶ God promises to forgive our sins. Take the pieces of paper and throw them as far as you can across the room.



Cross Craft

- There are a few options below on how to make a cross. Make a cross and write the words “He is risen” on or around it.

Option 1:

- Get a piece of card and some masking tape. Make a big cross in the middle of the paper with the masking tape. Colour in the rest of the paper with lots of different bright colours. Pull off the masking tape and you are left with a cross outline in the middle.

Option 2:

- Get some baking paper and pens. Use a black pen to draw an outline of a cross then decorate the middle of the cross with bright colours. You might need to test your pens/colouring pencils to see which ones work best on the baking paper.

Option 3:

- Get a piece of black card and cut out a cross outline. Stick tissue paper in the cross to make a stained glass effect.

An Easter Prayer

Today we will say a prayer together and use actions for each line. Get one person to read each line in turn and then everyone does the action (in brackets) and repeats the line of the prayer. You may want to read the whole prayer through a number of times as you get used to the actions. When saying the lines of the prayer think who “Love” is.

- ▶ Dear Heavenly Father (Hold your hands out palms upwards in front of you)
- ▶ I celebrate your Love that came down into a manger (hold arms as if cradling a baby)
- ▶ Love came down from heaven (stretch up tall and then bend down and touch the ground)
- ▶ Love lived among us (hold hands with others in a circle)
- ▶ Love expressed compassion (cross your arms across your chest with your hands on your shoulders)
- ▶ Love provided healing (arms up in a strongman pose)
- ▶ Love revealed truth (place one hand palm up and place the other hand on top at right angles as if chopping into the bottom hand)
- ▶ Love gave wisdom (point to your head)
- ▶ Love suffered and died for our sins (hold your arms out to the side like on a cross then bow your head)
- ▶ Love was raised on the third day (crouch down and then jump up)
- ▶ And Love reigns in my heart (point to your heart)
- ▶ Today I celebrate that Love (wave your arms in the air)
- ▶ Amen (put your hands together)

The words (not the actions) of this prayer are by Beth McLendon of Inspirational-prayers.com

Memory Verse

- ▶ Write the following verse on a piece of paper

He is not here: he is risen! Luke 24:6

- ▶ Get a shoebox/Tupperware box/empty ice cream tub - this is to represent the tomb Jesus was buried in.
- ▶ Put the box on its side and move the lid so it is half off - this is to represent the stone in front of the tomb being rolled away.
- ▶ Put the verse inside the box and place the box somewhere to remind you that Jesus didn't stay dead but that He came alive again.
- ▶ If you want to, maybe decorate the box so it looks more like a tomb and stone rather than a box and lid!

Stop Press!

- ▶ Create a newspaper/magazine of the events of Easter.
- ▶ You will need to work together as a family and choose who does which part.
- ▶ Some ideas:
 - ▶ Eyewitness account from someone who was there
 - ▶ Food critic column of the Last Supper
 - ▶ Pictures of what happened
 - ▶ Article about how Jesus' death and resurrection was foretold (in the OT and by Jesus)
 - ▶ A list of all the people who were there and what their role was
 - ▶ A timeline of events.



Reflection

- ▶ What is the best part of the Easter story?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ Have you thanked Jesus for coming to Earth, dying and being resurrected for you? Do you want to be His friend?
- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you, God for our time together learning about the Easter story . Thank you, Jesus for dying for us, taking away all the bad stuff we do and allowing us eternal life. Thank you for loving us and looking after us. AMEN!

Something extra:

See the next page.....



Celebration - Let's Party!

- ▶ Easter is a time for celebration and remembering the amazing love and sacrifice of Jesus.
- ▶ Normally you might visit friends or family for Easter and that isn't possible this year, but it doesn't mean you can't celebrate.
- ▶ Decorate your house for a party - maybe put up balloons, hang the paper chains you made, stick the cross craft in the window so the light shines through it, make "Happy Easter" banners.
- ▶ Have a party - put on some music and dance, eat some chocolate or other treats, watch a film or play a board game.
- ▶ Don't forget you can share the celebration of Easter with others who don't live in your house - maybe put a Happy Easter banner on your front door, maybe call a friend or family member and wish them a happy Easter.