

# faith at home

Weekly Resources for Schools

**PHASE: PRIMARY**

**THEME: Easter**



## KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

***Easter is a central festival in Christian faith. It is a time when Christians remember and celebrate their belief in Jesus' death, resurrection and the salvation this offered – the forgiveness and love of God, the deliverance from sin and its consequences, the restoring of the relationship between God and humankind. This remembering takes place in different ways around the world, ranging from hot-cross buns to kite flying to re-enactments. Each, in their own way, help Christians to reflect deeply on the 'Easter story' events the Bible describes.***

***What do you think is the most important aspect of the Easter story? What does the Easter story make you think about? Does it challenge you to reflect on how you live your life?***

## BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:



**‘For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life’.**

**John 3:16 (Good News Translation)**

## Gathering

Look closely at the images below; each shows something different Christians around the world create and use to think about Easter. I wonder...

...which ones do you recognise?

...what shapes and symbols stand out to you?

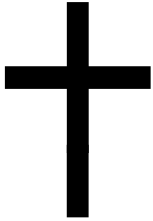
...how each item might link to a belief Christians have about Easter?



## Engagement

Watch the video overviewing the story and themes of Easter from 2:16 to end:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6kmDligfKU>.



Easter, a festival celebrated every year, is very important for Christians. It is a time of year when they **remember** Jesus' death on the cross and **celebrate** his coming back to life three days later (known as the resurrection). A key Christian belief is that, because God loves us so much, Jesus took the punishment for all the bad choices we have made. When Jesus resurrected three days later, it confirmed that God truly had forgiven people for their bad choices. Many Christians believe that they can also have a new life with God, one where they know they are loved and forgiven. There is a famous bible quote which captures this belief: *'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life' (John 3:16).*



At Easter, Christians **remember** and **celebrate** Jesus giving his life to save the world. Christians all around the world do this in different ways, including:

- Painting hard-boiled eggs. Eggs are a sign of new life, helping Christians to think about Jesus' resurrection;
- Eating hot-cross buns. The yeast in them *rises* to create a delicious treat which has the sign of Jesus' cross on it. The spices in the mixture (such as cinnamon and nutmeg) represent the spices used to embalm Jesus at his burial;
- At many Easter services around the world, flowers are placed on an empty cross to symbolise new life;
- In Guyana and Bermuda, Easter kite festivals take place. The flying of the kites in the air represent Jesus' resurrection and God's forgiveness, which gives freedom from sin; and
- Re-enacting the Easter story. The picture you can see is from the Philippines in Asia, but they happen all over the world.

I wonder if you know any other ways that Christians **remember/celebrate** Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter?

## Response

*'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life' (John 3:16).*



I wonder which words or phrases stand out to you the most in this verse?

In your opinion, which of the images do you think best captures this bible verse the most?

I wonder what the Easter story makes you think about?

How important is forgiveness to you?

As a class, you might like to listen and reflect on the words of an Easter song:

'Celebrate Easter' by Out of the Ark Music  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovUPYyJ22PY>)

'Sign your cross' by Nick and Becky Drake  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=MWiP6jEUI8Y>)

'Lord of the Dance'  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0neq\\_axOslk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0neq_axOslk))



## Sending

Dear God,  
Thank you for Easter  
Thank you for giving your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins  
Help us to remember and celebrate your love and forgiveness this Easter  
And help us to live in the new life you offer  
Amen

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)*

### EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Listen to 'Blinded by your Grace Pt.2' by Stormzy  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR6pp9jttou>).

*What does this song make you think about? How does it make you feel?*

*How does this song link to Christian beliefs and Easter?*

*Which lines stand out to you the most? Do they link to your own experiences/beliefs?*



### Creative prayer ideas

These creative prayer ideas from Prayer Spaces in Schools prompt reflection on a number of themes from the Easter story.

The Cross – Sorry: a reflective idea using stones, chalk and water (<https://tinyurl.com/yx3zb2px>)

Resurrection – Hope: a reflecting idea using coloured ribbon or wool (<https://tinyurl.com/2t6ntm5x>)

Hopeful Hopscotch (<https://tinyurl.com/hkyub9ma>). Create an Easter themed hopscotch pattern outside using chalk. What images or words would you include on each 'square'? Can you link them all to Easter (e.g. forgiveness, love, new life, stone rolled away)?

## ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

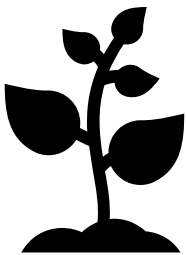
### Examen

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to reflect on forgiveness. It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for times which you have been forgiven for a wrong choice you made
2. ASK FOR HELP to forgive others when they have made a bad choice and have said sorry
3. REFLECT on your day and think about the times where forgiveness made a positive difference 😊 and where a lack of forgiveness didn't 😞
4. SAY SORRY for the times you have not forgiven others when you know you should have
5. DECIDE how you will be mindful of forgiveness tomorrow

To discover more about using the Ignatian Examen with children, listen to this [podcast](#).

### New life at Spring



Why not try this reflective outdoor idea suggestion from Becky May?

(<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3673/pause-for-thought-new-life>)

Spring is a time for new life. Look out for signs of new life you see – this may include plants growing, birds nesting, ducklings and lambs. When you see signs of new life, reflect on the Easter story and its themes of love, forgiveness and new life. If you'd like to, you might like to thank God for these things.

## CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES



To what extent do you agree with this quote?

What do you think is the deepest meaning of Easter?

How important is Easter to you?

'The messages of God's love and forgiveness are needed more than ever this year'. Do you think this is true?

Are you doing anything to remember or celebrate Easter this year?

### INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

### INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

### INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?