

Family Devotional Ages 2 – 5 years

Expanding your family's spiritual journey beyond the walls of the church building

He Is Risen!!!

Jesus wins! This may be the easiest way to explain the horror and the triumph of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior to our little ones. At this moment in history, knowing Jesus and drawing near to God is more critical than ever. As you celebrate this unique Easter with your family, consider the importance of emphasizing victory over trouble, poverty, illness, pain, loss, lies, betrayal and ultimately, death. You can help your child understand the significance of Jesus' humble sacrifice by **asking** them to tell you about the worries they have. What troubles them? Is it the loss of time with friends and family? The change in routines, or the level of resources like food and amenities? Is there a sense of overall grief or unrest in you as their parent that is troubling them? If it's the latter, they probably can't put it into words any better than you can, but you can listen and reassure them. Those of us who have chosen the benefit of a personal relationship with Jesus, the *risen* Christ, have a hope that transcends all adversity. As you read the passages below, talk about what it means to have Jesus not only overcome the worst thing that could happen to us – death as punishment for our sin – but why his humble act brings us an everlasting life without trouble. Do they want it? Do you? When we join Team Jesus, we win! Even in times of uncertainty. As you explore this with your family, please remember, you are planting seeds and fostering a legacy, so your child can achieve a deeper friendship with God. Progressive revelation comes with the passing of time and experience. Their journey is enhanced by this historical time. Their destination, by free will, is their choice, but God holds them close and loves them always. Your job is to equip them by sharing the truth, beauty, hope and promise of who God is and what he has to offer. The Bible is our trail map, and He is the Master Guide. Be sure to spend time talking to Him in prayer as a family. Celebrate the true gift of his sacrifice and take heart. He is risen indeed!

TIP: The Beginner's Bible and YouVersion, both have engaging pictures and words to share the Easter Story and can be found online.

Bible Focus: Death and Life • Matthew 27 & 28; Mark 15 & 16; Luke 23 & 24; John 19 & 20

Bible Focus for Parents: Overcoming Trouble • Jesus Speaks of Victory • John 16:22-33

Bible Focus: The Lord's Prayer • Jesus Teaches Us How To Pray • Matthew 6:5-13 & Luke 11:2-4

Memory Verse

"I am always with you."

Matthew 28:20

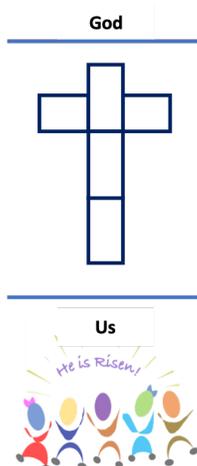


Basic Truth

God loves you!

Meaningful Application Activity to Support God's Word

Real Time



Grab two towels, or some painter's tape and 7 large pieces of paper (bigger paper, like legal size is best, but any size will do). Write "God" on one piece of paper and "Us" on another. Using the diagram at left, arrange the paper to create a cross on the floor. The towels or tape need to create two parallel lines eight to ten feet apart. There should be plenty of room for everyone to line up behind one of the lines/towels. The lines will represent the edges of a deep canyon. Then you will have the children use the cross like a bridge to walk across to the other side of the canyon to be with God. Have the children all line up behind one of the lines before continuing.

Explain that we all do wrong things and ask for examples (take things that aren't ours, lie, disobey mom and dad). When we do something that is wrong, no matter how small, it is called sin. Sin separates us from God. Let's pretend that these two lines are the edges of a deep canyon. We are on one side and God is waiting for us on the other. However, because we sometimes do things that are wrong, we cannot get across. Does anyone think he or she can jump all the way to the other side of the canyon? Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. When we say we are sorry, Jesus forgives our sins. Jesus never sinned/did bad things, but he's our bridge to God. He makes a way for us to get across to where God is, in a place that has no trouble, called Heaven. Until we get there, God is with us every step of the way, showing us the right way. Today and always, I'm so thankful to God. Yay Team Jesus!