

FAMILY WORSHIP DEVOTION FOR APRIL 12TH

Easter is the biggest, best celebration we can imagine -- even better than a birthday party. On Easter we celebrate that Jesus is alive!

The Bible tells us that in the week leading up to Easter Jesus had to face really hard things. His friend betrayed him, people hurt him, and at the end of it all Jesus died. Everyone was very sad because they had lost Jesus.

Now, we know there's good news at the end of this story. We wouldn't celebrate Easter if Jesus was still dead. Do you remember what happens? Three days after he died, Jesus came back to life! Hosanna! Hallelujah! He is risen! It is the biggest miracle that has ever happened because it means we can be friends with God forever. It's a super duper mega big deal!

But Jesus was gone for three whole days before that happened. His friends and family spent that time thinking they had lost Jesus forever. How do you think they felt in those three days?

Psalm 27:14 encourages us with these words: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Before he died, Jesus promised his friends he would always be with them. His friends were probably so confused and sad in those three days. How could Jesus be with them if he was gone? But his friends were faithful and they waited on the Lord. They found strength and courage to face those three days of sadness. Even when everything seemed the worst it had ever been, they stuck together and found hope to keep moving forward. They didn't know the outcome, but they chose to trust God.

And WOW were they happy when Jesus came back to life! His promise is real, he will be with us forever! Today we can celebrate and jump for joy as we remember this truth.

Story & Questions:

Read Luke 24:1-7

- This is the beautiful story of Easter! But there weren't any bunnies or eggs in the story. Where do you think the idea of bunnies and eggs came from when we think about Easter? You can learn more about [Easter traditions around the world](#). People celebrate differently in different places! How does your family celebrate Easter?
- What do you notice in this Bible story? Who was there? Why were they surprised?
- How would you react if you were there? What would you want to say to Jesus?

Now, read Psalm 27

- This was written way before Jesus was a human -- way before he died and rose again! But did you know that the whole Bible points us to Jesus? How does this Psalm remind you of him?
- David (who wrote this Psalm) talks about feeling safe, hopeful, and brave when the Lord is on his side. How does Jesus make you feel?
- This year, we are celebrating Easter differently. Because of COVID-19, we are celebrating Jesus' victory in our homes, in isolation from one another, and although this is an uncomfortable experience, there is one guaranteed way we can communicate and celebrate corporately, and that is through our prayers. The bible says, "if two or three people come together in my name, I am there with them (Matt 18:20). It also says, "When good people pray, good things happen (James 5:16)". So, now let's take time to bow our heads in humility and community to pray for our families, our neighbors, our nation, and most importantly our world. What would you like to pray about?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

You are alive! Thank you for how much you love us - even death couldn't keep you away! Please open our eyes to see your new life everywhere this week. May today be a day of joy and celebration for all of us, even as we spend Easter in our own homes. Thank you for new life, and for loving us. We love you too, Jesus!

Amen.

Activity: Easter is a time to celebrate God's immense and immeasurable love for us and share that love with others! Here are some fun activity ideas to mark the occasion:



Create your own stained glass window with painter's tape and washable paint! Simply tape your window and then paint! You can make your own creative patterns, but [here's an example of one](#). It might be a good idea to set down a tarp or sheet under your window while you paint. Take a picture and tag it with #BCCFindsEaster



Make a [tape-resistant cross](#). Place 2 pieces of tape on a piece of paper to make a cross symbol, then completely cover the rest of the paper with markers, watercolor paint, or crayon. When you are done, peel off the tape and the cross will appear! Share your artwork with the hashtag #BCCFindsEaster



Easter is a great time to express our gratitude to God! Take a walk around your neighborhood and thank God for 1 thing you can see, 1 thing you can hear, 1 thing you can smell, and 1 thing you can touch! And, if you see anyone on your walk, wish them a Happy Easter!



Do an Easter egg hunt in your back yard or around your home and find ways to tie it back to the truths of Jesus' resurrection! Here are some ideas:

- Write out parts of the Easter story on strips of paper. Tape those papers around your plastic eggs before you hide them for your kids. Then, as they discover the eggs they will also be discovering parts of the Easter narrative!
- Before dyeing your Easter eggs, write an attribute of Jesus on each egg in crayon. Then the attribute will show up once the egg is dipped in dye!