



Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs

EASTER ASSEMBLY

This 10 minute assembly uses familiar Easter treats – hot cross buns and Easter eggs – to explain Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection. Two eye witnesses will explain how these treats remind us of the truth about Easter.

The easiest way to deliver this assembly is to record it in advance. Try to use people who are familiar to the children if possible. If you are sending the finished assembly to different schools, you could record a personalised introduction and conclusion for each school.

Filming can be done in two different ways:

1. RECORDED ZOOM CALL

The characters log on to the Zoom call from their different locations and the whole call is recorded.

The script best suits this method, as it allows for back and forth conversation. Everyone should mute when they're not speaking. Characters should turn their camera off for the sections which don't involve them.

Change each person's name on screen to be their character name. You could also have a profile picture of the character to show when that person's camera is off. Try to make background scenes as neutral as possible.

2. PRE-RECORDED AND EDITED

Each character records their lines separately to be edited together. If using this method, you may want to change the script slightly so that there is less back and forth conversation.

Before recording, decide on a 'scene setting' so the final video has some consistency. E.g. if your scene is an interrogation room then have each character sit at a table in front of a blank wall.

Get creative, make it your own and have fun!

Characters: Narrator, Detective, Roman Soldier, Peter.

The Narrator and Detective can be played by the same person. When changing into the Detective just put on a hat and glasses. Children will enjoy spotting that it is actually the same person. The Roman Soldier and Peter can be played by a second person.

You will need: Character costumes, hot cross buns, chocolate Easter egg, chicken's egg, large cardboard cut-out hot cross bun with 'Jesus died' written on it, large cardboard cut-out Easter egg with 'Jesus is alive' written on it.



What to Say



What to Do

Narrator: Good morning! I am X (from X Church) and I am very egg-cited to be talking to you today. We're going to hear the truth about Easter. We've had a Detective on the case to find out the truth and he is going to report back to us today.

Welcome, Detective. Please tells us what you have found out about Easter

Detective: Well, this case is impossible! I've got these buns and Easter eggs because they are eaten every Easter so they must have something to do with what is being celebrated. And I've got two eye witnesses but I can't see how the pieces all fit together. It's 2000 years since the events occurred, so how can I be expected to find out the truth?

Mmm, this tastes great!
But what does that tell me about Easter?
Maybe my first eye witness will know something about it. Right, let's see, first up is the Roman Soldier. The Bible tells me that he was at the first Easter.

Frustrated. Hold up the buns and Easter eggs.

Take a bite of a bun.

Take another bite of the bun and look thoughtful.

Roman Soldier: Hail Caesar!

Roman Soldier salutes.



What to Say



What to Do

Detective: Why yes, hello to you too. Right, I know you were at the first Easter. What can you tell me about these hot cross buns?
Mmm...so good!

Holds up a new hot cross bun before taking a bite.

Roman Soldier: Well this bun of yours is clearly a reminder that Jesus Christ died on a CROSS that first Easter! The wooden cross was our most serious device for punishing criminals. Except, Jesus wasn't a criminal. He taught people about God and made sick people better. There was really no reason why he should have been punished with death. But that didn't stop the Jewish leaders and our Roman governor from ordering his execution.

Go slowly as this is a key explanation

Detective: So the cross on the bun reminds us of the cross Jesus died on? That doesn't sound like something to celebrate. Or maybe he didn't die? Maybe he escaped ... that would be something to celebrate!

Hold up a bun and point to the cross on the top.

Roman Soldier: Oh no, he definitely died. We never take anyone off the cross unless we're sure they're dead. We're experts at this. **Jesus was totally, absolutely dead! I am sure.** That's all I have to report.

Roman Soldier salutes.



What to Say



What to Do

Detective: How can such a delicious bun be a reminder of such an awful death?! Jesus did nothing wrong but he still died on a cross. Well, at least we have worked out one piece of the puzzle. I really hope Easter eggs aren't a reminder of something horrible, too. Maybe my second witness has an answer for us. Next up is Peter - a fisherman and a follower of Jesus. Peter, do you know what chocolate eggs have to do with Easter?'

Hold up chocolate egg.

Peter: You're gonna love this! Easter eggs remind us of NEW LIFE because Jesus came back to life! How cool is that?! He died, and that was awful. We buried him in a tomb. It was a cave with a big stone in front of it. But when our friends went to put spices on the body - it's what we did back then - the stone was already rolled back and Jesus' body was gone! I saw the empty tomb myself. No body, just the strips of linen he'd been wrapped in.

Really excited. Hold up chocolate egg.

Go slowly as this is a key explanation

Detective: What? So this is actually a case of a missing body?! No-one told me that. We will have to go back to the beginning and start again...file a new report... talk to new witnesses... Well, I'm keeping the hot cross buns. I deserve these after all the work I've done!

Interrupts before Peter can carry on.

Hold up the buns. Mutters while shaking head.



What to Say



What to Do

Peter: No! You've got it all wrong! Jesus' body didn't go missing. He walked out of the tomb because he came back to life! I saw him and he was alive. He'd been dead and then 3 days later he came back to life. And hundreds of other people saw him too. We talked to him, we ate with him – **Jesus is totally, absolutely alive!**
I am sure

Detective: Well this seems unbelievable, but there is no other conclusion. This guy is definitely alive! Chocolate Easter eggs remind us of new life because Jesus came back to life. Just like there's new life when a chick hatches from an egg, it was new life when Jesus came back to life from the grave.
We've done it! We've found out the truth about Easter! Amazing!

Narrator: Wow! The Detective cracked the case! Cracked it...get it? Eggs? Cracked? Just a little joke...or yolk!
We found out the truth about Easter.
The hot cross bun reminds us that Jesus died on the cross. That is what we are remembering on Good Friday.
And chocolate Easter eggs remind us that Jesus came back to life. That is what we are celebrating on Easter Sunday.

continued →

Hold up chocolate egg.

Hold up chicken's egg.

Hold up the large hot cross bun with 'Jesus died' on it

Hold up the large Easter egg with 'Jesus is alive' on it.



continued →

Narrator: We didn't get to meet the real Roman Soldier and Peter today but all of the facts we heard are true and in the Bible. And there's more! Christians believe that Jesus died for a reason. He died to save people like us and rose again to rule in heaven. That's where he is today – alive and ruling. People who trust in Jesus can live in heaven with him after they die.

I'm going to pray. Praying is just talking to God. We put our hands together and close our eyes to help us concentrate. You don't have to pray. If you want to sit quietly and think about something you've heard, that's fine.

Dear Father God, thank you for Easter – for chocolate eggs, buns, Easter egg hunts, walks and fun times with our families. Even better, thank you for Jesus Christ. He is the reason to celebrate Easter. Thank you that he gave his life for people like us and rose so that we can have new life. Help us to understand this better this Easter. Amen.

Thank you for joining us to find out the truth about Easter. I hope you get to enjoy lots of Easter treats this year. When you eat your hot cross buns and chocolate eggs you can remember that Jesus died and rose again, so that anyone who trusts in him can have new life with him, forever!

Hold up buns and chocolate eggs.

Questions for discussion afterwards

- What do Christians remember on Good Friday with a hot cross bun?
Jesus Christ died on a cross
- What do Christians remember on Easter Sunday with Easter eggs?
Jesus Christ rose from the dead
- How does a hot cross bun remind you of what happened on the first good Friday? *The cross on the bun is because Jesus died on a wooden cross*
- How does an Easter egg remind you of what Christians are celebrating?
It's an egg because Jesus Christ rising from the dead is about new life, like a chicken's egg is about new life.
- Did you hear anything today that surprised you?

If you want to offer the school some RE lesson resources, go to www.faithinkids.org/resources, select 'RE lesson' and look for the Easter lessons.