



Jesus Lives! / There is Hope

ZOOM EASTER SCRIPT

This script is a series of short scenes designed to be easily adapted for your setting. You could use adults, children or family groups. Make it your own, and have fun!

If you have less people available, Scenes 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 could be done by only one narrator with minor changes to the script.

To involve more people, Scene 2 could include a second person to bring snacks and/or get in the way.

It's up to you how to film and broadcast your production.

1. PRE-RECORDED & EDITED

Different individuals/families take different scenes and record them on a phone or tablet. The footage is edited together ready to broadcast on YouTube/Facebook. This is probably the safest option!

2. SINGLE ZOOM CALL

Different individuals/families perform live on a Zoom call, each in their separate locations with appropriate backgrounds. The call is recorded and broadcast later using YouTube/Facebook.



The Script

Scene 1 - The Prologue



BACKDROP #1 FIELDS

*Idyllic fields, daffodils
and lamb*



NARRATOR 1

Easter is a time of daffodils, hot cross buns, spring lambs and chocolate eggs, when we all remember how, erm, the Easter lamb laid a chocolate egg that was hidden in a tomb, and then stolen but... then... (to NARRATOR 2) what happened then?

NARRATOR 2

None of that happened. None of it. Except in your head.

NARRATOR 1

So what is Easter about?

NARRATOR 2

I'm glad you asked. Easter is the story of how Jesus lives!

NARRATOR 1

I thought Jesus died.

NARRATOR 2

He did. But now he lives! If you only remember one thing about this story – and even that seems optimistic – remember that Jesus lives. We're going to see what really happened. The story is in all four gospels–

NARRATOR 1

I know these! Matthew, John... Paul? And Ringo? Frodo? Hermione?

NARRATOR 2

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But we're going to follow Luke's account. So we're in Jerusalem, a city on the edge of the Roman Empire, and lots of people aren't very happy about that. It's about 36AD, just about tea time. Which is also known as The Last Supper.

Cut to...

Scene 2 - Upper Room Clear Up



BACKDROP #2 UPPER ROOM



WAITRESS (or WAITER) holding a plate with some half eaten pitta bread on it. She/he could have a tea towel over her shoulder, hair tied up. She's busy. There could also be others (including young children) in the background carrying other plates, cups, bread, salad, wine, olive oil etc. and the waitress could give them orders as she speaks to us.

WAITRESS

I feared the worst. When thirteen blokes book the party room it's normally pretty grim in there afterwards. Especially when they order wine. Although apparently, this Jesus can make his own. Loads of it! And bread. Don't ask me how. My husband Isaac can barely make a pitta when he has all the ingredients.

Anyway, it was a very quiet evening in the end. I was *not* listening at the door. This one's a bit too thick. But it didn't sound like much of a party. Which is weird. I mean, it's Passover! I know, I know, it's all about the wine these days. But it's meant to be a celebration, isn't it?

My mum used to tell me the Passover story. About how our people were slaves in Egypt but God rescued us and brought us out into the desert where he fed us – with bread which would be lying on the ground every morning. *(Hold up the plate with the bread on it – could give it to a passing child/helper)*. Imagine that! So if you're stuck somewhere you don't want to be, forced to be indoors when there's a plague passing over, remember: there's always hope.

I had hope for Jesus. Or I did. I thought he'd rescue us from the Romans, but he's got a funny way of going about it. While I was clearing some plates at the end, Jesus took bread and wine and said to eat and drink these in remembrance of him. As if he was going to die! Isn't he a miracle worker who can raise people from the dead? I don't know what his game is.

Anyway, we need to get this room cleared. Come on! *(talking to helpers)* Wipe the tables, we've got a dozen tax collectors in for some sort of business breakfast first thing.

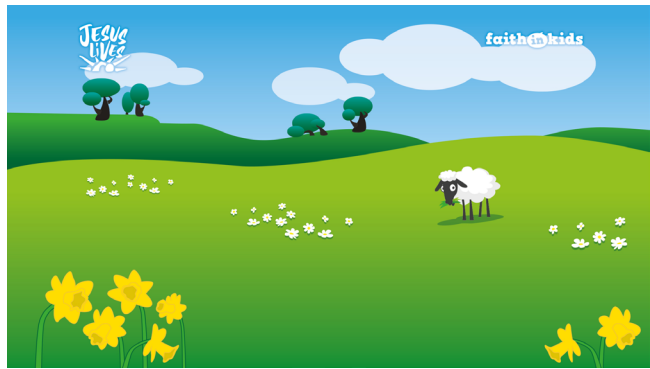
Cut to...

Scene 3 - What Happened Next



BACKDROP #1 FIELDS

Idyllic fields, daffodils and lamb



NARRATOR 1

When Jesus left the upper room, he went into a garden and met the Easter bunny?

NARRATOR 2

No. Luke does not say that.

NARRATOR 1

They did an Easter Egg Hunt?

NARRATOR 2

No! Jesus was arrested by people from the Temple and a mob, with swords and clubs.

NARRATOR 1

But why? Jesus went around healing people and being generally kind and brilliant.

NARRATOR 2

They were really angry that Jesus was claiming to be God. They wanted to have him executed but they needed the Romans for that.

NARRATOR 1

That's awful!

NARRATOR 2

So they took him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. He couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus and said he could be released.

NARRATOR 1

Yay!

NARRATOR 2

But Jesus' enemies whipped up the crowd and they demanded that he crucify Jesus and release a man called Barabbas instead.

NARRATOR 1

Wow. Lucky old Barabbas.

Scene 4 - Barabbas in Prison



BACKDROP #3 Prison Cell

BARABBAS is a prisoner. He could be in an orange boiler suit or classic pyjamas with arrows on them. He should look mean.



ROMAN GUARD could be visible on screen if you have a suitable costume. Otherwise, he should remain off-screen.

BARABBAS

I've really done it this time. I led a rebellion against the Romans. I may have murdered one or two people. And any day now, they're coming to my cell to lead me out to crucify me. *(sigh)*

I tried everything. Bribing the guard. Threatening the witnesses. Blackmailing the judge. None of that worked. Nor did the jailbreak. Here's a tip, if you're going to hide a big metal file in a loaf of bread, make sure it's a baguette. It's the right shape. My sister tried to hide it in some crusty buns. You can imagine how that went. And the guards ate the buns. *(calling out)* Those were my buns!

ROMAN GUARD (OFF SCREEN)
SHUT UP!

BARABBAS

Don't I get a final meal? A last request?

ROMAN GUARD

No. You've been a very naughty boy. And you're going down!

BARABBAS

There's no rescue for me. Not a chance.

The Roman Guard could come in at this point

ROMAN GUARD

Alright, Barabbas? Pilate's changed his mind. Jesus is going to die. You're going to live. You're free to go.

BARABBAS

What? Jesus dies? And I live? Wow. Who'd have thought it? Someone as rotten as me goes free.

ROMAN GUARD

Doesn't seem right to me but that's the way it is.

BARABBAS

Yeah. Didn't I say when I was locked in here? "There's always hope."

ROMAN GUARD

No. You said 'Please don't lock me up. Here's fifty denarii. Treat yourself.'

BARABBAS

I may have said that. Well, it's a beautiful day. Let's go.

BARABBAS leaves, whistling.

Cut to...

Scene 5 - Meanwhile



BACKDROP #1 FIELDS

Idyllic fields, daffodils and lamb



NARRATOR 1

Barabbas must have been one happy bunny.

NARRATOR 2

Please stop talking about bunnies. We need to talk about what happened to Jesus next. He was being taken to a place called "the Skull".

NARRATOR 1

The Skull? Eurgh. What happened there?

NARRATOR 2

Well, put this way. It wasn't an ice cream parlour.

NARRATOR 1

Imagine an ice cream parlour called The Skull. Zero customers.

NARRATOR 2

This is the place Jesus was executed. He was nailed to a big wooden cross and left to die. With two other criminals.

NARRATOR 1

I cannot wait to hear how Jesus got out of this one!

NARRATOR 2

He didn't. Jesus died.

NARRATOR 1

Oh. But... Oh.

NARRATOR 2

And there was a centurion there to make sure it was all done properly.

NARRATOR 1

That is not a very nice job to have.

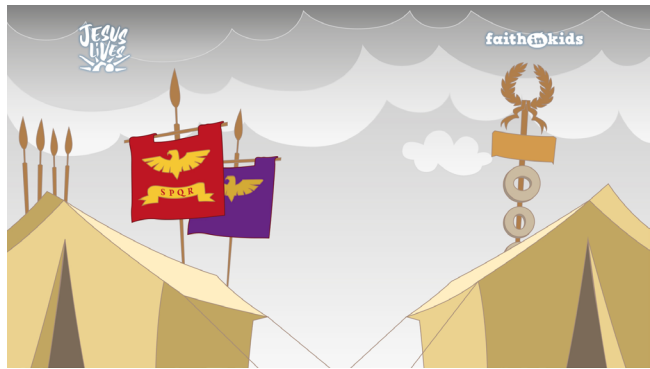
Cut to...

Scene 6 - A Centurion



BACKDROP #4 ROMAN ARMY BARRACKS

Roman Soldier/Centurion.
CENTURION comes in and sits down. Big sigh. Long day.



CENTURION

Well, that was the weirdest day at work I've ever had. Normally there are two types. The Mumlbers and the Screamers. The mumlbers have given up hope, because let's face it, there is no hope on a cross.

But the screamers are in denial, shouting and yelling at everyone and everything. We had a screamer today, yelling at me and this Jesus bloke. I have no idea why Jesus was being crucified. He doesn't seem the type. He was a Mumbler. And you know what he said up there on the cross? 'Father forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.' Well, I do know what I'm doing. My job. But it was a pretty weird thing to say.

Anyway, this Screamer criminal goes nuts and screams, "Aren't you supposed to be the true King from God? Save yourself! And us, while you're at it!"

Then this other criminal jumps in. Not literally obviously cos he's, you know... He's not a screamer. He's a dreamer. He says 'Don't you fear God? We're getting what we deserve. But this man has done *nothing* wrong.' And then - and I'll never forget this - he says to Jesus, "Remember me, when you come into your kingdom."

Dream on, dreamer! Jesus is on a cross! No hope! But then he says this to the dreamer, "Today you will be with me in paradise." What's that all about? Jesus can't help anyone from where he is. And then he dies. So that's the end of that. Weirdest day at work. Ever.

Reminds me of my dad's stories from thirty years ago when he was in Bethlehem. Anyway, dinner time. I'm famished. I've had nothing since a stale crusty bun this morning. Let's have a look...

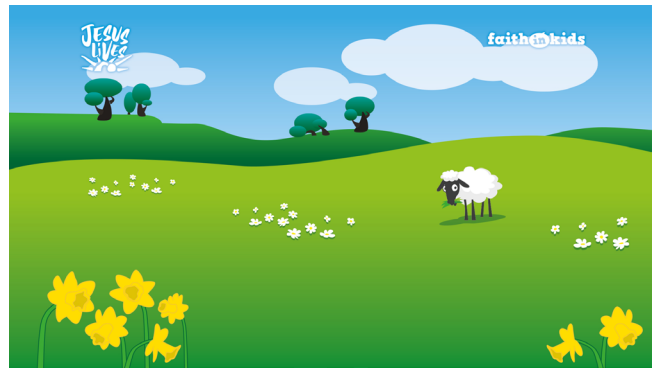
CENTURION leaves.

Scene 7 - Meanwhile



BACKDROP #1 FIELDS

Idyllic fields, daffodils and lamb



NARRATOR 1

What a sad story. Anyway, happy Easter everyone!

NARRATOR 2

That's not the end! There is a serious twist you do not want to miss.

NARRATOR 1

There is a bunny after all?

NARRATOR 2

No. There is no bunny in this story. If you like bunnies watch Watership Down. Actually no, if you like bunnies do NOT watch Watership Down. I cannot stress that enough. Anyway, back to our story in Luke's gospel. A man called Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus's body down and laid it in a tomb.

NARRATOR 1

Right. This doesn't seem like an improvement. This is more death.

NARRATOR 2

You just wait.

Scene 8 - Emmaus



BACKDROP #5 OUTDOORS. ROAD. COUNTRYSIDE.

Sign that says 'Emmaus 4 miles' pointing in a direction and 'Jerusalem 3 miles' in the other



CLEOPAS (male) and RACHEL

(female) run into shot. They are husband and wife. One of them produces a bottle of water, takes a swig and gives it to the other. They're exhausted.

CLEOPAS looks to us about to speak, but they are both still too tired.

CLEOPAS holds up a hand as if to say 'one minute and I'll be with you'. Then is about to speak when he decides to take another drink of water. So RACHEL speaks to us:

RACHEL

Sorry. So tired. Running to Jerusalem. Because...

RACHEL grabs the water from CLEOPAS, who continues.

CLEOPAS

We just saw him! Jesus lives! It was really him. And...

RACHEL

Let's back up. We were on the road to Emmaus talking about what had happened, when we met this guy who asked us what we were chatting about and we were like 'duh! We're talking about Jesus. Where have you been?'

CLEOPAS

Turns out it was Jesus.

RACHEL whacks CLEOPAS

RACHEL

Don't spoil it!

CLEOPAS

Sorry.

RACHEL

That's the best bit! So we started telling this guy all about how Jesus did amazing things, and how we hoped he'd rescue us from the Romans. But the Temple priests killed him on Friday. Then Sunday morning, some of the women went to the tomb...

CLEOPAS

And Jesus was GONE!!

RACHEL stares at CLEOPAS, who then looks ashamed. RACHEL shakes her head.

RACHEL

Unbelievable. Anyway, where had he gone? We were sad and confused.

CLEOPAS

And this dude we met on the road explains how this whole thing had been planned, by God. And how it's there ALL the way through the Bible, from the beginning!

RACHEL

And he told us how it's not rescue from the Romans we need, but rescue from sin, and death! And how we can be with God forever!

CLEOPAS

Hearts on fire. Mind Blown. Mic drop...

(RACHEL shakes her head)

RACHEL

So we stopped off for a bite with this guy and the moment he broke the bread, we realised it was actually Jesus.

CLEOPAS

There he was. Alive!

RACHEL

All our hopes and dreams was there eating bread with us. And then-

CLEOPAS

Boom! Gone! He just disappeared. Can you believe it?!

RACHEL

(RACHEL pointing to CLEOPAS) Amazing. Can you believe HIM?

CLEOPAS

Sorry, it's just such a brilliant story. And it means Jesus lives! There is hope! He can rescue us after all. So we're running back to Jerusalem to tell the others. Come on!

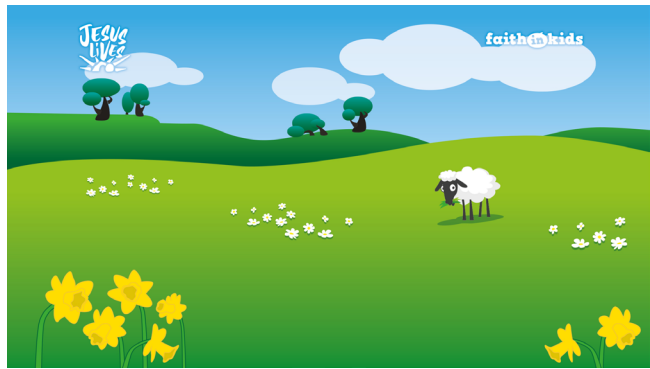
CLEOPAS and RACHEL run off.

Scene 9 - The end



BACKDROP #1 FIELDS

Idyllic fields, daffodils and lamb



NARRATOR 1

So this mean Jesus is alive now?

NARRATOR 2

Yup. Unlike the Easter Bunny.

NARRATOR 1

Someone killed the Easter Bunny?

NARRATOR 2

(To NARRATOR 1) No. The Easter Bunny was never (Turn to camera and then back to NARRATOR 1) We might discuss that later. (Back to camera)

This story about Jesus is written in Luke's gospel. A history of Jesus's life... and death.... and life again. You can read if for yourself.

NARRATOR 1

I might just do that. With some chocolate.

NARRATOR 2

Good idea. Can I have some?

NARRATOR 1

No. Oh, alright then. Let's go and find some. And we should watch that movie. What's it called? Watership Down?

NARRATOR 1 leaves. NARRATOR 2 rushes after him/her.

NARRATOR 2

No! Not Watership Down!

Follow up questions:

- Who was your favourite character in the story?
- Do you know which bits of this story are true and which bits are made up?
- What has Jesus saved us from?
- If Jesus is alive, why does that give us hope?
- Talk to God now in prayer. No matter how bad things seem to be, there is always hope because Jesus is alive and reigning in heaven. What do you want to say to him?