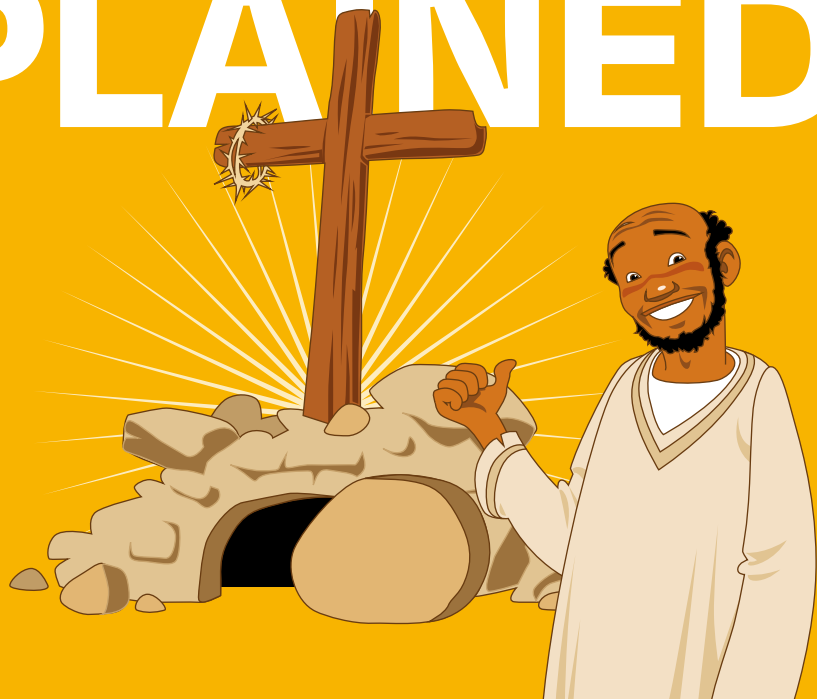


ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

EASTER EXPLAINED



**FAMILY EASTER
ACTIVITY SESSION**

faith**kids**



Easter egg hunts and hot cross buns are everywhere in our supermarkets and our communities, but many people, particularly children, are unclear about why we celebrate Easter at all.

This plan gives ideas for how to run a fun event where families can enjoy time together and explore the true meaning of Easter, combining the fun of an Easter party with an all age talk or service. Why not invite your community to find out why Good Friday is so good and to discover the wonderful surprise of the first Easter Sunday.

Who is this event for? Families with children aged 4-11 years old

How long is the event? Approximately 2 hours

When could you hold the event? Any time over the Easter weekend

What will the event include? Activities for families to do together, a mini service in the middle and food at the end

What will I need to run the event? Venue, helpers to run activities, musicians/PA system, items for chosen activities, food/drink

Here are a range of activities for families to rotate around during the session. Choose what would work in your space with the age and number of children invited. Risk assessments for the activities will be needed, where appropriate.

- Biscuit decorating - Decorate a biscuit with an Easter design, using icing pens and other decorations. *If you have someone who enjoys baking, you could bake Easter themed biscuits, otherwise a plain round biscuit is fine.*
- Egg drop - Challenge children to drop an egg from a height without it breaking. Give them a range of materials to protect the egg, e.g. bubblewrap, paper, masking tape, plastic bags and string. A prize for the family who can drop it from the highest height without it breaking. Another prize for the most creative egg-protection design.
- Egg rolling in gutters - Each family has three short lengths of guttering to hold like a marble run. The challenge is to tilt the guttering and roll mini chocolate eggs to the finish line, without the eggs dropping to the floor. When the egg is in some guttering, the person holding it can only change the angle, they cannot move their feet. Once the egg is in the next person's guttering, move along to extend the run and get your eggs to the finish.
- String art - Hammer nails into a wooden board to create a cross outline shape. Wind wool around and between the nails to create a cross picture. *Have some cross outlines ready to go to save time. Others may enjoy doing the nailing activity together.*
- Make a cross - Using a [lashing knot](#), make a cross out of two sticks using string or wool. Wrap extra wool around the cross to decorate. *Younger children could have some crosses already made up for them to decorate.*
- Resurrection rolls - Using a croissant in a tube, melted butter, brown sugar, and marshmallows. Dip a marshmallow in the melted butter and roll in the sugar. Place coated marshmallow in the triangle of croissant pastry and wrap up (making sure to seal all the way around), bake using packet instructions. When cooked, bite into it and the marshmallow will have gone, like Jesus' body being gone from the tomb. *A longer description can be found [here](#).*
- Egg heads - Grow cress in egg shells by planting watercress seeds on damp cotton wool in an egg shell. Use felt tips to decorate the shell.
- Egg and spoon race - Set up a simple assault course and have runners use

hard-boiled eggs and spoons. *This could be a timed family relay to add a competitive element.*

- Stone decorating - Decorate stones using acrylic pens, wool and googly eyes. The stone could be decorated as a person or as an Easter scene. *You could make a link with the stone rolled over Jesus' tomb.*

Below is a possible timetable for the event. In this example, the suggested timings are for an event which includes a longer time of worship in the middle (about 40 minutes) using one of the [Easter Explained all-age service plans - Good Friday or Easter Sunday](#).

If you want a shorter time of spiritual focus (about 10 minutes), you could use the [Easter Explained all-age talk from either lesson 2 or lesson 3](#), with a song or two from the selection below. You could then continue with the activities, or run a shorter event.

The following songs are suggestions. Please use alternatives that your church family knows - or practice some of these songs with your church family in advance if they are new to you.

- Awesome Cutlery - [God showed us his love](#)
- Awesome Cutlery - [He has risen](#)
- Awesome Cutlery - [Jesus when you died \(Thank you! Jesus, thank you!\)](#)
- City Alight & Colin Buchannan - [Jesus Strong and kind](#)
- Colin Buchanan - [Boss of the cross](#)
- Colin Buchanan - [Isaiah 53:6 \(Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa\)](#)
- Colin Buchanan - [Super Saviour](#)
- Sovereign Grace - [Your love](#)

Time	Item	Who	Notes
2.30 pm Set up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band set up • PA set up • Room set up with activity stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band • PA • Helpers 	
3.45 pm Briefing and Prayer	Gather together to brief the team and to pray before families arrive.	All involved in running the event	
Event starts			
4.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open • Welcomers on doors • Helpers on activity stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomers • Helpers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a simple plan to parents on arrival. • Background music playing.

continued →



Notes

Time	Item	Who	Notes
4.15 pm Welcome	Briefly interrupt the activities to welcome, to explain the plan for the afternoon and any other essential information		
Worship time			
4.45 - 5.25 pm	Gather everyone together for worship/mini service		
Or 4.45 - 5.00 pm	Shorter worship session		
After the worship session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Notices · Next steps · Final prayer, incl give thanks for food 		Explain how the rest of the time will work
Finish the event with more activities and refreshments.			
5.25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hot cross buns, sandwiches, crisps, fruit, biscuits, tea/ coffee · Activities could continue here too. 	Helpers	
6.00 pm	End of event	Welcomers	Hand out party bags containing an Easter book and chocolate on the way out



Notes



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