



He's alive!

How to use this resource

The resource is provided by the Meaningful Chocolate Company and incorporates the beautiful illustrations of Alida Massari from the Meaningful Chocolate Easter Egg 2017.

The resource aims to bring together a Bible story, questions, reflection and discussion, teaching, crafts and games, worship ideas and concludes with an Easter Egg Hunt. Resources include:

- The Easter story with a particular focus on the resurrection and Jesus' encounter with two disciples on the Emmaus Road as a PowerPoint resource. This also includes a reflection on being made alive in Christ through our friendship with Jesus.

- Games and craft ideas that celebrate Easter and provide discussion about Jesus not being recognised after resurrection.
- Worship ideas

Theme – He’s alive!

The theme for this resource is, "We are alive in Christ."

(Ephesians 2)

Celebration and worship

Prayer

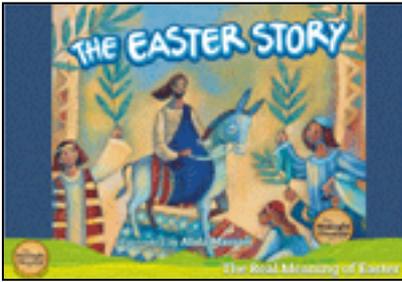
Father God, would you help us to understand the story of Easter and what Jesus did for us? Amen

The Easter Story (PowerPoint presentation)

Introduction



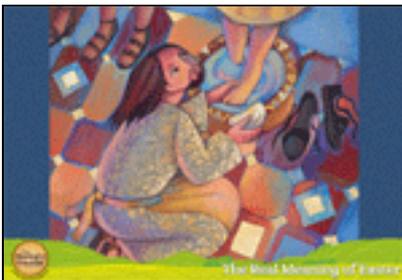
Here’s what you think of when you think of Easter (have an unwrapped Easter egg on a tray). Be honest! But Easter is really about the last week in the life of Jesus. Easter is really a countdown to His death and the celebration of Him coming alive again.



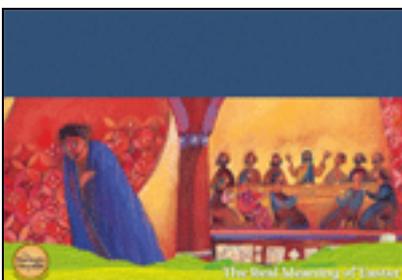
So, let me tell you the true story. 2000 years ago, a man called Jesus brought a message of hope and love to the world. He was a great teacher and many people followed his teaching and believed He was the one who would be the king of the whole world.



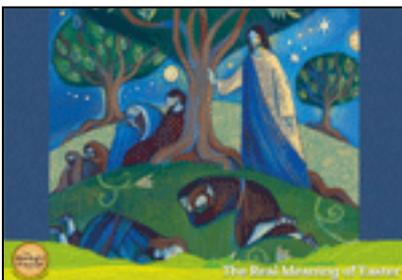
This is what happened in the last week of His life. When Jesus visited the city of Jerusalem people celebrated, waving palm branches in the air. But some people wanted to get rid of Him.



Later in the week Jesus brought His friends together to have a last supper with them. Before eating He washed their feet to teach them that they should serve and help others.



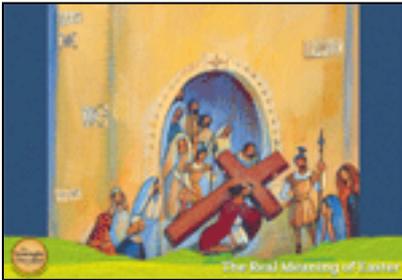
At supper, He shared a cup of wine and a piece of bread, telling His friends to 'do this to remember me'. During the supper, a man called Judas slipped out. He was going to tell Jesus' enemies where Jesus was going to be that night.



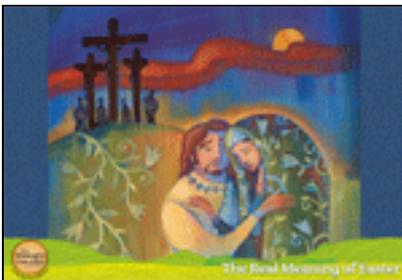
Later that night, Jesus and His friends went to an olive orchard and Judas led the soldiers to Him and He was arrested.



On the Friday, a man called Pilate put Jesus on trial and Jesus was handed over to be killed. The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of sharp thorns on His head and led Him away.



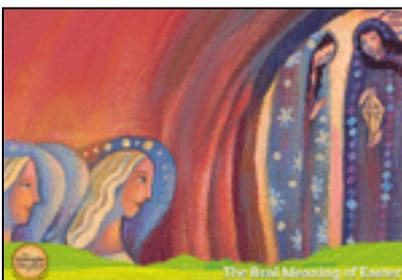
Jesus had to carry His cross through the streets of Jerusalem.



The soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two thieves. When Jesus died, there was an earthquake and darkness fell. Mary, the mother of Jesus was very sad.



The body of Jesus was taken off the cross and placed in a tomb. They rolled a large stone over the entrance to keep the body of Jesus safe.



Early on Sunday, the women went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away from the entrance. Suddenly, two men in bright, shining clothes stood by them. They asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for One who is alive. He is not here. He has been raised.'



Jesus had risen from the dead to meet His friends again. That seems impossible doesn't it?

But what happens after that? Well, it gets stranger and stranger because first of all, a few people meet Jesus... and then finally hundreds.

Some of the first people to see Jesus were two men walking from Jerusalem to a nearby village. The road was called the Emmaus Road and the story is told in the Bible. The two men had heard the news and were very upset that their best friend was dead. But even stranger, they had heard that some of the women had seen Jesus alive. They didn't know what to believe.

As they are talking about it, another man meets them and joins in the conversation. He asks 'What are you talking about?' They couldn't think how anyone could possibly not have heard the news about Jesus.



Now who do you think the man might be?

Jesus? If it wasn't Jesus who was it? Why didn't they recognise him? Why was that?

How is it they didn't recognise Jesus at first? Was it some sort of trick? How can someone look so different?

Well, perhaps he didn't!

Have you ever been in a place and you spot someone and there is something familiar about them. You think you've met them before but you can't work out where. You cautiously look their way and try to work out where you've seen them before. You're panicking a bit because they may know who you are! You are thinking 'Where have I seen them before? What's changed? Do they usually wear a uniform? Have they grown taller, changed their hairstyle, wear glasses or contact lenses? Are they wearing a wig? Sometimes you work it out days after! What gives it away? Is it that at some point, they will do, say or act somehow, in a way that will put you both back into the situation which you are both familiar meeting in?

(You may like to give an example of this from your own life)

Could it be that Jesus didn't need a disguise. His disciples didn't expect to see him. It couldn't be Jesus! He was dead and in the grave. We know that on the Emmaus Road, the two disciples didn't recognise Jesus until He broke bread but as they were walking something kept tugging at their emotions and their minds. But it was when he broke the bread that they recognised him.

AND THEY REALISED SOME VERY IMPORTANT THINGS

Jesus was different to every other human being. He had power to do whatever He wanted. Including making Himself alive again.

Wow!

And He wants us to be friends with Him and to get to know Him better. He wants us to know what it is to be ALIVE in Him!

When we have a friendship with Jesus, we see the world differently. He helps us to love and be friends with one another. He shows us what He wants us to do in the world.

We will never be more alive than when we are friends with Jesus.

I've got a great song that we can learn together about the Easter Story

Song

Song Suggestion: 'He's Alive'.

'He's Alive' closely follows the Resurrection Story and is easy for children to sing.

Hear the song here: <https://www.maynardsgroovytunes.co.uk/video/hesalive>

Get the downloads here: <https://www.maynardsgroovytunes.co.uk/store/catalogsearch/advanced/result/?description=He%27s+Alive%21>

After our prayer we're going to explore what happened when Jesus was found alive again with lots of games and fun for everyone!

Prayer

Dear Jesus

Help us to be friends with you and to know what it is to be alive in your power and love.

Amen

Activities with some 'think about' questions

The first two games are active team games that involve everyone before separating to smaller groups for crafts and activities.

ACTIVITY 1 – Team Game – The Great Easter Egg Laying Game!

This is a variation of Pass a Potato! It's a very simple game with a bowl of Easter Eggs at one end of the room and a 'nest' or bucket placed at the other. Divide the group into teams and ask each team to form a line behind their egg basket. Explain that the idea is that all the Easter Eggs have to be placed in the nest at the other end by a person, one at a time, putting an Easter egg between their legs and hopping and waddling to the other end, turning round, squatting and releasing their egg into the nest. If they drop the egg they have to start again. The first team to lay all of their eggs is the winner!

Questions to ask: Why the emphasis on eggs at Easter? (Eggs are a symbol of hope and new life.)

ACTIVITY 2 – Egg Run Challenge

This is a great team challenge and surprisingly hard. You will need a cardboard tube for each team member and Easter Eggs that are small enough to roll through the tube. Mark out a starting point and a finish point that has a bucket to roll eggs into.

You can vary the distance depending on the ability of the teams and there should be a minimum of four people in each team. The idea is for the team members to work together to allow an egg to roll from one tube to another until the Finish point is reached. Unlike a marble run, team members have to wait until the egg has travelled through their section of tube then move to the front to make a continuing pipeline for the egg to travel through. How many eggs can the team get into the bucket?

Questions to ask: How are Easter eggs a reminder of the first Easter Sunday? (For some, they represent the stone that was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus.)

ACTIVITY 3 – Guess who – group game

Everyone is invited to divide into smaller ‘family’ groups: This is a game for small teams with a mix of ages and is a resource to print out for children and adults that shows 12 images of 12 well-known characters. There’s only one problem – only part of the character is revealed. (See resource). The answers are: 1. Kermit 2. Dennis the Menace 3. Cat in the Hat 4. Pugwash 5. Thomas the Tank Engine 6. Very Hungry Caterpillar 7. Tracy Beaker 8. Wallace 9. Bob the Builder 10. Postman Pat 11. Blossom 12. Sooty

Questions to ask: Why are some people harder to recognise than others? Do you think you would recognise people in your family more easily because you know them better?

ACTIVITY 4– Decorate some hard-boiled eggs

There are so many ideas out there! You can choose to decorate real hard-boiled eggs or buy paper, polystyrene or even wooden eggs. There are some great ideas for decoration too!

Questions to ask: What do you think Easter is *really* about?

ACTIVITY 5 – Make a mask

Colour in and decorate a half mask out of a paper plate. There are some great ideas on the internet. All you need to do is search for 'Masks from paper plates'

Questions to ask: How do you recognise a person? Is it their features, the way they move, what they wear?

ACTIVITY 6 – Dressing up box fun

Provide a dressing up box for lots of fun with wigs, glasses, clothes, make-up etc. Or for something a little different, why not make children look old with make up. For instructions check out the internet. Here is one link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwLCUmhM2OU>

Questions to ask: If you wanted to look completely different how would you do it?

ACTIVITY 7– Shredded wheat nests

An easy Easter recipe: <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2066656/shredded-wheat-nests>

Questions to ask: Do you think Easter is important

FINAL ACTIVITY – Easter Egg Hunt