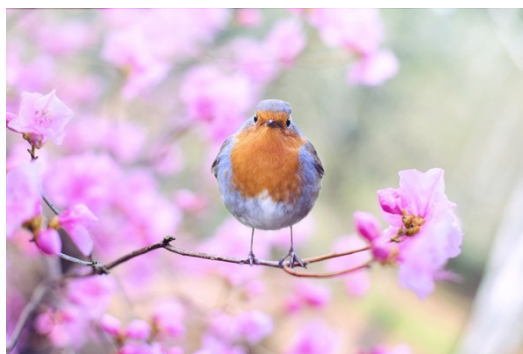


March/April Activities

Lent
Easter
Spring



1. The hope of lent
2. Lenten reflections
3. Lenten trivia
4. Journey to the cross
5. Coded Purim story
6. Add spirit to springtime fun
7. Go greener this spring
8. Recycling info and quiz
9. The sights, sounds, and scents of spring
10. New Life Hunt
11. The witness of God in the sky
12. Moving from lent to Easter (Holy Week)
13. Easter around the world
14. Cross quiz
15. Easter Numbers
16. Easter plexers
17. Easter word search
18. Easter acrostic
19. Puzzle: why did God send Jesus?
20. Audience Easter Participation Story
21. Easter puppet show
22. Quiz: Who Saw Jesus after he rose?
23. Senses in heaven
24. Recipe: Sparkling resurrection rolls
25. Recipe: Braided Heart Pretzels
26. Make an Easter-gram
27. Easter Story wheel
28. Mini Easter scene in a can
29. Craft: cross treasure box



The Hope of Lent By Karen Whiting

Lent is a time to remember Jesus chose to die for us and that meant he would suffer. It's also a time for hope and remembering Jesus rose. That give us hope all year. We can hope as we pray, and need hope when we're sad or face tough days

During lent read scriptures on hope as well as ones related to Jesus giving his life for us. Put these verses or references on slips of paper to fill a little hope chest.

Add in symbols that are reminders of the road to the cross and resurrection such as a little nail, thorn, and more. When you need hope pull out a verse to read and an object. Then thank God for hope and replace the items in the chest.

Scriptures on hope

- Hebrews 6:19
- Romans 15:13
- Romans 8:28
- Romans 8:39
- Romans 5:5



Scriptures on death, resurrections of Jesus

- Luke 23:33
- Matthew 27:50,54
- 1 Peter 3:18
- John 11:25-26
- Luke 24:5-6

Make a hope chest

- Cover a box to make a hope chest.
- Or check on Pinterest for patterns to make a folded paper treasure box.
- Or buy a wooden chest at a craft store.

Decorate the chest and start filling it!

Symbols

- Nail Mark 15:27
- Grass or small flower-praying in garden Matthew 26:36,239
- Thorn or toothpick Matthew 27:29
- Cross Matthew 27:31
- Crown Mark 15:26
- Stone Mark 16:4
- Dime for a piece of silver Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:14 30
- Feather for rooster Luke 22:33-34
- Die John 19:24, Psalm 22:18
- Empty egg Mark 16:16
- Cloves and a stick of cinnamon for perfume and oils John 19:40
- Seeds John 12:24

Lenten Reflections

The weeks before Easter allow us to prepare our hearts and reflect on how much Jesus loves us. There are many related images such as the bread Jesus broke the night before his death. Fill a basket with some of them and take turns holding one up, reading the related scripture, and discussing the meaning.

- Bowl, Matthew 27: 24-28
- Cross, Hebrews 12:2 and John 19:17-18
- Purple cloth, Mark 15: 16-20
- Rooster, Luke 22:54-65
- Sponge, John 19:28-30
- Lamb, 1 Peter 1:19 and John 1:36
- Dice, John 19:23-24
- Silver coins, Matthew 26: 14-16
- Nail, John 20:25
- Thorn, John 19:2,5
- Ash, Matthew 11:21
- Ear, Luke 22:50-51
- Pray, Mark 14:35-39
- Heart, John 3:16
- Kiss, Matthew 26:47-48
- Bread, Luke 22:19



Lenten trivia Challenge

Check your knowledge of the Lenten season.

1. What color is used for penance? a. purple b. red c. green
2. How many days are in lent? a. 50 b. 40 c. 49
3. What's the name for first day of lent. a. Shrove Tuesday b. Ash Wednesday c. Holy Thursday
4. What's the name of the last week of lent?a. The Way of the Cross b. Holy Week c. Passion Week
5. Shh...What word is never said during lent? a. Alleluia b. Yahweh c. Love
6. What do Catholics not eat on Fridays during lent?a. pretzels b. fish c. meat
7. What is the day before Ash Wednesday called? A. Shrove Tuesday b. Mardi gras c. Fat Tuesday d. a, b, and c
8. What does the word 'lent' mean? A. Sorrow b, penance c. spring
9. What prayer shaped snack began as a Lenten snack? A. matzah bread b. pretzels c. pancakes
10. What prayer is not said at mass during lent? a. Gloria b. The Our Father c. The Creed
11. What devotion helps us remember Christ's passion and death? a. The stations of the cross b.Our Father c. Benediction
12. What day recalls when Jesus stared Eucharist? A. Holy Thursday b. Good Friday c. Holy Saturday

Answers 1. a 2. b 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. d 8. c 9. b 10. a 11. a 12. a

The Journey of Christ

In 1992, Pope John II created New Stations of the Cross that takes you through the journey Christ took.. Take time to really think about Jesus' death with this activity that explains these Stations of the Cross and what happened on Good Friday.

Gather a Bible and the following materials:

Gavel or hammer	Cross	Jar of olives	Paper heart
Weight	Washcloth	Candy kiss	Nails
Black paper or a blanket	Rope	Feather	Blindfold
Empty plastic egg or box	Gold or yellow paper crown	White napkin or cloth	

Take each item, look up and read the Bible verse, and chat about what happened.

1. Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives *Matthew 25:36-41*

Chat about how the disciples fell asleep and did not pray with Jesus. Chat about how Jesus went to a fruitful garden where olives grew and prayed. What did he ask God the Father? Why was Jesus willing to die? (Read John 3:16)

2. Judas betrayed Jesus. *Mark 14: 43-46*

Look at the sweet candy kiss. Why was the kiss from Judas not sweet? Chat about times someone seemed kind but hurt you.

3. Jesus is condemned to death by the Sanhedrin *Luke 22: 66-71*

Tie someone's hands and blindfold them. This is how Jesus stood before the Jewish leaders. Chat about how when we don't ask for help from God we tie his hands.

4. Peter denied Jesus three times. *Matthew 26: 69-75*

Look at the feather. God used the sound of a rooster to remind Peter he denied knowing him. Are you ever afraid to tell people about Jesus and how much he loves us? Who can you plan to tell this week?

5. Pilate condemns Jesus to die. *Mark 15:1-5, 15*

Strike the gavel. Talk about how a judge uses the gavel when he passes a sentence.

6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns, *John 19: 1-3*

This means soldiers whipped Jesus. Touch the prickly thorn and chat about how it caused Jesus to bleed.

7. Soldiers forced Jesus to carry the cross. *John 19: 6, 15-17*

Talk about how heavy that must have been. Try lifting a heavy piece of furniture and imagine carrying it a long way. Jesus carried the cross at least one-third of a mile and that's 1720 feet.

8. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene, *Mark 15: 21*

Pass the weight around. Is it heavy? Is it easier to carry something heavy with help? Try helping someone lift the same piece of furniture you tried to lift earlier.

9. Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem, *Luke 23: 27-31*

The women cried. Look at the washcloth and think about times you cried and had to wash tears from your face. Jesus told them not to cry for him. He knew he would rise. Who did he tell them to cry for and why?

10. Jesus is crucified *Luke 23: 33-34*

Look at the nails. Talk about how they had to be hammered into Jesus hands or wrists and into the wood.

11. Jesus promises to share his reign with the good thief, *Luke 23: 39-43*

Place the crown on someone's head and talk about heaven and how Jesus wants to forgive people and rejoice in heaven with them.

12. Jesus is on the cross, with his mother and disciples nearby, *John 19: 25-27*

Look at the paper heart. Write on it names of people who stayed by Jesus as he died. Think of people who stick with you in hard times.

13. Jesus dies on the cross, *Luke 23: 44-46*

Pass around the black paper or use a big blanket to cover everyone in darkness. When Jesus died, the earth shook and the sky darkened like night. Talk about how God the Father must have felt at this time. If someone you loved died talk about that.

14. Jesus is placed in the tomb, *Matthew 27: 57-60*

Look at the napkin or white cloth. Soldiers had pulled off Jesus' clothes. Now his friends washed him, rubbed spices on him, and wrapped him in a white, linen cloth. They laid his body in the tomb. Talk about how people are buried and our hope to see them again, in heaven.

End by showing the empty container and talking about the surprise when the women found the tomb empty. Read Luke 24:1-6. Remember to tell others that Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate Purim in March!

This story is based on the book of Esther in the Bible. Use the coded puzzle to learn the story and then act it out as a play.

When someone made evil plans to kill God's people there wasn't much time to waste. A young woman scrambled fast to save them. Jewish people celebrate this event in March. You can read the whole story in the Bible, in the book of Esther. Read the story here as you figure out the coded words.

Decode words by writing the letter that comes next in the alphabet for each coded letter.
Z=A.

A Jewish girl named _____ won a beauty contest. Her prize was
D R S G D Q

to be the new _____ for King Ahasuerus. An _____ man named
P T D D M D U H K

Haman planned to _____ all the Jews. Esther's Uncle Mordecai begged her to _____
J H K K R Z U D
her people.

Esther _____. Then she went to see the king uninvited. Oops!
O Q Z X D C

Anyone doing that could have his or her head chopped off. But the king let Esther speak. She invited the king and Haman to _____ two nights in a row.
C H M M D Q

The king asked Esther what she needed, and she asked him to save her _____.
O D N O K D

He wanted to know who planned to harm them and she cried, This wicked _____.”
G Z L Z M

King Ashauerus had Haman hung.

The king and Queen Esther _____ the people and had a big celebration called Purim.
R Z U D C

Answer key:
Words in order found in the story
Esther, queen, evil, kill, kill, save, save, prayed, dinner, people, Haman, saved

Add Spirit to Springtime Fun

After a cold, snowy winter it's fun to enjoy the arrival of spring and warmer weather. It's great to get outdoors, play, garden, and run in the sun. Add a little bit of spiritual fun to spring with these activities:

- Harness March winds by flying kites. Attach a prayer to the kite string or write "God Bless You" on the kite in large letters for all to see.
- Take a prayer hike. Pause when you spot a sign of new life and prayer for lives (soldier's unborn, family, neighbors).
- Plan for good spirits for spring sports. Buy new sport cleats or other equipment. Before baseball and other spring sports begin talk about being good sports and pray for coaches and teammates.
- Visit a zoo or farm and see the new animals. Read about Noah and the ark in Genesis 8-9.
- Inspect bikes for safety. Inspect hearts, too! Read Psalm 51:10. Then take a family bike ride and stop for a snack in a pretty spot.
- Plant seeds indoors. Decorate the container with flower stickers. Read about flowers in Matthew 6:27-34.
- Listen to spring sounds. Identify birds, what the wind blows, and sounds of other children playing. Then make up a family cheer for spring and shout it out.
- Read a description of spring in the Song of Solomon 2:11-12 and chat about what is great about spring.

Go Greener for an Earth Friendly Lifestyle

Take on the challenge to make smart choices for living greener, one great habit at a time. After all, Roans 1:20 tells us that nature is a witness to the power and nature of God. It witnesses to his existence and we want to preserve that testimony.

Make Earth Friendly Choices

Start new habits:

- Save on packaging. For example, buy a large pack of paper clips package with friends. Then split them up and make paper clip chains that use no packages.
- Leave water out for animals year round.
- Wash veggies in a bowl of water then use the remainder to water plants.

Go Greener with Crafts

Acid free paper (acid in wood pulp has been removed) is better for the environment so use that for paper crafts. Without corrosive additives the paper doesn't yellow, give off harmful acids in landfills, or corrode machinery. Use it for invitations, journals, artwork and more.

Hold a recycle art day with bottle caps, ribbon scraps, used paper, broken jewelry, and other odds and ends. Vote for the most creative diva.

Be Greener on the inside

Choose healthy natural foods with less additives and try cooking from scratch.

- Break kale into chunks, toss with a few tablespoons olive oil and seasoning (sea salt, paprika, oregano, or other favorite) and bake (300 degrees, about twenty minutes, turn chips once) to make chips.
- Blend a smoothie from plain yogurt, berries, and ice cubes. Experiment with quantities to suit your taste.

Go Greener Outdoors

Leave the mall behind and plan healthy outdoor fun that celebrates and helps the earth:

- Create a scavenger hunt list but have players take photos to leave nature undisturbed.
Score extra points for finding a frog-they indicate an eco-system is healthy.
- Put a glass up to a tree and listen to the sap run.
- Check tree roots. Clay and compressed dirt smothers roots so loosen dirt if needed
(get permission first).
- Take an exercise walk. Every little while pause. Look at nature, and then let someone lead an exercise. Pick up litter along the way.

Recycle the Productive Way

Recycling has grown and includes so much more these days. Hold a swap party with friends to exchange books, DVDs, clothes and accessories.

Check out how retailers and companies help you recycle more. Some office supply stores give you credit for used ink cartridges and take used electronics.

Some towns and cities even have curbside recycle bins for anything made of fabric. Organizations like the Salvation Army, 7th Generation Recycling, and SMART take much more these days.

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on earth, so it's being used more in building materials. A few changes include newspapers being recycled into wood and used denim being used for insulation in homes. Instead of using sand and gravel to make roads, some places are using the grain of plastic to reuse plastics.

Check Your Green Smarts with a Recycling Pop Quiz

Guess how manufacturers repurpose the following items:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shoe soles | A. Car set stuffing |
| 2. Plastic bottles #1 | B. Plastic lumber |
| 3. Leftover fabric | C. Fish aquariums |
| 4. Old TV sets | D. Paper money |
| 5. Stuffed animals | E. Polar fleece fabric |
| 6. Plastic bottles #2 | F. Pavement |
| 7. Leather Belts | G. Flooring |

Pop-quiz answers: 1F 2E 3D 4C 5A 6B 7G

The Sounds, Sights, and Scents of Spring

Spring seems to feel the air like a warm hug, erasing the coldness of winter. We hear it in a chorus of frogs and babbling of brooks running free from a winter thaw. We smell it in the scent of blossoms and fresh grass. We see it as trees bud and leaves burst forth. These are all the wonders of new life emerging. It coincides new life celebrated with the resurrection of Easter and the first outpouring of the holy spirit at Pentecost. We feel it in the warmth of sunshine under blue skies and longer hours of daylight.

Take time to rejoice in spring. Use your senses to experience spring. Here are a few things to find. Add more to the list related to where you live:

- Babbling brooks
- Chirping birds
- Spring showers
- Baby animals like fluffy lambs bleating and calves mooing
- The black and yellow as bees buzz
- Baby chicks chirping
- Lawnmowers cutting grass
- Gentle breezes rustling new leaves
- Frogs croaking in chorus
- Bats hitting baseballs, jump ropes twirling and other spring activities

New Life Hunt

Springtime is a time to celebrate new life and new growth. It is also a reminder that new life can come after death, like Jesus rising after dying! See how many signs of life or growth, from A to Z, you can find. Check off the ones you discover and when you've found at least 13 celebrate!

- Ant hill
- Blossoms on a tree
- Caterpillar
- Dog with puppies
- Eggs
- Flower bud
- Green grass
- Home of a bird
- Insect larvae
- Jumping bunny or grasshopper
- Kitten
- Lamb
- Mother with a baby
- New friend smiling
- Offshoot of a plant or tree
- Pregnant woman
- Quacking duckling
- Robin
- Slithering worm
- Tadpole
- Underwater baby fish
- Vegetable garden
- Warbling bird
- Xtra special new Bible verse
- Your baby photo
- Zealous Christian

The Witness of God in the Sky

*Look up toward the sky. Who created everything you see? The Lord causes the **stars** to come out at night one by one. He calls out each one of them by name. His power and strength are great. So none of the **stars** is missing.* Isaiah 40:26 NIRV

The last week of April is *sky awareness week*. That's a wonderful time to lie out in the evening and watch the sky change. See the sunset and the stars start to twinkle and light up the night. Read Job 38: 7, 31-33. God shares how he controls the sky that he created. He knows and understands all that we see above us. Enjoy God's amazing drama on a clear night. Talk

Find a sky map online (<http://neave.com/planetarium/> or <http://www.kidsastronomy.com/astroskymap/>). Check out what constellations you might see on a clear night. Check to see if any planets might be visible with binoculars or a telescope. Consider activities to celebrate hat God created in he heavens.

- Map constellations on paper or make dot-to-dot puzzles of several constellations that should be visible.
- Use a compass to map north and south on the ground. This will help children place the chart in the correct direction.
- Make constellation flash cards. Use pins to prick holes for the stars In a dark room, shine a light through the holes to project the constellation on the ceiling.
- Check out the moon's phase and draw it.
- Go out the same tie each night and map the location of the major constellations. Compare drawings to see how the sky changes.
- Read Genesis 1:14-19 and talk about why God made the stars, sun, and moon.
- Read Matthew 2:1-12 and discuss that special star the wise men followed.
- Job 38:32 talks about God creating the constellations and Psalm 19:1 states that the stars declare the glory of God. How do stars remind us of God's ability?
- Craters on the moon are made when something smashes into the surface. There's no atmosphere around the moon for objects to burn up before reaching the surface. Fill a pan with flour and let children drop pebbles from different heights to see how craters form.

Moving from lent to Easter

Lent is a journey with Jesus as he is about to suffer and die for us. Easter is a time to rejoice at new life and the joy of Jesus rising from the dead. Read what happened before Jesus died and afterwards. Start with the joy of a parade for Jesus. On Friday, we remember Jesus dying on the cross. A few days later we will rejoice that Jesus rose.

For each activity, introduce it by doing a secret code to discover a key word (in puzzle below) related to the topic.

1. Have a parade with palms. Let someone be Jesus. Let everyone else wave Palms to Jesus and shout, "Hosanna" as Jesus parades past them.
2. The disciples spend time preparing a room and meal to celebrate the Passover. Spend time decorating your home for Easter. Color eggs. Decorate baskets. Plan a special menu.
3. Holy Thursday is a time to remember the Last Supper and the gift of communion or Eucharist(which means thanksgiving). Wash each other's feet, dry them, and then rub them with lotion. Break and share bread at home. Talk about Eucharist.
4. Friday is the day we remember that Jesus died for us. Make crosses with wood and nails. Or tie sticks together to make a cross.
5. Saturday is the day we remember that Jesus laid in the tomb. Soldier rolled a large rock in front of the tomb. Place a rock on the center of your table. Thank Jesus for choosing to die for our sins.
6. Sunday is Easter. Wake up and sing! Shout with joy, "He is risen!" Hunt for eggs as a reminder that God will send his angels to gather his people (Matthew 24:21).

Easter around the world

Around the world people have different customs of celebrating Easter. Easter season lasts several weeks, until Pentecost. Read the story of the resurrection and then try some of these activities.

Find these countries on a map and consider doing some of the activities the people in those countries do.

- In Australia and parts of Europe, children play an egg knocking game. Two people hold eggs and knock the eggs against each other. They try to break the other person's egg without breaking their own. Winners continue on with new partners until only one person has an unbroken egg.
- In Brazil and Germany people perform a passion play about the crucifixion and resurrection.
- In Crete people bake Paschal bread. These are round loaves with flower shapes in the dough. Paschal comes from the Greek word, Pascha, which means Passover. Easter is when Jesus became the paschal lamb to fulfill the Old Testament Passover
- Ethiopians wear white clothes, called **abesha libs**. White shows the purity of Jesus and that sins are forgiven.
- In Europe children play egg bowling. They color all but one egg. They place the white egg in the center of a circle, or area. Then they take turns rolling colored eggs to see who can roll their egg closest to the white one.
- Easter in Latin America is a very quiet day with no church services.
- In Mexico people have a parade every day of Holy Week. On Good Friday they have a sad parade while it is still dark. They walk to slow music and sad songs.
- In Sweden many people write Easter letters and try to slip them under a door or in a mailbox without being seen.

God's Love

Jesus came to save us. Lent and Easter remind us that Jesus had a purpose when he came to earth. John 3:16 says that God loves the world so much that God the Father gave His only Son, Jesus, so that we could have life everlasting. That means God sent Jesus so we could live forever. God knows everything and he knew Jesus die and also that he would rise and live again.

Sometimes kids make choices that break God's rules. Sally chose to say unkind things and hurt a friend. Billy chose to ignore his mom and not clean his room. Those two kids chose darkness. Jesus is called the light of the world, and if we do what Jesus would choose to do then we will be choose good and light. Choose to follow Jesus and be happy that Jesus loves you.

God's Love Booklet

Make this booklet as a reminder that Jesus loves you. Make another for a friend.

Materials: Fold 4 sheets of paper in half and staple to make a booklet.

Supplies: Band aid, red paper, cotton balls, birthday candle, foil stars, canceled postage stamps, glue, scissors, and markers.

1. On the cover write, "God Shows Love Through Jesus."

2. Write the words in quotes in the book. Follow the art directions.

Page 1: "God sent Jesus from heaven above to teach me all about His great love."

Art: cut and glue 6 red hearts to form a cross shape.

Page 2: "No matter where we're from, Jesus says, "Let the children come."

Art: Glue on postage stamps. If possible, add some from other countries.

Page 3: "I don't ever have to worry. Do you know why? Because Jesus is with me, anywhere under the sky."

Art: Draw stars. Add the foil star stickers.

Page 4: "Jesus is my Good Shepherd. I'm His lamb, it says so in His word."

Art: Glue on 2 cotton balls for a lamb's body. Draw legs and head.

Page 5: "When I am sad, hurt, or sick, Jesus helps me get well quick."

Art: Glue on band aid. Draw a happy face.

Page 6: "I'm not afraid day or night, because Jesus is my light."

Art: Glue on candle.

Write your name on the back of the book.

Test your knowledge about what happened when Jesus died

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Replace the number with the letter above it to decode the answers.

1. (Palm Sunday) What did the people shout as Jesus rode on a donkey? (Mark 11:7-11)

8 15 19 1 13 13 1

2. What Jewish feast was Jesus celebrating before his death?

16 1 19 19 15 22 5 15 (Mark14:12-21)

3. What did Jesus say about the bread he broke at the Last Supper?

20 8 9 19 9 19 13 25 2 15 4 25 _____ (Mark 14:22)

4. What happened to Jesus on Good Friday? Mark 15:37)

8 5 19 20 15 14 5

5. What did soldiers place in front of the tomb? (Matthew 27:60)

12 1 18 7 5 18 15 4 19

Cross Quiz

Test your knowledge the Cross.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Replace the number with the letter above it to decode the answers.

1. He washed his hands when Jewish leaders wanted him to condemn Jesus _____
16 9 12 1 20 5 read about it in Matthew 27:24

2. Who helped Jesus carry the cross? _____
19 9 13 15 14 20 8 5 3 24 18 5 14 5
Read about it in Matt. 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26

3. Who did Jesus meet who wept as he carried the cross? _____
23 15 13 5 14 Read about the meeting in Luke 23:27-31

4. What did soldiers do to Jesus? _____
19 20 18 9 16 16 5 4 8 9 13

Read about it in Matthew 27:28

5. Hanging on the cross was called what? _____
3 18 21 3 9 6 9 24 9 15 14 Read Matthew 26:2

6. People Jesus spoke to as he hung on the cross _____
13 1 18 25 and 10 15 8 14 Read about it in John 19:25-26

7. What happened to Jesus? _____
8 5 4 9 5 4 Find this in Luke 23:46

8. What did people do with the body of Jesus?
12 1 9 4 8 9 13 9 14 1 20 15 13 b Look up Luke 23:52-53

9. Three days later what did the angels say?
8 5 8 1 19 18 9 19 5 14
42 Look up John 19:38-

Answer Key: 1. Pilate 2. Simon of Cyrene 3. Women 4. Stripped him 5. Crucifixion 6. Mary and his John 7. He died 8. Laid him in a tomb 9. He has risen

1-2-3-4 Easter Numbers Game

When we read about the death of Jesus there are lots of numbers, especially 1-2-3-4 and multiples of 3 or 4. See how many you can guess correctly. There are Bible verses if you want to check it out!

1. How many people helped Jesus carry the cross? (Luke 23:26)
2. How many languages were written on the cross? (John 19:19-20)
3. Number of soldiers standing guard at the cross? (John 19:23)
4. Hours of darkness when Jesus died? (Matthew 27:45)
5. Number of witnesses who spoke against Jesus at his trial. (Matthew 27:60)
6. Number of pieces of silver Judas received for betraying Jesus was how many times ten? (Matthew 26:14-15)
7. Jesus denied Peter this many times. (Luke 22:56-61)
8. How many times did a rooster crow? (Matthew 26:74-75)
9. Number of men crucified with Jesus? (John 19:18)
10. How many disciples stood by the cross and watched? (John 19:26-27)
11. How many women came to the tomb early on Easter Sunday? (Mark 16:1-3)
12. How many walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus after Jesus rose? (Luke 24:13-15)

Answers: 1=1 2=3 3=4 4=3 5=2 6=3 7=3 8=1 9=2 10=1 11=3 12=2

Easter Plexers by Karen Whiting

Solve these plexers (word puzzles) related to Easter.

Example of a word plexer

Understand
I

This means I understand

1. On Palm Sunday

Jesus
Donkey

2. Where Jesus ate his last meal

Room

3. When did Peter deny Christ?

R		
O	crow	
O		
B 4	S	crow
	T	
	E	crow
	R	

4. What happened to Jesus on Good Friday?

N
A
N A I L E D
L
E
D

5. What did the women find on the first Easter?

TOMIB

6. What happened on the first Easter?

S		
U		
S		
E		
J		
Day	day	day

T		T		T	
H	H	H	H	H	H
O	O	O	O	O	O
R	RR	RR	RR	RR	R
N	N	N	N	N	N

THORNTHORNTHORNTHORNTH

7. What did soldiers give Jesus?

Answers:
 1. Rode on a donkey
 2. Upper room
 3. 3 Times before the rooster crowed 3 times
 4. Nailed on a cross
 5. Empty tomb
 6. Jesus rose on the third day
 7. Crown of thorns

Easter Word Search

A	H	E	I	Y	A	D	N	U	S
S	S	N	R	O	R	O	C	K	T
C	H	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	R
E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	E
N	N	B	R	N	E	D	R	A	G
D	E	A	E	H	P	V	U	T	H
E	N	S	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
H	I	A	S	J	R	I	S	L	E
R	L	D	E	L	L	O	R	N	A

Find words about what happened at Easter and talk about how Jesus rose.

RISEN	EMPTY TOMB	PETER	JOHN
MARY	GARDEN	ANGELS	SOLDIER
LINEN	SUNDAY	RAN	ROCK
ROLLED	ASCEND	ALIVE	

Cross off the words as you find them. Use the letters left out to write an Easter message.

-----, -----.

A	H	E	I	Y	A	D	N	U	S
S	S	N	R	O	R	O	C	K	T
C	H	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	R
E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	E
N	N	B	R	N	E	D	R	A	G
D	E	A	E	H	P	V	U	T	H
E	N	S	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
H	I	A	S	J	R	I	S	L	E
R	L	D	E	L	L	O	R	N	A

Answer: He is not here, but he has risen.

Easter Acrostic

Answer the clues by finishing the words formed by the Easter acrostic. For hints, look up the verses in parenthesis.

E _____
This happened to the ground on Easter morning. (Matthew 28:2)

A _____
This being rolled away the stone. (Matthew 28:2)

S _____
The angel's clothes were as white as this. (Matthew 28:3)

T _____
Place body of Jesus was laid. (Matthew 28:1)

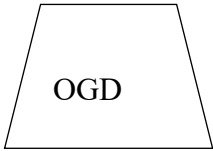
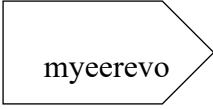
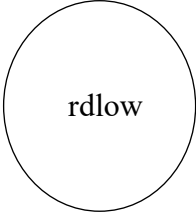
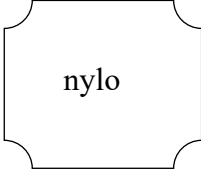

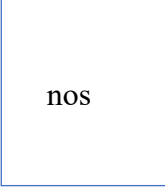
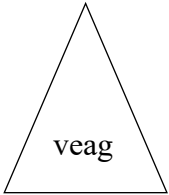
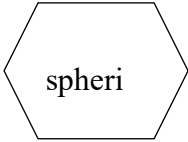
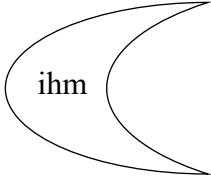
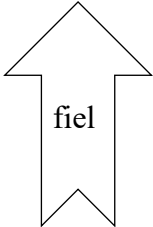

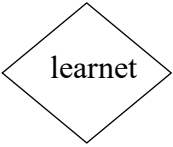
E _____
Jesus died so we could have this kind of life. (John 3:15)

R _____
Jesus did this on Easter morning. (Matthew 28:4)

Answer Key: Earthquake, angel, snow, tomb, eternal, and rose.

Why Did God Send Jesus Puzzle

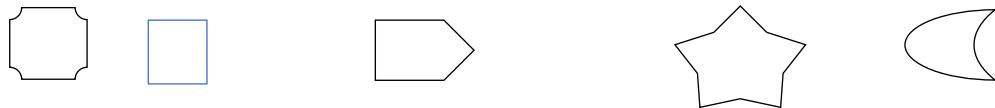
Unscramble each word in each shape and then put the words in the verse as they belong by matching the shape to discover why God sent Jesus.

 OGD	 myeerevo	 rdlow	 nylo	 ovlde	 nos
 veag	 spheri	 ihm	 fiel	 beeslive	 learnet

For this is how _____ the _____ : he _____



his _____ so that _____ who _____ in _____



may not _____, But may have _____



Answer: For this is how **God** loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Audience Participation Easter Story by Karen Whiting

Tell story with motions and sound effects. Have children repeat your actions and sounds.

There's a parade (march legs up and down).

I see someone (Hand, palm down, over eyes and look around).

I see Jesus (point). He's riding a donkey. Clipity clop. Clipity clop. (March feet slowly)

Everyone is shouting praise (wave and shout Hosanna).

After the parade Jesus walked with his close friends (slap thighs in walking rhythm).

Some of the disciples waked to the city (slap thighs).

They looked around for a colt. (Hand, palm down, over eyes and look around).

Thy heard a sound (Neigh) and saw the colt. They went into the house near the colt. (step up and down).

They climbed stairs to an upper room (step up and down as though climbing stairs).

They prepared the room for a dinner party (pretend to mix ingredients in a bowl).

Jesus came in (slap thighs).

Jesus washed their feet (rub hands and make swooshing noises).

Jesus broke the bread (crackle and motion of breaking bread)

He said, "This is my body." We call that meal The Last Supper.

They ate the bread (Crunch, munch, and rub tummy)

Jesus walked down the stairs and outside with his friends (step up and down)

They walked into a garden (take deep breaths and sniff the air)

Jesus prayed, but his friends slept (snore)

Judas, his not-so-good friend, counted his money. Cling! Cling! (Move pretend coins in hand)

Soldiers marched in (slap thighs hard and slow)

Judas came and kissed Jesus (kiss the air)

Soldiers tied Jesus hands (Hands behind back)

The soldiers marched Jesus away (stomp feet)

They took Jesus to Caiaphas (hands behind back)

Caiaphas made a decision (bang! Bang! Hit fist onto palm for gavel)

He said, "send him to Pilate" (Point out above audience's heads)

Pilate had soldiers whip Jesus (Beat one hand with fist)

Ouch! Ouch! Soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head (Press finger tips into head)

Pilate said No, he did nothing wrong (Shake head no)

But the people shouted, (Yell Crucify him!)

So Jesus dragged the cross (Huff and puff and pull an imaginary cross)

Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross (bang, bang, hammer on hand)

Jesus died ((weep and wipe tears)

Friends carried Jesus to the tomb. (Lift arms up and move from one side to the other)

They put Jesus inside the tomb (drop hands and say, Plop!)

They rolled the stone in front of the grave (rolling motions with hands)

They walked away (slap thighs)

A few days later three women walked to the tomb (slap thighs gently)

The grave was empty (Hand, palm down, over eyes and look around)

They ran away (slap thighs very fast)

Mary Magdalene came back (soft slapping thighs, Shh)

She saw someone (Hand, palm down, over eyes and look around and saw a man)

He asked, "Why are you crying?" (Put out hands and look puzzled)

She said, "Where have you put Jesus?" (Put out hands and look puzzled)

She looked again (Smile) the man was Jesus! Hooray! (Lift hands up).

She ran to tell others that Jesus rose from the dead (slap thighs fast)

And you can share the story with people too (Point toward children)

Easter Puppet Show

Make stick puppets of a bunny, Mary Magdalene, and Jesus. Use them to tell what a rabbit might have seen that first Easter.

That first Easter morning in Mr. Rabbit's house
He lay snoring loudly as did his friend, the mouse,
When outside his hole, came a loud crash and clatter.
Quickly he sprang up to see what was the matter!

The sunlight on grass and fresh fallen dew
Made glorious sparkles in every color and hue.
A stone went KERPLUNK... away from Christ's tomb
Rolling past colorful tulips and lilies in bloom.

Then what to his wondering eyes did appear...
But Jesus, God's own son, and Rabbit..trembled ...with fear!
Jesus died on the cross just days before!
Now He had risen.. alive once more!

Jesus glistened and shone from His head to His feet
No one ever saw a sight more bright or more sweet!
He smiled and looked at Rabbit with loving care
But all Rabbit could do was SIT there and STARE!

Jesus spoke not a word, but the bunny soon knew
Our Lord loves all creatures and cares for them, too.
Then Rabbit leaped, hippoty, hop
Following Lord Jesus with hardly a stop.

Jesus found Mary, crying near the empty tomb,
Gently he said, "Fear not, I'll see you all soon."
He told Mary, "Go!- Go and spread the word!
Tell others what you saw and the truth you have heard!"

With hope,
 with love,
 and with joy- Away Mary sped,

So this good news of Christ's rising she could joyfully spread!

Hurray! Joy and gladness quickly filled up her heart
Hop Hop! Hurray! Jesus gave people a whole new start!
That's why on Easter we rejoice and have fun
 Hippoty, Hoppity, Hoppity Easter everyone!!



New Life Word Search

Jesus came to give us new life. Hunt for words about new life. Use the unused letters to find a special message of something Jesus said about life.

I	C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R
A	M	S	E	L	O	P	D	A	T	T	H
Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	T	E	F
B	R	E	S	U	N	R	R	E	U	C	L
A	N	T	T	I	E	O	N	A	O	S	O
B	I	U	S	E	V	A	E	L	R	G	W
N	B	L	D	T	A	H	B	E	P	G	E
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R
L	R	P	I	F	H	S	E	E	D	E	S

Caterpillar Tadpole Flowers Heaven
 Robin Baby Resurrection Butterfly
 Sprout Leaves Seed Eggs
 Tulip Bud

ANSWER KEY

I	C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R
A	M	S	E	L	O	P	D	A	T	T	H
Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	T	E	F
B	R	E	S	U	N	R	R	E	U	C	L
A	N	T	T	I	E	O	N	A	O	G	O
B	I	U	S	E	V	A	E	L	R	G	W
N	B	L	D	T	A	H	B	E	P	G	E
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R
L	R	P	I	F	H	S	E	E	D	E	S

Jesus Sighting Detectives!

Who did Jesus see after He rose and where? Use the word box and find the out about those people and where he saw them. Check the scriptures to learn more.. You can look up the facts in the Bible verses. These are only some of the people who saw Jesus.

Garden (John 20:11-18)
Thomas (John 20:26-29)
Peter (John 21:15)
Emmaus Luke 24:13-15, 30-32)
Crowd (1 Corinthians 15:6)
Sea ((John 21:1-25)

Disciples (John 20:19-25)
Closed Room (John 20:19-25)
Mary (John 20:11-18)
Paul (Acts9:3-6)
The Father (John 20:17, Acts 1:9)
Angels (Luke 28:2-7; John 20:11-12)

B S E L P I C S I D
E L A N G E L S I D
E T H O M A S Y W V
C L O S E D R O O M
E J P E M A R D E S
U S E C M C H N E R
T H E F A T H E R N
I S E L U A P T I S
R I R S S E N A E S

USE THE LETTERS NOT CIRCLED TO FILL IN THE MESSAGE BELOW.

_____!

ANSWER KEY:
MESSAGE: BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!

Senses of Heaven

These sounds, sights, and scents make me break out the book of Revelation and turn to chapters 4, 7, 14, and 22, to read about sounds and sights in heaven. There's a beautiful rainbow over God's throne, trumpets blasting, a multitude in white robes, roar of a voice that sounds like rushing waters, angels lapping wings and flying, and a new song sung before the throne. These are sounds of joy.

Check out more sounds and sights in heaven

Rejoicing in heaven in 1 Chronicles 16:31

Wipe tears in Revelation 7:17, 21:4

Our God reigns in Revelation 19:6

Angel wings in Ezekiel 1:24, 10:5

Languages and people from many nations in heaven in Revelation 7:9, 19:1

Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:12

God's voice thundered from heaven in 2 Samuel 2:24, Psalm 29:3, Jeremiah 10:13

The rushing wind of the Holy Spirit descended from heaven in Acts 2:2-3

Jesus will speak your name revealed in Matthew 10:32

Party in heaven in Matthew 8:2; Revelation 19:9

Prayers heard in heaven in Psalm 18:6; Psalm 66:19; Daniel 10:12; John 9:31, Acts 10:31; 1

John 5:14; and Revelation 5:8

Silence in heaven in Revelation 8:1

Trumpets in Revelation 8:7,

Harp and a new song in Revelation 14:2-3, 15:2

River flowing in Revelation 22:1-2

Horses in Revelation 19:11-14

Fire in heaven in 2 Thessalonians 1:7, Revelation 4:5

Sparkling Resurrection rolls

From the Book, *The Gift of Bread*, by Karen Whiting

Jesus gave us a lasting gift of bread. He is a giver who always has more to give. He fills our days with joy that colors our lives.

Ingredients

Crescent rolls or refrigerated biscuit dough

Large marshmallows (1 for each roll)

Candy sprinkles



Directions

Heat oven to 400°F. Open rolls and flatten biscuit dough.

Sprinkle dough with candies. Place a marshmallow on each roll and close dough over it, sealing it well.



Bake 10 minutes until golden brown.



The rolls will be empty inside, and the wall will be lined with color from the candies.

Braided Heart Pretzels

From *The Gift of Bread* by Karen Whiting

This is the recipe I've used for years to make pretzels. It's easy for children to roll and shape. Cross your arms like the traditional pretzel shape of arms folded in prayer.

Ingredients

1 package active dry yeast 1 1/2 cups warm water
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 tablespoon sugar
4 cups flour

Topping

1 egg, beaten Coarse salt

Directions

- Heat oven to 400°F.
- Soften yeast in water in a large bowl; add salt and sugar.
- Mix in flour with hands; knead to form soft dough. Do not allow dough to rise.
- Cut immediately into small pieces.
- Roll into ropes; form into pretzel shape. Cover cookie sheet with foil; dust with flour.
- Place pretzels on cookie sheet. Brush with egg; sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake for 15 minutes.

Makes 2–4 dozen.

THE ROWS OF BREAD on the altar in the temple reminded people of God's presence. In our home, we used bread to remind our children about God and prayer. We made pretzels. According to oral tradition, monks used scraps of dough cut into strips and shaped them like hands folded across the chest in prayer. The three holes represented the Trinity. At one time, pretzels were also hidden with boiled eggs at Easter. A painting from 1559, titled *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent*, depicts pretzels in the scene, sitting on a red cart with other bread.

Make an Easter-Gram

Cut out the cross. Fold along solid lines and on the center back side address it to a friend and them mail or deliver it! Add a message. On the back of each fold write one word to form the message *Jesus died for you*. Draw a heart around the word *you*.
 Optional: add stickers

HAPPY EASTER!!

Have fun with this word search.

Remember to celebrate that Jesus dies for you and rose!

Word list
 Rolled away
 Angel
 Happy easter
 Resurrection
 Empty
 Tomb
 New life
 Rejoice
 Nails
 Cross
 Salvation
 risen

H A P P Y E A S T E R J
 E N S U T O M B S X E C
 H G R I C S T P X D J I
 R E S U R R E C T I O N
 I L E D O X S O X Y I X
 S O U X S C A N X H C A
 E V E L S X E T E R E N
 N O I T A V L A S A L X
 L A Y A W A D E L L O R
 N I F N E W L I F E E E

Find the hidden message
 Fill in the lines with the letters not circled (except x's) to find a hidden message

FROM YOUR FRIEND

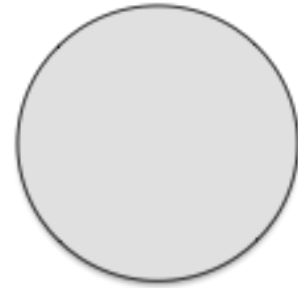
Answer Key

X E F I F I F I N F I F I N
 R O L L E L L E L L E L L E L
 X L X A L S A V L A V L A V L
 N E L R E T E X S L S E V E
 A C H X N A N C S X U O S
 X I X O Y O S O X O X D E I
 N R E S U R R E C T I O N
 I G R I D X T P X C I R I G H
 C E X S D N O T O N S U N E
 J R V P P Y E A S T E R J

Easter Wheel Story

Materials:
2 paper plates

Paper fastener Scissors
Crayons or markers



Create a story that uses a wheel with hidden windows to reveal portions of the story. It allows each person to turn the wheel and share the story.

Directions:

1. In one paper plate, cut out a pie-slice triangle with the point an inch away from the center of the plate and the outer part 1/8 of the circumference of the plate.



2. Divide the second plate into 8 equal sections.

3. Read about the events around Easter, from Palm Sunday and The Last Supper, to Jesus dying on the cross and the resurrection.

4. In each section draw 1 part of the story. (palms, Last supper, prayer in garden, soldiers take Jesus, Jesus before Pilate, crown of thorns, dying on cross, tomb, risen Jesus)

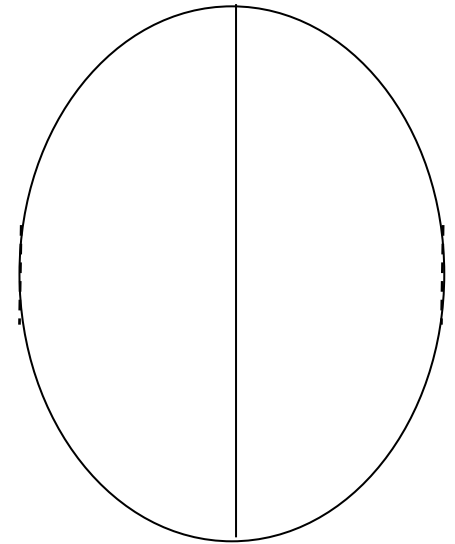
5. Put the first plate with the window on top of the other plate. Use a paper fastener through the center of both plates to join them. Now the inner plate can be turned to reveal one part of the under plate at a time, showing 1 part of the story at a time.

6. **Show time:** Use the wheel to tell others about Jesus and Easter!

Mini Easter scene

What you need

- Small empty potato chip can
- Small sharp scissors or x-acto knife
- Green Styrofoam
- White Styrofoam egg
- Tiny flowers
- White paper
- Markers (green and silver)
- Scissors
- Card stock to cover outside of can (Easter color/pattern)
- Optional Battery-operated votive candle
 - Half of a plastic egg
 - Ribbon ½ inch wide



What to do

1. Cut an oval opening in can. (Use pattern and place it ½ inch from bottom of can).

Note: You can cut this completely off or follow pattern dashed lines to cut doors to open and close. You would not cut through sides at dashed lines. These would fold open and closed.

2. Cover can with paper. Cut opening in paper to match opening of can.

Note: If you have doors, first cut and cover the area around the doors, and then cover the can, including the doors with one long piece. Trim around doors.

3. Cut green Styrofoam to fit inside bottom of can. Cut it ½ inch high. Place inside.
4. Cut egg in half crosswise. Take the smaller diameter end and cut it in half. This will make a tomb. Carve out an opening in the tomb. Color the tomb with markers. You can color the outside green and the inside silver.
5. Glue tomb to green Styrofoam at back center of can. Or secure it in with toothpicks stuck into both pieces of Styrofoam (grass and bottom of egg).
6. Use carved out piece as the rock that was rolled away (or cut a piece for the rock from the left over piece of egg. Color this silver and set to one side of tomb and glue.
7. Decorate the green Styrofoam with flowers. Poke the tips into the Styrofoam.
8. Cut an angel from white paper (use pattern) and attach to the tomb, in front of the opening. You can pin angel to the egg to look like the angel is floating.

Optional

To light the scene, poke a hole in lid for votive light bulb to fit through snugly. Turn votive upside down and push light bulb in. Cover the votive base with flowers. Decorate bottom of base (now top) with a small bunny or a cross (make a cross from two cinnamon sticks tied together with a ribbon).

Tiny sparks of imagination

- Add silver trim around bottom edge of can.
- Make a pompom bunny to place at opening of can.
- Color. Add stickers to decorate outside of can or write 'He is Risen' on it.
- If you have doors, you can decorate them with drawings of the women who visited the tomb.

Friendship Treat Holder Matthew 7:12

What You Need

Medium weight cardstock or paper
Scissors
Markers or Crayons
small wrapped candy bars

What to Do

1. Copy the pattern onto paper and cut it out.
2. Trace the pattern onto the medium weight paper.
3. Decorate one side of the paper using the markers or crayons.
4. Cut out the decorated paper.
5. Gently bend in the shorter sides putting the tab into the slit.
6. Place one or two wrapped candies in the holder under the tab and slit.
7. Gently bend in the longer sides and slide the slits together to form the cross on the top of the box



Cross Box Pattern

