

Sad Day, Happy Day!

The Easter Story, written especially for ages 1-5

Thanks for downloading this Bible Story Guide! I hope it helps you explore the Easter story with your child. To tell this story with your preschool-aged child, follow these steps:

1. *Print the emojis and cut them out*
2. *Put one emoji in each of 6 Easter eggs. Be sure to write down which egg holds which picture. If you don't have Easter eggs, you can draw an egg on the back of the emoji, and place them egg-side up, emoji side down.*
3. *Read this story with your child, inviting them to reveal the pictures along the way. Here's a printable version of the story script.*
4. *OPTIONAL: If you'd like, you can download Hip Hip Hooray and/or Easter Surprise from Singin' Praise Tots in iTunes and close the story with a dance party.*

Read aloud the Bible Story, following the directions in bold + italics.

About 2000 years ago, God came to be with us, to be a person just like us, named Jesus.

Jesus shows us what God is like, how loving and good God is. And we needed that, because the world was full of sadness and sickness and hard stuff, even death. Jesus came so we would know that God felt sad about all this too. And not only did God feel sad, God was going to fix it.

So Jesus traveled around where he lived, to small towns and villages. Everywhere he went, he said, "Follow me! God is doing a new thing! Together we will make the world just how God has always wanted it to be! No more sadness or sickness or death! Instead there will be joy and goodness and life!" He also healed hurt and sick people. He fed hungry people. He touched lonely people. He showed love, God's love.

Open EGG with PICTURE OF HEART

So many people *did* follow Jesus. They wanted a world full of God's goodness and justice.

Open EGG with PICTURE OF MAD EMOJI

But there were others people, the powerful leaders, who said, "No, no! God is not doing a new thing! A different thing! You can't say that!" *Who does Jesus think he is?* They thought.

Well I'll tell you who he is: Jesus is God, who came to be with us, to love us, and to show us what God is like.

The powerful leaders began to make a plan. A plan to get rid of Jesus. And the plan worked. They had Jesus killed on a cross. They put his body in a cave and rolled a great big rock over its entrance. It was a sad day.

Open EGG with SAD FACE EMOJI

Jesus's friends and followers felt so sad and confused. How could this happen? How could Jesus be dead?

They thought Jesus was going to make the world just how God has always wanted it to be. How could Jesus do *that* if he was gone?

Open EGG with FOLDED UP 1-2-3

SHOW THE 1: Jesus died on a Friday. Day 1. The sad day.

UNFOLD TO SHOW 1-2: The next day was Saturday. Day 2. The waiting day. They wanted to get Jesus' body ready to be buried, but it was also Sabbath, a day of rest. So they had to wait.

UNFOLD TO SHOW 1-2-3: The next day was Sunday. Day 3.

Very early in the morning, some of the women who followed Jesus went together with supplies to care for Jesus' body before it was buried. But when they got there, the great big rock had been moved! And then two men who looked like human lightning said, "Jesus isn't here, Jesus is alive!"

The women felt surprised, and confused. Jesus was alive? And then, the most wonderful, special, delightful thing imaginable happened: Jesus was there, with them, to hug and hold.

Open EGG with HEART FACE EMOJI

What a happy day! Jesus was alive!

The women ran back and told the rest of group: Jesus is alive!

The group felt surprised, and confused. Jesus was alive? But then, Jesus came to meet them too. And everyone realized what a happy day it was.

Open EGG with YELLOW HAPPY FACE

Jesus was alive! Jesus is alive! It's a happy day!

Because of that happy day, because Jesus is alive there are people who follow Jesus now, just like people did 2000 years ago. Together with Jesus, we help make the world just how God has always wanted it to be, full of joy and goodness and life!

Hooray! Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!

Celebrate together with a dance party or by calling out together "Jesus is alive!" in loud, soft, squeaky, low, and other silly voices.



1 2 3

Cut around the [1 2 3] so it's one rectangle, then fold it so the 1 is in front, and the 1-2 can be seen while the 3 is hidden.