

BIBLE STORY

**MATTHEW 26:20-30;
27:45-50; 28:1-7**

Jesus dies, is buried, and comes back, just like He promised, so He can be our friend forever.

SAY THIS

**WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?
JESUS IS YOUR FRIEND.**

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, smile and say, "Happy Easter, [child's name]! Jesus is alive! He came back, just like He promised."



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, take turns naming your friends. When you're done listing your friends, add Jesus to the list. Jesus is the best friend ever!



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your child and pray, "Dear God, thank You for giving us friends. Thank You for (name some of your child's friends). Most of all, thank You for our good friend Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

Add a small ball that floats to bath time this week. Show your child how to push the ball under the water and let it go to see it pop back up on top of the water. Each time the ball pops back up say, "It came back!" When you're done, tell your child that Jesus came back, just like He promised. Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever!

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4 MEANINGFUL WAYS TO CELEBRATE EASTER WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER

By Autumn Ward

One of the things I wrestled with when my kids were growing up was how to make the true story of Easter the most important part of Easter while participating in all the fun around us. I loved watching my kids dig through their baskets and run through the grass looking for hidden eggs. I mean, how cute is a toddler walking off-balance carrying a basket that's bigger than he is? And I'll confess, I have eaten my share of Peeps and Cadbury Crème Eggs in my van after buying groceries . . . several weeks before Easter!

But even more than all that cuteness and yumminess, I had a sincere desire for my kids to know how much God loves them and what Jesus did for us so we can be with God forever. This is why we celebrate Easter.

Here are a few simple, but meaningful, ways to celebrate the true story of Easter that your kids may one day want to enjoy with their own.

1. **Plan a special meal** with neighbors, friends, or family. As you prepare the meal, talk about how Jesus had a special meal with His friends before He went away and then breakfast with His friends after He came back.
2. **Plant an herb garden.** Herb seeds grow quickly and can be grown indoors or out. After you bury the seeds, talk

about how Jesus was buried but He came back, just like He promised.

3. **Decorate "Good News" cards.** Create handmade cards using construction paper, crayons, markers, and stickers. Write (or guide your child to write) "Good News! Jesus is alive!" on the card. Talk about who they will share the Good News with and then help them deliver the cards to those people.
4. **Go on an egg hunt.** Egg hunts are a lot of fun, but the Easter story can get lost quickly in the mad dash. Put Easter story-related pictures in some of the plastic eggs as you hide them. Later, when your kids open the eggs, use the pictures to help retell the story.

Easter is a wonderful opportunity to teach kids about Jesus and God's story of love for us. We just have to look for ways that will connect with our children in each phase of their lives. Any of the above ideas can become your own Easter traditions that help you and your children celebrate Jesus in a meaningful way they will understand, all while having a little fun.

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