The Real Easter Story

An In-Depth Study for the Whole Family

Stephanie Ruby
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Introduction

Easter. He is risen! Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ made Himself absolutely nothing for our sakes. He is God, the one true Lord, King of kings. He didn't have to make Himself low, come among us, and die on that cross. He didn't have to enter this dark world and become man. Or did He?

According to His Father, yes. According to the Word (Jesus), yes. There was no other way to pay for our sins. There was no other venue for cleansing us. He washed us with the only means that would qualify: Himself sacrificed.

That alone ought to humble us. I sit stunned as I think of it; it's too much. If only we could see that from which we've actually been saved. Someday we'll know. Someday we'll see. Yet I go on my way, doing my own thing, worrying myself with this life's troubles. How faithless I am. I know Christ's glory, yet I forget so quickly.

How thankful I am that it is He who builds my very faith. And even further, He maintains it. It's all Him and only because He is risen. He lives! He's alive! And in Him we live eternally. All the glory to our great God, our Lord, our Messiah, our Savior, Jesus Christ. In Him we find our faith, yes, even us, the faltering faithless. Praise Him!

—Gena Suarez, Publisher@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Easter can be a fun day of celebration with our families. As Christians, we of all people have much reason to celebrate and remember Jesus' death and resurrection. What traditions or activities do you want your children to remember? As you look through this WeE-book™, I'm sure you will find something you can easily incorporate into your special Easter week. What we do for fun is one thing; what we do for eternity is quite another. Let's pour the very Word of God into our families this Easter and show them how our own hearts rejoice in our risen Savior.

There is a song going through my mind right now; it's this one: "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." Do you remember that one? Well, that is exactly how I feel. In fact, it's because He lives that I can face today! Today is all I really have and I
want to make sure I am serving the God who lives today. What am I doing today to let my kids know that God lives, and that God lives in me? What am I teaching them that will last past today and into eternity? Do they know this powerful Savior who beat death?

The gospel would be nothing without the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's because He was raised that we can be "raised with Him" and thus able to set our hearts on things above. It's because He conquered death that we can be more than conquerors in this life. Just as death did not hold Him down, we will not stay down either but will live forever with Him and all because of Him. That's why we should "live and move and have our being" in Him every day, and we should bring our children with us!

What should we teach our children this Easter? Just this: He gave His life; He is worthy of our entire life. And that starts with today.

—Deborah Wuehler, SeniorEditor@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com
The Easter Story

Matthew 26

1And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

2Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

3Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

5But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

6Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

8But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

9For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

11For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

12For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.
13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?

18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples.

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover.

20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.
And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.
38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.
And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?
But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.
Matthew 27

1 When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

2 And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.
13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

15 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.
26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

30 And they spat upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36 And sitting down they watched him there;

37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

And straightway one of them ran, and took a spunge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;
And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedees children.

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.
Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

**Matthew 28**

1 In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.
Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
Discussion/Writing Prompts

1. Imagine that you were around at the time of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Write an essay describing the sights that you see and the way that you live. Research the culture by reading Biblical commentaries and by searching online (with your parent’s help, of course). Create a diorama to illustrate what you have written.

2. Now that you have an image in mind of Israel in the past, find pictures and other resources that show what life is like in Israel today. Do you notice any differences between the way children in modern-day Israel live and the way you live? Write a couple of paragraphs contrasting the differences that you notice.

3. Politically speaking, America is an ally to Israel. Not everyone in the world agrees with this. Write a paper based on your opinion about whether or not it is best for America to support Israel. Why do you feel this way? Provide facts to back up your argument.

4. We are celebrating Jesus’ resurrection when we celebrate Easter, but a lot of distractions have come along the way to take some of the attention off the real reason we celebrate Easter. Pretend you are speaking with a group of people who do not understand the true meaning of Easter. Write a paper explaining to them, in your own words, what Easter means to you and why you celebrate it.

5. Write an essay about how you feel when you think about what Jesus did for you that day on the cross.

6. Explain why Jesus had to die so that we could get into heaven.
7. Jesus told His disciples before He ascended into heaven “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20) What are some ways you can obey His words and “teach all nations”?

8. What special things do you do to celebrate Christ’s resurrection? What are some ways you can keep Him the center of your celebrations?

9. Write a thank you note to Jesus expressing your appreciation for His sacrifice so that you might have eternal life.

10. Have you ever had to give up something in your life that you really did not want to give up? How did you feel after you gave it up? What happened afterward? Think about the sacrifice that God made for you. Do you think that He had similar feelings? Why or why not?

11. Imagine that you were living during the time of Christ. How do you think you would have reacted to hearing that Jesus had been crucified, died and rose again? Do you think you would have been like Peter and denied Him? Or like Thomas and doubted? Or someone who believed? Explain why you would have reacted that way.
The Story of Easter Quiz

You can print this quiz and use it to assess how well your children know the Easter story, or you can simply use these as discussion questions for the entire family.

1. At the Last Supper, what did Jesus say that the bread represented?
2. In Matthew 26:36, where did Jesus and His disciples go?
3. What did Jesus say in His prayer in Matthew 26:39?
4. What did the disciples do while Jesus prayed?
5. Jesus said. “The spirit is willing but the flesh is____________.”
6. Who betrayed Jesus?
7. How did he betray Jesus?
8. Who was the governor that Jesus was delivered to?
9. Jesus was said to have been the “King of ____________.”
10. What did the soldiers place on Jesus’ head?
11. What color clothing did the soldiers place on Jesus? Why?

12. While on the cross, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they__________________.”


14. Why was it so important that Jesus’ body be taken off of the cross and buried by sundown?

15. What was blocking the door of the tomb?

16. Why did Pilate send someone to guard the tomb?

17. After the Sabbath, who came to the tomb and found it empty?

18. What did the angel say to them?

19. What were the soldiers paid to say about Jesus’ body? Why?

20. After his resurrection, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do?
## Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to make words that are related to the Easter story.

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ACROSS
1 A crown made of this was placed on Jesus' head.
5 Word used for Jesus being hung on the cross.
7 Told Mary Magdalene and the other Mary that Jesus had risen from the dead.
8 Jesus was said to be the King of the _______.
9 This was placed at the entrance of the tomb.

DOWN
2 The color of clothing the soldiers placed on Jesus.
3 He betrayed Jesus.
4 The governor Jesus was delivered to.
6 What Jesus' body was wrapped in.
10 Where Jesus' body was laid after death.
Word Search

alive  palms
believe  passover
betrayed  prayed
crucify  resurrection
disciples  sacrifice
given  tomb
hosanna  Jesus
Resurrection Eggs

Resurrection Eggs illustrate the story of Easter in a fun and inviting way for children. These are simple to make and will quickly become a favorite family tradition.

**Materials**

12 plastic eggs  
Egg carton  
Permanent marker  
Piece of a palm leaf or similar leaf  
Small piece of cloth with perfume on it  
Small piece of bread or cereal  
A couple of dimes or nickels  
Small cross (you can even make one from pieces of Popsicle sticks)  
Thorn or small thorny branch  
Piece of burlap  
2 nails  
Small piece of sponge  
A couple of cloves or other whole spice  
Small rock  
Small piece of linen  
Little slips of paper to write Scripture references on

Use a permanent marker to write the numbers 1 through 12 on the eggs, and then put the eggs in the egg carton. Inside each egg, place the item and Scripture reference written on a small piece of paper.

**Egg #1**  
Message - Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches.  
Passage - Matthew 21:1-11  
Item - Piece of palm branch or similar leaf.
Egg #2
Message - Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet.
Passage - John 12:2-8
Item - Small cloth with perfume on it.

Egg #3
Message - Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples.
Passage - Matthew 26:17-30
Item - A small piece of bread or cereal.

Egg #4
Message - Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
Passage - Matthew 27:3
Item - 2 dimes or nickels

Egg #5
Message - Jesus carried His own cross.
Passage - John 19:17
Item - A small plastic cross, or make your own cross.

Egg #6
Message - Soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head.
Passage - John 19:2
Item - A thorn or a piece of a thorny branch.

Egg #7
Message - Soldiers parted Jesus' garments and cast lots for His coat.
Passage - John 19:23
Item - A scrap of burlap and one of the nails.

Egg #8
Message - Jesus was nailed to a cross and pierced in His side.
Passage - John 19:18,37 & John 20:25-29
Item - The other nail.
Egg #9
Message – Jesus was given vinegar mixed with gall on a sponge to drink.
Passage - Matthew 27:34
Item - A small sponge.

Egg #10
Message - Spices were used to prepare Jesus for burial.
Passage - John 19:40
Item – The cloves or spices.

Egg #11
Message - The stone covering Jesus' tomb was rolled away.
Passage - John 20:1
Item - A small rock.

Egg #12
Message - All that was found was Jesus’ burial linens. He was not there. He has risen!
Passage - John 20:6-7
Item - A scrap of linen-type fabric.
**Resurrection Cookies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup whole pecans</td>
<td>Plastic baggie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon vinegar</td>
<td>Wooden spoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 egg whites</td>
<td>Tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinch of salt</td>
<td>Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. **It is very important to do this before doing anything else.**

1. Place nuts in baggie, seal tightly, and allow the child to beat them with a wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read John 19:1-3**

2. Open the vinegar and let everyone smell it. Pour 1 teaspoon into the mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, all He was given to drink was vinegar. **Read John 19:28-30**

3. Add egg whites to vinegar. Tell everyone that eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. **Read John 10:10-11**

4. Sprinkle a little salt into each person’s hand. Let each taste it, then brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus’ followers and the bitterness of our own sin. **Read Luke 23:27**

5. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Sprinkle a little sugar into each person’s hand. Let each taste it, then pour 1 cup of sugar into the bowl. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16**

6. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents our purity in God’s eyes because our sins are cleansed by Jesus. **Read Isaiah 1:18**
7. Fold in nuts gently. Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheets lined with parchment paper. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus’ body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60

8. Put the cookie sheet in the oven; close the door and TURN THE OVEN OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door shut. Explain that Jesus’ tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66

9. You’re done! Explain that you cannot eat the cookies tonight, but that you have to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. This might make your children sad but you can use this to explain that Jesus’ followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22

10. The next morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the third day, Jesus followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9
The Story of Easter Quiz Answers

1. Jesus said that the bread represented His body.
2. Jesus and His disciples went to Gethsemane.
3. My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
4. The disciples went to sleep while Jesus prayed.
5. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
7. He gave a sign; by kissing Jesus, he would give away who Jesus was.
8. The governor was Pontius Pilate.
10. The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head.
11. The soldiers put a scarlet-colored robe on him. They chose the color of royalty to mock Jesus, just as they fashioned a crown to mock him.
12. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
13. “Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” The thief believed that Jesus is the Son of God.
14. It was important because the Sabbath began that night at sundown.
15. A large stone (much too large for any one person to move) was blocking the entrance to the tomb.
16. Pilate was afraid that Jesus’ disciples were going to try to steal His body, to make it look as though he had been resurrected.
17. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were the two that came and found the empty tomb.
18. Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.
19. The soldiers were paid large amounts of money to say that Jesus’ body had been stolen, because this would discredit the women that were telling of the angel, and that Jesus had risen from the dead.

20. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**Word Scramble Answers**

1. crucified
2. tomb
3. thorns
4. empty
5. Jesus
6. betrayed
7. love
8. kiss
9. perfume
10. Savior
11. linen
12. resurrection
13. soldiers
14. cross
15. Paradise
16. risen
17. angel
18. Pilate
19. Calvary
20. third day
Crossword Puzzle Answers

THORNS

CRUCIFY

LADR

ANGEL

STONE

OMB

Word Search Answers

SETIRNLALUKIIFHXZWV
CYUNLZORSZFBBDVÖZPQL
UTYFQQFBTNRZSPALMS
PMNVLTBTFSBCSBRGDDOW
KJNTNPCXAEOAIDXAHCOATVNLZLETSYGQVHIBVYGOLLIRIJSOWP
EIYSMFNOAETIRUOSTZMUICQFBXSMYIIVGUAHNMUSYILYRZEWKLPPENCERC
JAKFBHDTPQMSHEYRBTACNINYIPRAIEDFRBVLARBYIRMZQUPGWJLTQXDSDISCTSCNPXGMZ
USSLFTTAANGXEUEJEXPAGELARHOUSSKFRSEVMRZJQEHOCJCSUPMCNLIHPAPAWWQVPCBOHSCHBLPGRLRA
MLIAMPWQOOPRGRIFITJWFGNUGOFBSXMEOWVUMCEQSOULTREGUEFAETRKEELKZASSNYDJOXMRRM
Further Resources

✓ E-Book: Easter Unit Study Set, Amanda Bennett
✓ Easter Project Pack, Hands of a Child
✓ E-Book: Easter- His Glorious Resurrection, Brandenburg Studies
✓ E-Book: Jesus the Life-Giver - An Easter Devotional, Christian Perspective
✓ The Legend of the Easter Egg, Lamplighter Publishing
✓ Who is Jesus? Project Pack, Hands of a Child
✓ E-Book: Christ Is Risen Quilt Banner Pattern, Bunkhouse Sewing
✓ Easter-Spiritual Bookmark, Barker Creek

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Appendix
How to Begin Homeschooling

1. **Discuss With Your Spouse:** Educating your child at home is a huge decision and should be one that is made with your spouse. Do not begin unless you are in agreement about this decision. You will need the support of your spouse not only at the beginning, but also throughout the year.

2. **Research the Homeschool Laws Applicable in your Area:** Be fully aware of the legal requirements before you begin and especially before you take a child out of public school. For the U.S., each state’s legal requirements can be found on the [www.HomeschoolLegal.com](http://www.HomeschoolLegal.com) website. Internationally, refer to [www.HSLDA.org](http://www.HSLDA.org).

3. **Research Styles of Home Education:** There is no single right way to educate your child at home; however, there are many differing philosophies you may want to consider.

   - **Charlotte Mason:** Based on a method introduced by nineteenth-century educator Charlotte Mason, this approach includes nature studies/journaling, narration, and living books.

   - **Classical:** Based on Dorothy Sayers’ *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which child development is broken up into three “stages” of learning commonly called “the Trivium.”

   - **Delight Directed:** This puts the learning in the hands of the child, based on his or her interests. Parents help facilitate this type of learning with appropriate instructional materials.

   - **Eclectic:** A mix of philosophies and curricula to accommodate each child’s abilities and interests. Parents choose from any method or style only those components that fit their specific needs.

   - **The Principle Approach:** An approach based on the principles of our Founding Fathers and an emphasis on God’s Word as the basis for every subject.

   - **Traditional Textbook:** Normally uses a full-range, packaged, textbook-type curriculum that also may include a scope and sequence, testing, and recordkeeping.

   - **Unit Studies:** All or most core subjects are covered while studying any one topic or unit of study, using a variety of resources and supplemental activities.

   - **Unschooling:** A relaxed setting where learning is directed by the child. Parts of this philosophy are based on research by John Taylor Gatto and John Holt.
4. **Find Support:** After finding your style of choice (or a mix of more than one choice), you may want to choose a support group that reflects that specific style or just a general homeschool support group in your area. Meeting with other home educators offers encouragement as well as knowledge and assistance with your homeschool questions. Often, organized classes or activities for your children are offered through support groups as well. For information about homeschool support groups in your area, check these listings:

**U.S.**
www.HomeschoolLegal.com

**UK:**
http://www.home-service.org/
http://www.heas.org.uk/

New Zealand:
http://www.che.org.nz/
http://hef.org.nz/
http://www.ahe.org.nz/
http://www.homeschoolers.wellington.net.nz/
http://community.library.org.nz/cgi-bin/display.pl?id=296

**Guam:**
www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/guam
http://www.tumon.com/ghsa

**Australia:**
http://www.hea.asn.au/hea/

**Canada:**
www.shbe.info
www.machs.mb.ca
www.aheaonline.com
http://nshea.webcentre.ca/
http://www.eho.org/support/canada.asp

5. **Gather Resources:** Some families start with a complete curriculum package, while others start with a notebook and a library card. Choosing your resources depends on your style or method of education and your own interests. If you are financially burdened, there are free homeschooling resources on the web, as well as discounted, used books in abundance.
You Can Do This! Parents around the world are taking back their God-given responsibility to educate their children, and you can too. We have developed two downloads to help you get started:

✓ Homeschool With Confidence
✓ Simple Recipes for Successful Homeschooling

Disclaimer: The above information is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Please check the legal requirements in your area.

To a Homeschool Mom
By Amelia Harper

He gave this gift with gentle hands,
A treasure rich and rare;
But sand and rock and rugged stone
Obscured the gem so fair.

“I give this gift to you,” He said,
“To polish and to prime;
The future lies within your hands,
So make use of the time.”

Some others placed their precious gifts
Within another’s care,
Because they knew the craft took time—
And time they could not spare.

But you were not content to trust
This task to other hands.
You sought to teach yourself the craft
That such a task demands.

For, you said, “No other hand
Can craft this gem so fair;
My loving eyes can better see
The treasure hidden there.”

So carefully you chipped away
Till brilliance sprang from stone.
You shaped each facet, smoothed each face,
Until the task was done.

Some days you feared that you would fail;
Some days, you saw success.
But still you labored on with love
And gentle tenderness.

Thus, soon the gem He gave to you
Reflected Light sublime;
And then you knew no other task
Was better worth your time.

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- **Minute to Minute** – Homeschool Q & A where readers ask and answer each other’s questions, emailed each Saturday
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