

Easter

Part 2 - Sacrificial

Easter in 3 words: Sacrificial – we can be forgiven.

We discover that Jesus' death and sacrifice allows us to be forgiven by God.

What You Need

Hairbrushes or pretend microphones, worship music

YouTube clip, paper and pens

Pictures for story (included at the end of the document)

Bible

Activation resources - pillows, bread, grape juice, bin or shredder

Intro Activity

Set up a pretend TV studio in your lounge, (you could even make pretend microphones or use hairbrushes!) Pretend to interview each other about why you believe in Jesus and what you believe. Tell your stories together.

Jesus did all sorts of amazing things when He lived on Earth. He would heal the sick, get rid of bad things and bring good news about God's Kingdom. People were excited and started asking: "Who exactly is this Jesus?"

We are getting ready to celebrate Easter when we remember Jesus dying and coming back to life. Through the Easter story, Jesus tells us something more about who He is and why He came to Earth.

Bible Story

Picture Treasure Hunt: Hide the 4 pictures attached, for each child around your room or house for them to find. Explain they each have to find all 4 pictures. Look at them and identify what they are, explain they tell the Easter Story. For older children, you could ask them to tell you in their own words what they think each picture represents of the story.

The Bible Story: Watch this You Tube film – God’s Story Easter by Cross Roads Kids Club <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ4gQniUVO8>

Ask your children to hold up the pictures as it comes to that part of the story and wave it in the air.

Explain: Which picture did we not pick up in the story? The Bread. The story of the Last Supper happened before Jesus was arrested, it was the last meal Jesus had with his friends, at it Jesus explained how he was going to rescue them by dying and being the sacrifice. He held up the bread and said “This is my body which is given for you.”

Read Romans 3:22-25 together.

God’s people are normal people – sometimes they make mistakes, and sometimes they sin. Sin is when we miss the target and we choose not to listen to God and live like Jesus.

Jesus always listened to God and obeyed Him. He never sinned.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took ALL the sins of the world, even yours and mine. His death allows me to be forgiven by God.

When I accept Him as my friend forever, I can come to God every time I sin (= I mess up, I don’t listen, and I don’t live like Jesus would) and simply say “I’m sorry”. And God’s reply is “I forgive you, Jesus paid for your sin. You are perfect in my eyes and I can’t see your sin any longer”.

This is what Jesus did for us when he died. This is His sacrifice and His amazing grace!

Discuss with your children what they think about that, how they feel that Jesus died for them. What they want to say to Jesus because of it. Give your children or anyone in your house, the opportunity to accept Jesus as their friend and saviour and to receive his forgiveness.

Activation

Choose or adapt one of these encounter ideas.

- Have paper and pens and a bin (or a paper shredder under adult supervision). The children think of things they want to be forgiven for and write them on a piece of paper. They pray and ask God for forgiveness. Ask them to listen to what God wants to tell them. They tear the paper (or you shred it) to show God forgives them and He no longer keep track of it.
- Create a quiet encounter space with a few pillows for children to spend time with Jesus. Put some paper and bright and colourful pens for them to write or draw what God tells them about being forgiven.
- Take communion together – explain that because we are forgiven, we are free to talk to God and free to be his friend. We can celebrate! One way, Christians celebrate that they are friends with God, and that they are forgiven is by taking the same food Jesus shared with his disciples on their last dinner before his death – bread and wine.

Put some worship music in the background. Spend time as a family encountering God.

Facebook Challenge

Post pictures of your encounter times and post it on Facebook (Eastgate – Parenting world changers) to encourage other families. Let us know good news stories of what God is doing in your family at the moment.

The direct address for this is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122953215063574/>