

JESUS IS ALIVE!!

BIG IDEA

Jesus has risen from the dead! Now we can live with Jesus the King, in his forever kingdom

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy or bake a cupcake and a relighting candle

Buy a kinder surprise egg for each child (or plastic egg with a treat inside)

Write 'Jesus is Risen' on a piece of paper

Find 4 items to dress an adult angel (e.g. a sheet, a rope for a belt, tinsel for a halo, wings, or glitter for the face)

Cut out clues from the appendix and put Clue One in the Faith Box; then hide the others in order, along with each piece of 'dress up' angel clothing

Place kinder/plastic eggs in the final hiding place .

Make resurrection buns (see appendix for recipe) and have them ready in the basket on the table (optional).

Put cupcake and Clue One into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

(Optional but fabulous fun)

Bring a basket of resurrection rolls to the table - warm if possible. Hand them around and have everyone break them open and say "The tomb is empty – he is not here. He is risen from the dead." Then enjoy eating them!



The resurrection is an amazing event that has changed everything. Jesus did not stay locked up in the grave. It makes today different, it makes tomorrow different and it makes every day different.

Take Clue One out of the box. Let the child whose name starts with a letter you choose (e.g. A) open it and read it aloud. Now all take the taller parent and together follow the clue to find the first piece of angel clothing (the sheet). Wrap it around the parent.

Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus should be fun and memorable – it is the most crazy, alive, happy day of the year and as Christian parents we can help our kids feel this!

Ask the next child to read out Clue Two and all lead the parent to find the next 'dress up' article (the rope belt), and tie it around the waist of the 'angel'.

Make sure everyone has a chance to read out a clue. When the treasure hunt ends and you have found all the dress up items, the parent should look like a very large angel. He/she brings back the 'treasure' (kinder eggs) for everyone.

The parent-angel announces joyfully, "He is not here! He is risen!"

Give out the eggs and children open them while the angel reads.

READ

☞ Jesus' friends were sad. They would never see their best friend again. How could this happen? Wasn't Jesus the Rescuer? The King God had promised? It wasn't supposed to end like this. Yes, but whoever said anything about the end? Just before sunrise, on the third day, God sent an earthquake – and an angel from heaven. When the guards saw the angel, they fell down with fright. The angel rolled the huge stone away, sat on top of it and waited.

At the first glimmer of dawn, Mary Magdalene and other women headed to the tomb to wash Jesus' body.

The friends walked quietly along the hilly path, through the olive groves, until they reached the tomb. And immediately noticed something odd – it was wide open.

They peered through the opening into the dark tomb. But wait. Jesus body was gone! And something else: a shining man was there, with clothes made from lightning.

"Don't be scared," the angel said.

But (they couldn't help it) they screamed anyway. The angel asked them, "What are you doing here? This is a tomb and tombs are for dead people."

The women couldn't speak.

"Jesus isn't dead anymore!" he said.

"He's alive again!"

And their hearts leapt.

And then the angel laughed with such gladness that they felt, for a moment, as if they had woken from a nightmare.

The women rushed home to tell the others. ☺

Genesis 2; The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, pages 310-312, Zondervan © 2007

EXPLORE

BRING OUT THE CUPCAKE AND LIGHT THE RELIGHTING CANDLE.

Even though terrible things happened to Jesus none were strong enough to stop him because he was God's light of the world!

Now take turns thinking of one of the bad things that happened to Jesus, then say it out loud and try to blow out the candle (e.g. people plotted against him, Judas betrayed him with a kiss, Peter denied him, his friends didn't stick up for him, his disciples fell asleep when he asked them to stay awake with him, he was killed).

Nothing could snuff out Jesus! God had a plan so we could all join God's family. Jesus had overcome death.

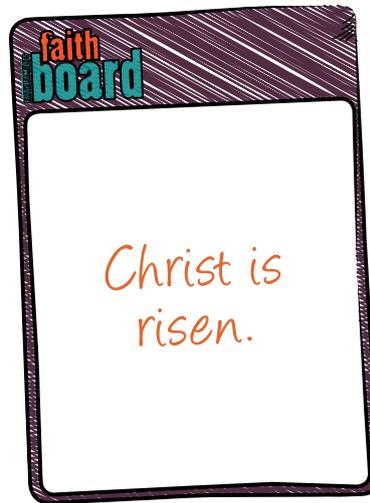
PRAY

Each person write a 'thank you' prayer to Jesus. Take turns reading out your prayer and then placing it inside your kinder surprise egg container. Then put all the eggs in a bowl on the table.

LIVE

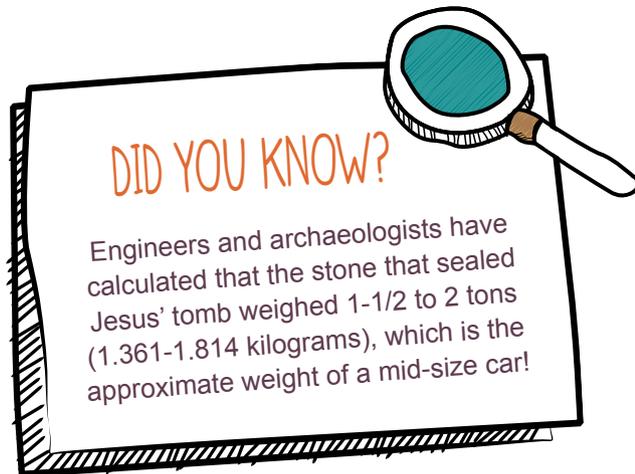
At dinner time each evening this week, open an egg and read what is written inside.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

- 1** *Make Easter Sunday special. When you wake up on Easter Sunday and find the empty tomb, ring up some Christian friends or grandparents and be the first to say “He is risen!” inviting the response “He is risen indeed!” Have flowers on the table and create a celebratory meal such as roast lamb. Make it a feast similar to Christmas!*
- 2** *Plan an Easter morning sunrise outing; take the family to the top of a hill with a picnic basket of resurrection rolls. Eat and read the resurrection story. As everyone breaks their roll open they call out “He is not here. The tomb is empty. He is risen!” It is just like Easter morning in Jerusalem – the tomb was hollow and empty!*
- 3** *Make your own resurrection eggs if you don’t already have a set. Get a dozen plastic egg containers that will fit in an ordinary egg carton. In each one place a different small item that will easily fit inside: a plastic donkey or branch, a sample of perfume (or some cloth with perfume on it), a tiny doll’s cup or piece of bread, some silver coins, a cross made out of a toothpick bound together with cotton, a thorny branch, some dice, a nail, a piece of sponge, some cloves, a rock, and a scrap of linen. Have fun opening them and working out what part of the Easter story they represent. (There are other alternatives you may prefer to include e.g. a small piece of soap, a rooster feather, an empty container.)*



**BUY FOR
NEXT
SESSION**

- Packet of balloons



SESSION EIGHT

RECIPE FOR RESURRECTION ROLLS

Make some white bread dough, then take egg-size pieces, roll them out, wrap around a marshmallow, pinch to seal, brush with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar before baking in a 200°C oven.

The marshmallow will melt, creating an empty 'tomb' in the middle of each roll!

CLUES FOR TREASURE HUNT

CLUE ONE

It's resurrection day
We get hungry along the way
Do we want something salty
or sweet?
Where do we go to find
something to eat?

CLUE TWO

It's resurrection day
Sometimes we have friends
to stay
But some can't visit if they
don't live near
Perhaps news of them in a
letter we'll hear

CLUE THREE

It's resurrection day
We've had some fun and
some play
Off to the bath, close the door
..but don't leave your dirty
clothes on the floor!

CLUE FOUR

It's resurrection day
No "Good Night" to my family
I say
I'll say my prayers and jump
into ___ phew!
I nearly gave away the very
last clue!