

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT JESUS' SACRIFICE: FAMILY BIBLE STUDY FOR EASTER

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As a kid, I experienced very strong feelings and asked many questions as I heard the stories of Christ's suffering. Teaching preschool and elementary children in church, I have realized how common it is for kids to cry when they hear about, see illustrations of, or watch dramatizations of the Jerusalem crowds and the Roman soldiers' cruelty to Jesus. It's natural and right for us to feel sad, but it's also important to remind kids of the hope that we have because Jesus suffered for us and conquered death.



Here's a way to discuss Jesus' sacrifice as a family. Read the verses and explore the topics over a number of devotion moments. Choose the best times to read and study together.

The stain of sin

Read the story of the fall in [Genesis 3](#) and [Romans 5:15-17](#). Discuss it together.

- What separated Adam and Eve from God? (Sin)
- God had a plan to rescue his people from sin and death, to bring them back to him. He planned to make the broken world whole again, to clean the stain of sin. What is God's gift to us? (Undeserved grace; acceptance because of Jesus)

Made holy

Read [Hebrews 10:1-18](#). Discuss it together.

- We have all sinned and disobeyed God. How can we, as sinners, be made holy? (Because Jesus Christ "obeyed God and offered himself once for all" (v. 10).)
- How long does Jesus' sacrifice last? (Forever! "By his one sacrifice, he has forever set free from sin the people he brings to God" v. 13).)

Tears to joy

Read [John 16:16-33](#). Discuss it together.

- Jesus said this to his disciples before he died on the cross. What did he say would happen? (Jesus would go away, but he would come back. The disciples would be sad, but later, they would be happy.)
- Why did Jesus say they could cheer up, even when they had trouble? (Jesus has already defeated the world; he is the King forever!)
- When we read about Jesus' death and feel sad, what can we do? (We can remember that he defeated sin and death and rose from the grave; he is alive!)

White as snow

Demonstrate the way Jesus makes us new in this hands-on way:

- Take a white piece of paper and help your kids cut it into a heart shape. Challenge your kids to get it as covered as possible with crayons, markers, or stickers. Explain that that is what our hearts look like because of sin. They're messy and dirty, and it seems like they'll never be clean.
- Then explain that Jesus' death on the cross washed away all of our sins. Because of him, we are forgiven. We aren't saved from our sins by working really hard or being "good enough." It's God's gift ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)).
- Take small pieces of paper or cotton balls and glue them to the "messy" heart. Cover each and every bit with pure, white "snow." Hang the heart on your fridge as a reminder that Jesus makes us new again.

Every time I read the gospels, my eyes are opened more to Jesus' amazing grace. We cannot fully explain or grasp it as kids or adults. But the beauty is that God meets us where we are; his Word gives us truth that can be planted in our hearts and grow as we learn to love him more and more.

Want to do a deep dive? Check out Family Fire's article [Living Our Easter Identity: The Impact of Christ's Dying Words](#).

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