



CELEBRATING EASTER WITH YOUR CHILD

Easter is an important holiday for children to recall how God gives us life. It is a time to focus on the spiritual significance of the season and to celebrate the evidences of new life in God's creation. Easter is probably the most significant holiday for Christians.

You will want to select activities that have meaning and enjoyment for the age of your child. Remember that establishing family traditions are also key to enriching the celebration experience. Here are some ideas that may help children appreciate the importance and wonder of Easter.

- The cross is the most significant symbol of Easter and children can grow in their understanding of its meaning as families talk about the death and resurrection of Christ. Allow time to talk of Jesus life and the greatness of His sacrifice on the cross. Families can express thankfulness to God for the Living Savior. Children will also benefit from picture books and stories that surround the events of Jesus life here on earth. "Jesus is alive!" Is a great way to express the meaning of Easter with young children, rather than "Jesus arose" or "Jesus was resurrected"
- Children will also appreciate the concept of new life if opportunities are given to plant seeds and watch them grow. Use a small container such as a baby food jar and place on a window sill of the child's room or in the kitchen. As the child waters and cares for the plant, parents can talk about God's gift of new life. The resulting flower can then be shared with an elderly relative or friend.
- Another symbol of life is the butterfly. Why not provide butterfly books and pictures while child creates butterflies of his own with colorful tissue paper and other art materials. A walk in park or meadow during the spring may include sightings of chrysalis and cocoons as well as butterflies and moths. Children will enjoy conversation about God's plan for these insects.
- Easter is a wonderful time for children to experience worship with the family at church. A visible cross in the church auditorium provides opportunity to talk with the child about Jesus death and new life. The hymns and music will be a powerful reminder of Jesus death and resurrection. Children need to understand the significance of the season apart from the prominence of the Easter bunny and other secular symbols associated with this holiday.



Let Easter be a time to encourage your child's spiritual awareness and begin to feel the expanse of God's great love for him. The Bible has much to say about the message of Easter so include Bible reading in your family time together.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." I John 4: 9&10 NIV