

**Life Group Leader's Guide**

# **The Easter Story**

***Special Edition***



***First Baptist Church of Eugene***

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## **Introduction**

# **The End of the Beginning**

Jesus was born of a virgin, one holy night in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels gathered around Him underneath the stars singing praises to the great I AM.

He walked on the water, healed the lame, made the blind to see, and for the first time here on earth, we learned that God could be a friend.

And though he never committed any sin, the angry crowd chose Him over a convicted criminal. And then He walked down the road and died on the cross and that was the end of the beginning.

Then .....He rose!

Life Group Curriculum

# The Easter Story

*"The End of the Beginning"*

Passage	Scripture	Passage Title
1	John 19:1-16	Arrest and Trial of Jesus
1	Luke 23:26-43, John 19:25-30	Jesus on the Cross
1	Matt 27:51-56, Mark 15:42-47	The Death and Burial of Jesus
2	John 20:1-31	The Resurrection of Jesus
2	John 21:1-25	Jesus Appears to His Disciples
2	Acts 1:3-12, Mark 16:15-20	Jesus' Commission and Ascension

## Optional Format for a 3 Week Lesson Plan

*Choose your questions from the Leaders Guide*

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1	John 19:1-16	Arrest and Trial of Jesus
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## Communion Guide

Passage	Scripture	Passage Title
Opt 1	Matt 26:17-19,26-29	The Lord's Supper
Opt 2	1 Corinthians 11:23-25	The Lord's Supper

*Revised Feb 10, 2012*

# The Easter Story

## Part I

- *Arrest and Trial of Jesus*                      *John 19:1-16*
- *Jesus on the Cross*                              *Luke 23:26-43, John 19:25-30*
- *The Death and Burial of Jesus*              *Matt 27:51-56, Mark 15:42-47*

### **Transition to this week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Jesus told the disciples before he was arrested that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise from the dead. The Bible tells us that when he rose from death he defeated death and sin. Death and sin no longer have power over Christian believers because God has dealt with them. Death is no longer the end, but a new beginning of life in God. Easter is a celebration of joy and hope in our new life in Christ. It is a story of love and victory over all. Let's hear what God's Word has for us in the Easter story.

**Facilitator Note:** *Suggest that three people tell the story. Approx. 3-4 mins per passage.*

### **Tell the Story: (8-10 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (8-10 Minutes)** Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

### **Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you disliked or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about Jesus(God or the Holy Spirit)?
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

### **Other Application Questions:**

1. How did Jesus respond to the lies about him at the trial? How would you respond?
2. How did the crowd/people respond during the trial and why? What crowds do you find yourself in and how do you respond?
3. What would Jesus want us to remember about this difficult time for Him and why?

### **Life Application Question(s):**

1. Why do you think God gave us so many of the details in these passages and what has He put on your heart to do with them?, or,
2. What has God put on your heart about this passage and how do you think he wants you to respond?

### **Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, it is you that we love and adore. You are worthy of our praise. You, and you alone, have come and paid the price, with Your own life, to purchase us from our own sinful ways. Lord let us rejoice in the love that You have for us and let us continue to be reminded about how this love story ends. Let our lives be a living sacrifice to You. Amen

# The Easter Story

## Part 2

- *The Resurrection of Jesus*                      *John 20:1-31*
- *Jesus Appears to His Disciples*              *John 21:1-25*
- *Jesus' Commission and Ascension*          *Acts 1:3-12, Mark 16:15-20*

### **Transition to this week's Story: (1 Minutes)**

Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, and buried in a tomb. So much took place that seemed to be out of His control, or was it? Our hope and faith are not based on the first part of this story, but on how it ends. Let's see how the rest of the story unfolds.

**Facilitator Note:** *Suggest that three people tell the story. Approx 2-3 mins per passage.*

### **Tell the Story: (6-8 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (6-8 Minutes)** Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

### **Basic Questions:**

1. What character do you relate to best in this passage?
2. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
3. Is there anything you disliked or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
4. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus or the Holy Spirit)
5. What does this passage teach you about people?

### **Other Application Questions:**

1. How did the Disciples respond when they were told Jesus had risen from the dead?
2. Did the disciples immediately believe that Jesus had risen when they were first told? Did you? How about the people you tell about Jesus? What should you do?
3. What was the purpose of Jesus questioning Peter, "Do you Love Me?" How would you respond if He asked these questions of you?
4. Where is your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria?
5. What were some of the promises and instructions that Jesus left us before his final ascension into heaven? What are some of your thoughts about them and about you?

### **Life Application Question(s):**

1. Why do you think God gave us so many of the details in these passages? What has he put on your heart to do with them?, or,
2. What has God put on your heart about this passage? How do you think he wants you to respond?

### **Prayer Thoughts:**

Father God, it is You who have created us, sent us Your one and only Son to purchase us and rescue us from ourselves. We pray the truth of the Easter Story remains deep in our hearts and we celebrate the greatest gift ever given in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

# Communion Guide

## *Tips, Suggestions and References*

### What we believe

- Communion (or the Lord's Super) is an *expression* of our faith in Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior. We believe it is a *symbol* of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross and is to be done in *remembrance* of Him. The key is found in the phrase: "do this in remembrance of Me" (Lk.22:19; 1 Cor.11:24-25).

### Why do we value the Lord's Supper?

- The Lord Jesus placed a supreme value upon it (Matt 26:26-29, Mk. 14:22-25, Lk. 22:17-20)
- The Early church highly regarded it (Acts 2:42,46; 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

### What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

- A special time of remembering what Jesus has done for us. It is His body and blood which are remembered in the Lord's supper.
  - Remember the Past: What He did on the cross.
  - Remember the Present: Our current relationship with Him.(1 Cor. 10:16-17)
  - Remember the Future: His promised return.(Lk.22:16)
- A time of thanksgiving (The Lord Jesus took the bread, and "having given thanks, He broke it...")
- A time of fellowship with other believers. Reminder of the unity we have in Jesus Christ.

### Who should take part in the Lord's Supper?

- Assembled believers in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:27-32)
- It is to believers whose hearts are prepared before the Lord (1 Cor. 11:20-22, 27)
- Ask yourself:
  - Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?
  - Do I need to restore any broken relationships in my life?
  - Do I need to recommit myself to the Lord?

### Resources:

- Bread (A form of flat cracker by its nature represents the sinless body of Christ)
- Cup (Grape juice)
  - Special cups are not required. Any variety or size of cups can be used. Small 1 ½ oz. cups can be purchased at many local stores: Dollar Store, Christian Book Stores, etc.

### General Group Flow

- Open with a short devotional.
  - The What and Why of Communion, or,
  - Passages leading up to the Last Super.
- Prayer of thanksgiving for the bread.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the bread together.
- Prayer of thanksgiving for the cup.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the cup together.
- Close in Prayer