



Focus Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection from the dead are central to our Christian faith.

Open Did you grow up in a home that celebrated Easter? If so, how did you celebrate?

Read Whenever we celebrate Easter, it's important to remember three indisputable facts about Jesus Christ: He died, He was buried and He is risen!
(1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 12–17)

Death by crucifixion was excruciatingly painful. The spikes that nailed Christ to the cross were strategically placed to cause a slow, painful death by suffocation. The soldiers would break the legs of the prisoners being crucified to speed up their deaths, but Jesus' legs were not broken because He was already dead. The soldiers then pierced His heart with a spear to make sure He was dead. The blood and water that came out proved He was. Jesus laid down His life and died of a broken heart.

The chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to secure the tomb because of suspicion that Jesus' disciples would steal His body and claim He had risen. A large stone was placed over the entrance, it was sealed with mortar and guards were positioned around it (Matthew 27:62–66).

Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day! He spent 40 days on earth after He was resurrected. In that time, He appeared to individuals, to His twelve disciples and to more than 500 people at one time. In the time of the first century church, no one questioned whether He had risen. There were many witnesses to the events that took place.

While we base our belief about His death and resurrection on what the Bible says, other historical documents also support the facts of those incredible days.

Jesus died, was buried and rose on the third day. Each of these events has a special significance for us.

1. He died so we could be saved, forgiven and have eternal life.
2. When we're baptized in water, we're identifying with Christ's burial and acknowledging that we have died to our old lives (Romans 6:4).
3. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we're given power to walk in new life when we're baptized by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).

Talk

1. Read Romans 10:9. When did you first believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord? Briefly share about how you came to follow Christ.
2. Have you been baptized in water since choosing to follow Jesus? If not, please consider this important step and talk to your group leader or pastor about being baptized.
3. Read Romans 8:11. The One who raised Christ from the dead has given us His Spirit to live in us! How does this truth speak to your current struggles?
4. Read John 19:36–37. These verses list just a few of the prophecies about Jesus that had been written centuries before. What does this teach us about God fulfilling His word? What does it teach us about His character? (Isaiah 55:11).
5. What promises (i.e., scriptures, prophecies) has God given you for your life? Which ones have been fulfilled? Are there any you are still waiting and believing for?

Live

Read or listen to Luke chapters 22–24. Ask God to speak to you about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the miracle of His resurrection.

Pray

Give praise and worship to Jesus Christ our Lord for dying such a painful death on our behalf. Praise Him for His power over sin and spiritual death. Rejoice that Jesus is Lord over death and hell—He is our Resurrected King! Praise Him for His love and grace and for making it possible to have eternal life with Him.