

SENIOR PRIMARY
FAMILY WORSHIP

He is
Risen!



The man said, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body.

- Mark 16:6

Dear Parents/Carers,

He is Risen, Hallelujah. Today's session will be a celebration of the empty tomb and the victory that Jesus won for all of us.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

I would love to see any photos of your completed dioramas or your family celebrating Easter. With your permission it would be fantastic to be able to include a photo in our bulletin showing what the children are doing.

Blessings,
Jess

Topic: Easter Sunday – He is Risen!
Sessions Aim: Children complete the story of Easter focusing on the victory Jesus won in the Empty Tomb.
Bible Passage: Matthew 28:1-10

A Time of Prayer

Come together in a time of prayer with your children. Everyone can share something they would like to pray for or share a God Story. These are stories of where we have been able to see God at work in our lives or each other's lives during this week.

Dear God,
Thank you for raising Jesus back to life,
Thank you for defeating death and sin,
Today as we celebrate the empty tomb, please bless our time together.
Amen

Worship Songs

Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service.

The Empty Tomb/ Empty Egg

1: On Easter Day we are celebrating the empty tomb. Jesus' body was raised back to life. We give each other Easter eggs that are empty on the inside or hollow to help remind us that the tomb is empty.

If you have a hollow chocolate egg, play Easter egg toss. Start close together tossing a hollow egg to one another. Each time you catch the egg take a step back. When you drop the chocolate, egg look inside to see that it is hollow.

If your children and you are really good and haven't dropped the egg, make it more challenging such as: the person throwing has their eyes shut, or the person catching can only stand on one leg. Alternatively, consider letting them smashing it on their head to demonstrate that it is hollow on the inside.

Take a picture or short video and share it with your children's friends in the church as we all connect remotely this Easter.

If you have a real egg spare in your house and an outdoor area you might consider allowing your children to play egg toss with the real egg. When it smashes and the insides run out you are left with a hollow egg. This is higher stakes for them to play.

2: As your children come to sit and read from God's word ask them, why an empty tomb is so important?

Bible Study

1: Have your children find Matthew 28 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around their Bibles. Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in our hearts revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads Matthew 28:1-10.

2: To encourage children to look more deeply into the passage ask them the following questions. It is good to ask these sorts of questions every time you read from the Bible.

- What's one thing that stood out to them or surprised them?

- Why?
- How do the other three Gospels tell this story?
 - Do they add anything or leave anything out?
- What happened just before this passage and what happens after?

This process can be made easy by having a printed version of the passage in order to write notes and highlight key phrases. If you don't have access to a printer you can also copy the passage into a word document. Bible Gateway is a great place to electronically find passages, <https://www.biblegateway.com>

3: Ask your children if there is anything that they find difficult to believe about the Easter Story?

That the sky went black on Good Friday, that there were earthquakes. That Jesus really did die on the cross. He was dead in the tomb until Easter Sunday and then his body was raised back to life. These aren't things we see every day in Australia. But it is important for our children as they get older to think about these and then to read the Bible and discover the truth. Please be praying with your children that God's Spirit will be revealing the truth of these events in their hearts.

4: Jesus was the first one to be raised back to life. It has happened once and it will happen again. Today's victory is that we have confidence that as Christians when Jesus returns we will be raised to new life. This new life will be greater than anything here now. Today is so happy and exciting as it confirms that what we believe will happen.

Have your children turn to 1 Corinthians 15 and read verses 20 to 24.

5: Jesus has defeated sin and death. Jesus' death on the cross was a sacrifice for the whole world's sins. The resurrection is proof that the sacrifice was enough for God. Death was the punishment for sin but Jesus' sacrifice paid that price. Being raised back to life proves that death is no longer the punishment, and we have been forgiven and will be raised again with Christ.

Victory Song/ Banner

1: What footy team or sport team does your family support? Do you know their team song?

When our team wins we will often sing this song of victory with them. Even though we didn't play the game we share in their victory.

We have learnt that today is a victory! Jesus defeated death and sin, and we are going to be raised back to life one day too. We get to share in Jesus' victory, he is the one who did it all, he is the one who won. But we get the prize.

2: As a family come up with a victory song for Jesus' (and our) victory! It could be based off other songs about Easter, a simple chant or cheer. Write it down and find percussion instruments (this could be banging a book, or shaking rice in a container) to perform your victory song.

Sing it as loud as you can and celebrate with Jesus that on Easter morning the tomb was empty and Jesus is alive!

3: Alternatively create a Victory banner.

Holy Week Diorama

1: Today we come to the end of Holy Week and what a great way to finish, in victory.

Before you create the empty tomb with your family recap each of the scenes that you have already made. Try to link the story together, remembering the significance of each event.

2: Create the empty tomb.

