Discover the Joy of Easter

Celebrate the true meaning of Easter with your family.
To the parents: Purchase of “Discover the Joy of Easter” gives you license to copy the stories, poems, crafts, and recipes for your own immediate family. Please honor our copyright by not allowing this product to be used outside your family.

Included in “Discover the Joy of Easter” are crafts, recipes, Easter traditions from around the world, Memory Verses, and Easter journal, a Passover script, Easter hymns, easy-to-make Easter gifts, and of course, the Easter story. The Easter story in “Discover the Joy of Easter” is adapted, in part, from Jesse Lyman Hurlbut’s “The Story of the Bible,” which was originally published in 1904. It has been edited for length and clarity. LDS material (such as the Nephite Easter story) has been added.

Throughout the book, you will see symbols like these:

- The Easter Story or Easter Scriptures
- Easter Crafts or Projects
- Easter Recipes
- Easter Journal
- Easter Traditions or Activities
- Easter Hymns

Enjoy reading through “Discover the Joy of Easter.” Choose the crafts and activities that suit the interests and abilities of your children. Some of the recipes will need adult supervision!

We hope that this Easter will be a special time for your family to reflect on the life and mission of Jesus Christ, and that you will start new traditions that will help you celebrate the Savior at Easter for many years to come!

If you’d like to study more about the life of Jesus Christ with your children, Discover the Scriptures has a full “Discover the Life of Christ” curriculum available at www.discoverthescriptures.com.

Visit our website to view photos of the craft projects in this book! www.discoverthescriptures.com
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Celebrate Easter!

Celebrating Easter is more than just getting an Easter basket full of candy on Easter morning. Easter is a season! It’s a time to think about the life and mission Jesus.

The stories, crafts, recipes, and ideas in this book will help you celebrate Easter in a new way. Plan time with your family to read the story of Jesus’ last week together during Easter week. Make the crafts and recipes that look fun to you. Learn how Easter is celebrated by kids your age in other countries. Most importantly, take time to think about the importance of the life of Jesus and what He did for all of us!

**EASTER GARDEN**

Easter comes at the beginning of spring every year. It’s a time when we think about new life: the new life of plants and flowers springing up in the garden, and the new life that we can have because of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. It’s a great time to plant an “Easter Garden” indoors. Plant your Easter Garden early and watch it grow all spring!

1. Paint and decorate a cardboard egg carton.
2. Fill the egg cups with potting soil.
3. Sprinkle grass seed on top of the soil and pat down. Then add a little more soil to cover the seeds.
4. Use a spray bottle to moisten the soil thoroughly.
5. Close the lid and put your “seed garden” on a plate in a warm place. Moisten the soil each day, and keep the lid closed until your seeds begin to sprout.
6. After your seeds sprout, move your garden to a sunny spot and keep the lid open. Moisten the seedlings once or twice a day.
7. As the grass grows taller, decorate your garden with small toy animals, silk or plastic flowers, jewels in the grass, action figures, or anything else you can come up with.
**Easter Colors Book**

Like most holidays, Easter has colors associated with it. For Easter, we usually think of soft, pastel colors like blue and yellow, or bright spring green. When you decorate for Easter and dye your Easter eggs, use lots of color—and bring meaning to your Easter decorations and crafts by thinking of each color as a symbol of Easter:

- **Yellow** for sunlight, and the light of Christ that brings life to the world
- **Red/Pink** for the blood that Jesus shed for us
- **Purple** for royalty because Jesus was the King of Kings
- **Green** for life; Jesus overcame sin and death to bring us eternal life
- **White** for purity like Jesus’ perfect life
- **Blue** for the sky because Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven

Using these colors, or some of your own, help a younger brother or sister make an Easter Colors Book. You’ll need construction paper in Easter colors of your choice. On each sheet, have your brother or sister write or draw something that color reminds him of Easter. For example, on the yellow sheet, your brother might draw Jesus beside his tomb and write the words, “He is risen!”

Decorate a cover with Easter themed drawings and staple the pages together. Later, help your sibling share the Easter Colors Book with the family.

**Easter Countdown Chain**

As you are preparing for Easter, make a countdown chain to mark off the days until Easter Sunday. Cut pastel colored paper or construction paper into strips. You will need one strip for each day from now until Easter. Loop the strips and tape or staple them to make a chain.

Cut out the Easter messages on the next page and glue them onto the last seven strips of your Easter Countdown Chain.

Use your chain to count down to Easter Sunday by tearing off a link everyday. When you reach the last seven days, read the Easter message with your family when you tear off a link.
Palm Sunday
Jesus entered Jerusalem on Sunday (one week before his resurrection). The people waved palm leaves and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" We remember Jesus’ triumphal entry on Palm Sunday.

Cleansing the Temple
Jesus went to the temple and drove out all who were buying and selling there. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers."

Teaching the People
Jesus spent time teaching the people to have faith, repent, and be baptized. He healed the sick. He cared for the people. Even the children shouted, "Hosanna" when they saw Jesus!

Passover
On Thursday, Jesus held a Passover dinner with his disciples. He taught the disciples to have bread and water to remember his sacrifice for them. He told them to serve each other and love each other. He prayed for them.

Gethsemane
Jesus and eleven of his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed and asked God to help him. Jesus said that he would do God’s will. He would die for the sins of the world. He paid the price for our sins!

Good Friday
Jesus was arrested and taken in front of the Jewish leaders and some Roman leaders, too. They decided to crucify him. They led him to a hill and put him on a cross between two thieves. Jesus said, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

Easter Sunday, Resurrection Day!
On Sunday morning, Jesus’ friends visited his tomb. They found the stone had been rolled away. An angel told them, "He is not here, for he is risen!"
The Easter Lily

Way back in 1819, a famous botanist, Carl Thunberg, discovered a beautiful flower in southern Japan. He loved its sweet aroma and delicate petals. He sent some of the flowers back to England, where they were instantly loved. In the late 1800’s, the bulbs of this Japanese flower were grown in Bermuda, so it became known as the “Bermuda Lily.”

After World War I, an American soldier from Oregon brought a suitcase full of Bermuda Lily bulbs home to give to his friends. The bulbs grew well in Oregon, and in fact, Oregon and northern California now grow 95% of all the world’s “Bermuda Lilies!”

But we don’t know these flowers as “Bermuda Lilies” anymore. We call them Easter Lilies because that is when they are sold. They remind us that winter is over and spring has come. They are a symbol of new life and the resurrection.

Paper Lilies

You can make your own Easter Lily from yellow and green construction paper and a straw or pipe cleaner. It’s easy!

1. Trace your hand on yellow construction paper and cut it out.
2. Wrap the “fingers” of the hand around a pencil to curl the ends.
3. Form a cone with the palm of the hand (fingers curling outward) and tape it in place.
4. Staple or tape the flower to the end of a green pipe cleaner or a straw to form the stem.
5. Cut two small ovals from green construction paper and staple or tape them to the stem to make leaves.

Cut out several lilies to make a bouquet! Display it in a glass or pretty vase throughout Easter to remind you of the resurrection of Jesus.

Tip: Add some other “spring flowers” to your bouquet by folding a small rectangle of colored tissue paper into an “accordion fold,” twisting a green pipe cleaner around the middle, and then gently pulling each fold to the center to make a flower. Use a straw or pipe cleaner for the stem.
The Easter Story
Adapted from Jesse Lyman Hurlbut’s “The Story of the Bible,” 1904

Read this story together with your family during the days leading up to Easter. Crafts, recipes, and activity ideas are suggested.

You can see pictures of the crafts at www.discoverthescriptures.com.

Judas Betrays Jesus

Jesus and his apostles were planning to visit Jerusalem for the annual Passover feast. Jesus was staying with his friends: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in a nearby village called Bethany. It was at that time that one of the apostles, Judas, made the decision to turn Jesus in to the Jewish leaders! He knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to arrest Jesus.

He went to the chief priests, and said, “What will you give me if I put Jesus into your hands?”

They said, “We will give you thirty pieces of silver.” And for thirty pieces of silver Judas promised to help them take Jesus, and make him their prisoner.

► Judas was supposed to be Jesus’ friend. Why do you think he decided to turn him into the Jewish leaders?

► Trace Jesus’ journey from Cesarea Philippi to Jerusalem. Then color the map.
Palm Sunday: Entering Jerusalem

Jesus called two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the next village and there you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with it. Loose them, and bring them to me. If anyone says to you, ‘Why do you do this?’ say ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and they will let them go.”

They went to the place, and found the donkey and the colt. The owner gave them the donkey and the colt for Jesus. The disciples brought them to Jesus, on the Mount of Olives, and they laid some of their own clothes on the colt for a cushion, and set Jesus upon it. Then all the disciples and a very great multitude threw their coats on the ground for Jesus to ride on. Others cut down palm branches and laid them on the ground. As Jesus rode over the mountain toward Jerusalem, many walked before him waving branches of palm trees. They all cried together:

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

These things they said because they believed Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed King, and they hoped that he would now set up his throne in Jerusalem. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd, who did not believe in Jesus, said to him, “Master, stop your disciples from saying these things!”

But Jesus said, “I tell you, that if these people should be still, the very stones would cry out!”

And when he came into Jerusalem with all this multitude, all the city was filled with wonder. They said, “Who is this?”

And the multitude answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth in Galilee!”
**Palm Sunday Leaves**

Make your own palm leaves for Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter).

► Fold a piece of green construction paper in half lengthwise. Starting from the folded edge, cut out a semi-circle, with a slight point on one end. Cut small triangles along the “cut” edge. Open it up and you have a palm leaf.

Make enough palm leaves for each member of your family. Write this scripture verse in the middle of each leaf:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!”

► Give each member of your family a palm leaf and tell (or read) the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem (on the previous page). Have your family wave their leaves when you read the part where the people shouted “Hosanna!”

You can also use your palm leaves for place markers at the dinner table on Palm Sunday.

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**Easter Around the World: Peace Cakes**

In some villages in England, “pax cakes” or “peace cakes” are given out at Palm Sunday services. These cakes help remind people that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

♦ Make your own “peace cakes” for your family or friends on Palm Sunday. Use a white cake mix to make cupcakes. Decorate them with white frosting (the color of peace).

Attach a small note that says, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38)
Easy Homemade Easter Pretzels

1 packet active dry yeast
1 cup warm water
Pinch of sugar
3 cups flour
2 teaspoon baking powder
1 egg (well beaten)
1 egg yolk + 1 teaspoon milk
Poppy seeds or sesame seeds to sprinkle on top
Salt (sea salt or coarse salt if you have it)

1. Stir the yeast, water, and sugar together in a cup until the yeast dissolves.
2. In a large bowl, mix the flour and baking powder together.
3. When yeast mixture begins to get bubbly, slowly stir it into the flour mixture.
   Then add a well-beaten egg.
4. Put the dough on a floured surface and knead for several minutes.
5. Cover the dough with plastic wrap and allow it to rise until doubled in size.
   Then punch it down and roll it out thinly with a rolling pin.
6. Cut the dough into strips, then shape into a heart, or a traditional pretzel shape.
   If you prefer, twist two strips together to make a braided pretzel stick.
7. Boil a large pan of water and slip each pretzel into water for a few seconds
   with a slotted, metal spatula. Then place the pretzels on a greased cookie sheet.
8. Brush each pretzel with a beaten egg yolk mixed with 1 teaspoon milk and
   sprinkle with poppy seeds or sesame seeds, and salt.
9. Bake at 375º F for 12 minutes until golden brown.

Easy Easter Pretzel Treats

If you aren’t up to making homemade pretzels (above), you can make these easy pretzel treats. Just place miniature pretzels on a cookie sheet, set an unwrapped Hershey’s kiss on top of each one and put in a warm oven (no hotter than 300º F) for a few minutes until the chocolate softens. Take the pretzels out of the oven and gently press an Easter colored M&M down onto the kiss. Let it cool and enjoy!

Easter Around the World: Germany

In Germany, homemade pretzels are favorite Easter tradition for children. Sometimes the pretzels are formed into a heart shape ♥ and decorated with ribbons. You can make your own Easter pretzels.
EASTER JOURNAL: Hosanna!
The children who saw Jesus recognized that He was the Savior. They were so happy to see him that they shouted, “Hosanna!” They loved him.

Think of reasons that you love Jesus. Write your ideas on the lines below.

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Memory Verse
Jesus told his disciples, “The Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.” —Matthew 20:17-19