

## **For the family together at home**

### **A Gathering prayer to say together**

God, we are so grateful

for Jesus is alive –

**Hooray!**

God, we are so excited

for Jesus is alive –

**Hooray!**

God, our lives are changed for ever

for Jesus is alive –

**Hooray!**

Let us follow him always.

**Amen!**

### **Singing together**

See what you find around the house to make into percussion instruments to play during the song.

Come on and celebrate

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kog4QkDT4Ho&list=RDkog4QkDT4Ho&start\\_radio=1&t=0&t=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kog4QkDT4Ho&list=RDkog4QkDT4Ho&start_radio=1&t=0&t=0)

### **Reading together**

A bible story for Easter day with Pictures read by Nicola grieves

#### **Easter Sunday Bible Reading**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpLVhN4Uw6I>

Or read the story together Matthew 28:1-10

Beforehand, practise together the different facial expressions the people in the story might have made, such as: grief, shock, fear, joy, excitement. Read the Easter story, pausing at the points marked by asterisks and encourage everyone to make the appropriate expression for that part of the story.

It was early in the morning, on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and her friend, who was also called Mary, were on their way to Jesus' tomb. As they drew near, they saw two guards sitting there\*.

Without warning, an angel came down from the sky like a bolt of lightning. He was dressed in dazzling white clothes\*, and the earth shook as he landed and rolled back the stone at the entrance to the tomb\*.

The guards were terrified\*! First, they shook with fear\*, and then they fainted\*. 'Do not be afraid,' the angel said to the two Marys\*. He was sitting on the stone. 'I know who you're looking for\*. You came to see Jesus, who was killed on the cross. He isn't here anymore; he's been raised from the dead. Come, and see where his body lay.'\*

The two Marys didn't know what to think. They were both scared of the angel\*, and excited by what he said\*. The angel continued speaking, 'When you have seen that Jesus is gone, go and tell the disciples the news. Jesus will go ahead of them to Galilee, and they will see him there\*.

Still frightened, but also full of joy, the women ran from the tomb to find the disciples.

\* They didn't get far, though, because suddenly, Jesus was there, standing in front of them.

\* 'Greetings!' said Jesus. The women fell to the ground, took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him\*. Jesus spoke again. 'Do not be afraid,' he said. 'Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee\* They will see me there.'

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## Creating together

### Butterflies

3 days after he died, Jesus rose to new life! Christians believe that Jesus brings us hope and new life.

What are your hopes and dreams?

Who would you like to know about the message of Easter?

Make a butterfly and decorate it. Write or draw your ideas on the butterfly and put them in the window or hang them up.



## Story stones

### Watch the Easter Egg story

Easter Story with Eggs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIJzzarKZWY>

Find some stones in the garden and make your own set of Easter story stones see how much of the story you can remember. If you are linking up via a video call you could try telling other friends and family the story.



## Praying together

### Chocolate egg prayers

Here are some prayers you could use as a family. The prayers are very simple and help to pick up themes of the Easter story.

You will need one hollow chocolate egg

The whole chocolate egg is like the closed tomb where Jesus' friends put his body after he had died. Talk about what it feels like when we are left on our own, especially now when we are unable to see many of our family and our friends. Ask God to help everyone who is sad, upset or lonely or who has lost someone that they love.

***Now break the egg into pieces and reveal the hollow inside!***



When Jesus died it was not the end of the story- he rose to new life and was no longer inside the tomb. Something amazing had happened! Talk about where in life the children would like a chance to start again- maybe with someone they have had an argument with or moving on from something they did wrong. Silently tell God anything you are sorry about and ask Him to give you a new start. Thank God for chances to start again and ask Him to help people who are scared or worried or ashamed to have hope of a new start

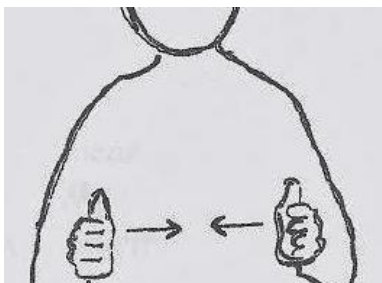
too.

### ***Eat the chocolate!***

When Jesus rose to new life, it was amazing, and we can be part of this amazing story too! God loves us so much and wants us to love Him. He wants good things for us because he loves us. Taste the sweetness of the chocolate and talk about the people we love and why we love them. Thank God for those people and ask that he will bless them in the coming year.

This idea was from <https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/04/two-easter-play-dough-mats-in-tomb-and.html>

If you are sharing this prayer time with someone via a video link you can sign amen by bringing your thumbs up together as an I agree sign.



### **Playing together**

Try acting out the story of Easter morning and make a video.

Or you could make an Easter garden. Take a photograph what you make and share it with your friends and family.

