

All Age Worship at Home

(AAWH042)

The Big Story of God 42: Resurrected Easter Sunday

© Jane Hulme 2020

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



THE BIG STORY OF GOD 42

“Resurrected” – Easter Sunday

Introduction:

This short act of worship has been prepared for people of all ages to take part in at home. Below you will find instructions and the things that you will need to collect beforehand in order to take part. Adapt the script as is suitable for your situation and the age of those taking part.

Through this Coronavirus outbreak, we are seeing “the story” of a pandemic and how it is affecting the nations. But above this story is God’s big story; His story of Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration that continues until the end of time.

These short acts of worship have been written to follow the major themes of “The Big Story of God”. There will be 53 themes taking us through a year beginning with Palm Sunday.

In order to accommodate the church’s festivals, you may find that some of the themes don’t run in a chronological order, but where it is possible, they will.

Instructions:

1. Find a place where you can gather together without interruption. You may choose to sit around a table or sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Choose one of you to read out the leader’s words which are in black type. **Everyone** reads the words in **black bolded type**. Instructions are in purple type. Vary who leads each time you meet.
3. Under the “Exploring the Bible Reading” sections, there are a few questions to reflect upon (REFLECTING TOGETHER), a short talk for the leader to read out (LEARNING TOGETHER) and some thoughts on how to respond (RESPONDING TOGETHER)
4. It may be helpful to choose a regular time to meet, for example 10.30am on a Sunday morning that you keep to each week.

Aim of act of worship:

To celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, and that we can receive His gift of eternal life.

What you will need to collect beforehand:

- A copy of the complete act of worship for the person leading and a copy of **Appendix 1** of this act of worship for each person taking part (who is able to read.)
- A way for people to watch YouTube worship videos eg. Smart phone, tablet, laptop....
- A candle that is placed in the centre of the group and a way to light it.
- A Bible.
- The “tomb” that you made on Good Friday, with the peg “body” removed, leaving behind the white kitchen roll, and the stone rolled back.
- A bag with some small Easter eggs and an identical looking bag containing rubbish
- A wrapped chocolate Easter egg that is hollow on the inside
- A copy of a “smiley” picture (see **Appendix 2**) for everyone and some pens/crayons

“Resurrected” – Easter Sunday

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Question:

Have you noticed anything different about our tomb today?

Easter day is a day of celebration as we celebrate that Jesus didn't stay dead in the tomb.

- He was raised to life on the third day and is alive today.
- So, let's worship Jesus our risen Lord!

Songs:

Choose one or two worship songs that you enjoy singing together. Below are some ideas of YouTube songs with lyrics that you can sing along to:

1. “Christ the Lord is risen today” – Contemporary version (Charles Wesley)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lchVdAqCWk>
2. “He has risen” (Noel Richards)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PiG6GjK7Is>
3. “See what a morning” (Stuart Townend)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM-fpXayUg>
4. “In Christ alone” (Stuart Townend)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0T_HhM9bf4
5. “Lord I lift your name on high” (Children's song) (Rick Founds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBSwJcO4i5Y>
6. “Jesus lives” (Children's song)
<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/jesuslives>
7. “1,2,3” (Children's song)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlf9jv4pVTM&t=21s>

Opening thought:

You will need the bag containing small Easter eggs and the bag containing rubbish.

I have got 2 bags with me, which both contain a surprise.

- Inside one of the bags is a good surprise and
- inside the other bag is a bad surprise.

Which bag would you like me to open first? (Open the bags one at a time and share out the chocolate eggs from the bag with the good surprise for people to eat.)

As we listen to the Bible story about what happened on the very first Easter day, listen out for the good surprises that Jesus' followers had and also for the bad surprises.

Bible Reading 1:

Read the story about the women finding the empty tomb. This can be found in **Matthew 28:1-10**. Choose one of the following ways to read the Bible passage:

1. One person reads the story out loud.
2. Each person takes a turn to read one verse.
3. Scroll through the pictures that you will find in the website below, one picture at a time. You will find the words of the story to read at the bottom of each picture:
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-resurrection/>

Exploring the Bible Reading 1:

a) Reflecting together

You will need the wrapped chocolate Easter egg that is hollow on the inside

- What were the good surprises in the story? (The women meeting an angel of the Lord, the empty tomb, the angel telling the women that Jesus had risen from the dead, the women actually meeting the risen Jesus....)
- What were the bad surprises in the story? (Initially the empty tomb when some of the women thought that Jesus' body had been taken...)
- Which bit of the story did you like best?
- Do you have any questions about the story?

I have an Easter egg here that is wrapped up. Let's see what is inside it. (Break egg open. Discuss the fact that there is nothing inside it)

The empty egg reminds us that on the very first Easter day the tomb was empty because Jesus was no longer dead, but alive.

b) Learning together

So, what does it mean that Jesus was raised from the dead? I want to tell you two things about Jesus to begin with.

- 1) The first thing is that it means that **Jesus is who He said He is**.
 - Jesus is the Son of God.
 - He is the Messiah, God's King.
 - Jesus tells us the truth, so we can trust Him.
- 2) The second thing is that it means that **love is much more powerful than hate**.
 - Jesus loved people and He loved so much that He was willing to give up His life for them.
 - Some of the people hated Jesus so much that they were willing to kill Him,
 - But love is much more powerful than hate and so Jesus didn't stay dead but was raised to life again.

Let's hear what happened next when Jesus appeared to all of His disciples, except for Thomas, who was somewhere else. As we listen to the Bible story, listen out again for the good surprises that Jesus' followers had and also any bad surprises.

Bible Reading 2:

Read the story about Jesus appearing to His disciples. This can be found in **Luke 24:36-49**. Choose one of the following ways to read the Bible passage:

1. Watch the “Jesus” film version (Resurrected Jesus appears to His disciples), which you can find here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pzYDDNKJbE&list=PLUtSdUwXCOX2vf99jK27snNNd4-tGVCvW>
2. One person reads the story out loud.
3. Each person takes a turn to read one verse.

Exploring the Bible Reading 2:

a) Reflecting together

- What were the good surprises in the story? (Jesus appearing to His disciples and showing them that it really was Him alive again, Jesus saying that forgiveness of sins is now possible....)
- What were the bad surprises in the story? (To begin with the disciples thought that Jesus was a ghost...)
- Which bit of the story did you like best?

b) Learning together

You will need a copy of the “smiley” picture for everyone and some pens/crayons

Let’s begin by writing at the top of our smiley picture: “We can smile this Easter because.....”

There are 3 words beginning with the letter F why we can smile this Easter Day.

The first F is **Forgiven**.

- Because Jesus died for our sins, we can be forgiven when we do wrong.
- Let’s write “We can be **Forgiven**” on our Smileys.

The second F is **Fathered**.

- Jesus has made it possible for us to have a fresh start with Father God.
- We can now come into Father God’s presence without fear and receive His love any time we want to.
- Let’s write “We are **Fathered**” on our Smileys

And the third F is **Forever**.

- Jesus is alive and is here with us today.
- We cannot see Him, but He is here by His Spirit.
- We are never alone.
- Not only that but we have the promise that we will live with Jesus forever.
- This is the Christian hope.
- Let’s write “Jesus is with us **Forever**” on our Smileys

c) Responding together

As you look at your smiley, which of those 3 words beginning with F is the best word for you?

- Let's take it in turns to say thank you to Jesus for your best word.

Bible Reading 3:

Read the story about Jesus appearing to Thomas. This can be found in **John 20:24-29**.

Scroll through the pictures that you will find in the website below, one picture at a time. You will find the words of the story to read at the bottom of each picture

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/hm-doubting-thomas/>

Declaring our Faith:

Thomas struggled to believe until he had actually seen Jesus for himself. Jesus said that the people who believe in Him, who haven't actually seen Him in the flesh, will be blessed. Let's tell Jesus now that we believe in Him.

Christ has died,
Christ has died,

Christ is risen,
Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.
Christ will come again.

I believe, Alleluia!
I believe, Alleluia!

Prayers:

You will need the pieces of the Easter egg from earlier.

On Good Friday, Jesus' body was broken on the cross. (Pick up the chocolate Easter egg pieces)

- That was a very bad surprise for His disciples.

On Easter Day, Jesus rose again from the dead and He offers us **forgiveness**, a fresh start with **Father** God and a life with Him **forever**.

- That is a very good surprise for everyone. (Hand out the chocolate Easter egg pieces to everyone)
- As you enjoy eating your piece of chocolate, let's get ready to say a big "THANK YOU" to Jesus.

Are you ready?

- Let's see how loud a THANK YOU we can shout out to Jesus.

Together we will pray the Lord's prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Something to do during the week:

This week, if you have a phone, why don't you photograph your smiley and see how many "likes" you can get on Facebook, Instagram.....?

Final Song:

Choose a final song to sing together. Below are some ideas from YouTube:

- 1) Happy Day (Tim Hughes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_9QiWorBaY
- 2) This I believe (Hillsong)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0mPk_3dXSg
- 3) Thine be the glory (Edmond L. Budry) – Spring Harvest
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmJgpbJQHYU>
 Thine be the glory (Edmond L. Budry) – King's College Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPH7-dNrwb8>
- 4) One way Jesus (Children's Song – Hillsong Kids)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4c6AYI1Lw>
- 5) We want to see Jesus lifted high (Children's Song – Doug Horley)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLJmRPvhgdo>

Blessing:

End with the Blessing. Choose one of the ways below:

1. The leader of the act of worship says:
*"The LORD bless us and keep us;
 the LORD make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;
 the LORD turn his face toward us and give us peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26)
2. Watch the Blessing song (Kari Jobe)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0paOY5y4hol>
3. Hold hands together and say the Grace together:
**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.**

Finish by blowing out the candle.

Appendix 1 – Words for everyone taking part “Resurrected” – Easter Sunday

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Exploring the Bible Reading 2:

“We can smile this Easter because.....”

1. We can be **Forgiven**
2. We are **Fathered**
3. Jesus is with us **Forever**

Declaring our Faith:

Christ has died,
Christ has died,

Christ is risen,
Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.
Christ will come again.

I believe, Alleluia!
I believe, Alleluia!

Prayers:

**Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.
 Amen.**

Appendix 2 – Smiley Picture

