

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### EASTER

---

#### 1 John 4:9-19 Love comes from God

Easter is the perfect time to rededicate our lives to what really counts. The Easter story and message reveals God's great love for us, and this love should be what draws from us the desire to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Let's take a creative walk through the Easter story and allow time for the children to refocus on Jesus as their Saviour and friend. Jesus' great love for us, as demonstrated by his great sacrifice, goes beyond what we do or don't do, and proves that we can trust in his love completely.

How will this love motivate us to stay fit and healthy in our spiritual lives and help us share this love with others?

Each child will need:

- Popcorn and a drink (optional) — see Tell It section
- Resources to make a stained-glass window — see Action It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

### Start It

● **Say:** Today we are going to be discovering more about the Easter story and God's love for us. To get you thinking about Easter, choose from a selection of games.

#### Easter treasure hunt

You can do this in two ways. Ask the children to:

- Find items that start with each letter from the word 'Easter'.
- Search for items that are linked to Easter themes, eg fluffy like a rabbit; oval like an egg; yellow like a chick or daffodil; wooden like the cross; solid like the stone that covered the tomb; represents love, like the love of Jesus.

#### Easter Pictionary

You can do this in two ways Ask the children to:

- Draw Easter-themed images, on screen or on paper, and show to the camera.
- Or you can set up a Skribbl.io page. <https://skribbl.io> In advance create a private room for the group and type in lots of Easter words and phrases. Send the link to each child. They each take turns drawing, and all type in their answers.

#### Easter whispers

One person says an Easter-themed phrase while on mute. Then everyone guesses what they think the phrase was. (Bad puns aren't necessary!) For example: I carrot believe it's Easter; Have an egg-cellent Easter; Easter puns crack me up; the Easter bunny must be eggs-hausted; what days do Easter eggs hate? – Fry-days; no bunny loves you like Jesus.

## Sing It

Part of growing as a disciple is reading God's word and remembering what it says. Today's song helps us to remember the message of Easter, found in 1 John 4:14. See if you can join in with the dance moves as well.

'Memory verse song – 1 John 4:14 by Hillsong Kids (1 min 17 secs)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SVcXXSCgl4>

## Tell It

● **Say:** Easter is a very special time of year for Christians. In fact, Christians have celebrated Easter for a lot longer than they have celebrated Christmas. At Easter we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross, dying for our sins and how he rose from the dead.

**Ask:** Why do you think God sent his Son to die for us on a cross?

● **Say:** Our Scripture reading for today helps us to understand why Jesus died for us and rose from the dead.

### Screenshare:

'This is how God showed his love to us: he sent his only Son into the world to give us life through him. True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins.

'That is how much God loved us, dear friends! So we also must love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us. If we love each other, God's love has reached its goal. It is made perfect in us.

'We know that we live in God and God lives in us. We know this because God gave us his Spirit. We have seen that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. That is what we teach. If someone says, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," then God lives in him. And he lives in God. And so we know the love that God has for us, and we trust that love.

'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him. If God's love is made perfect in us, then we can be without fear on the day God judges us. We will be without fear, because in this world we are like him. Where God's love is, there is no fear, because God's perfect love takes away fear. It is punishment that makes a person fear. So love is not made perfect in the person who has fear.

**We love because God first loved us.'**

— 1 John 4:9-19 (ICB)

**Ask:** Now that you have read 1 John 4:9-19, why did God send his Son to die for us? Has your answer changed from before?

● **Say:** God sent his only Son into the world to show us just how much he loves us. The Easter story reminds us how much Jesus had to go through to save us.

## Video

The following clip tells the Easter story from beginning to end. The clip is around 11 minutes long, but gives the children a good understanding of the events of Holy Week. If you are gathering together, then this could be a movie moment in your session, with popcorn and a drink.

**Screenshare:** *The Easter Story* by J John (10 mins 57 secs)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_E-3BqqeiU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_E-3BqqeiU)

● **Say:** The clip says: 'Jesus explained to his followers that God's King needed to die in order to be the sacrifice for the wrong things that we have all done; but because he was innocent, death hadn't been able to keep hold of him. Jesus was now the King who could give eternal life to those who trusted him.' (9:21 – 9:36 min)

### Screenshare:

**'True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent him to die in our place to take away our sins.'**

— 1 John 4:10 (ICB)

**Ask:** How does it feel to know that God loves you so much that he sent his Son for you?

🗨 **Say:** The Easter story and message reveals God's great love for us, and this love should encourage us to keep growing as his followers.

## Action It

🗨 **Say:** In our Bible reading earlier we read these words.

### Screenshare:

**'That is how much God loved us, dear friends! So we also must love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us. If we love each other, God's love has reached its goal. It is made perfect in us.'**

— 1 John 4:11-12 (ICB)

🗨 **Say:** God's love shines through us and is seen by others. Today we're going to create a piece of art work to remind us to show God's love to everyone we meet.

### Stained-glass window

The aim of the activity is for the children to make a stained-glass window that reminds them that the love of God shines through them and is seen by others. A number of options are provided below that can be adjusted depending on your group circumstance. If possible, incorporate a heart in the centre of the design and the words 'We love because God first loved us' (1 John 4:19). This could be written in white crayon around the edge of the black window.

Options for creating stained-glass windows:

**How to make a stained-glass cross** by I Heart Crafty Things

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auNKO1Zvgew>

Resources: Black paper; adhesive sheets or self-laminating sheets; tissue paper dots; scissors; pencil; white crayon

**Cross colour-in window decorations**

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/cross-colour-in-window-decorations>

Resources: Window decoration sheet; pens

**Tissue paper stained-glass craft for kids**

<https://artfulparent.com/tissue-paper-stained-glass>

Resources: Watered-down glue (2 parts liquid glue / 1 part water) or liquid starch; shredded tissue paper, wax paper; a glue spreader or brush

**Stained-glass window colouring page**

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/stained-glass-window-2>

Ask the children can add a cross to the design

Resources: Printed sheet; pens/pencils

Give the children time to share what they have created.

🗨 **Say:** Place your stained-glass window somewhere everyone can see as a reminder of God's love for us.

## Pray It

● **Say:** In the clip we watched earlier, there was a special prayer. We can use this prayer to give our heart to Jesus for the first time, or to rededicate it to him at this special Easter time.

Use this prayer in a way that is applicable to your group. You may want to share it together or give the children chance to read through themselves. An optional song is provided below for a time of reflection.

**Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for dying on the cross for me.  
I ask you to forgive me for all the wrong things I have done, and come into my life by your Holy Spirit. Fill me with your peace, your presence and your power.  
Thank you, King Jesus.  
Please reign over my life.  
Amen.**

### Reflection song

'Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus' (feat. Fernando Ortega) by Audrey Assad (2 mins 35 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vUhwjydk8A&t=2s>

● **Say:** Thank you, God, for the amazing gift of love you give us, not only at Easter, but every day. Help us to share that love with everyone we meet.  
Amen.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.