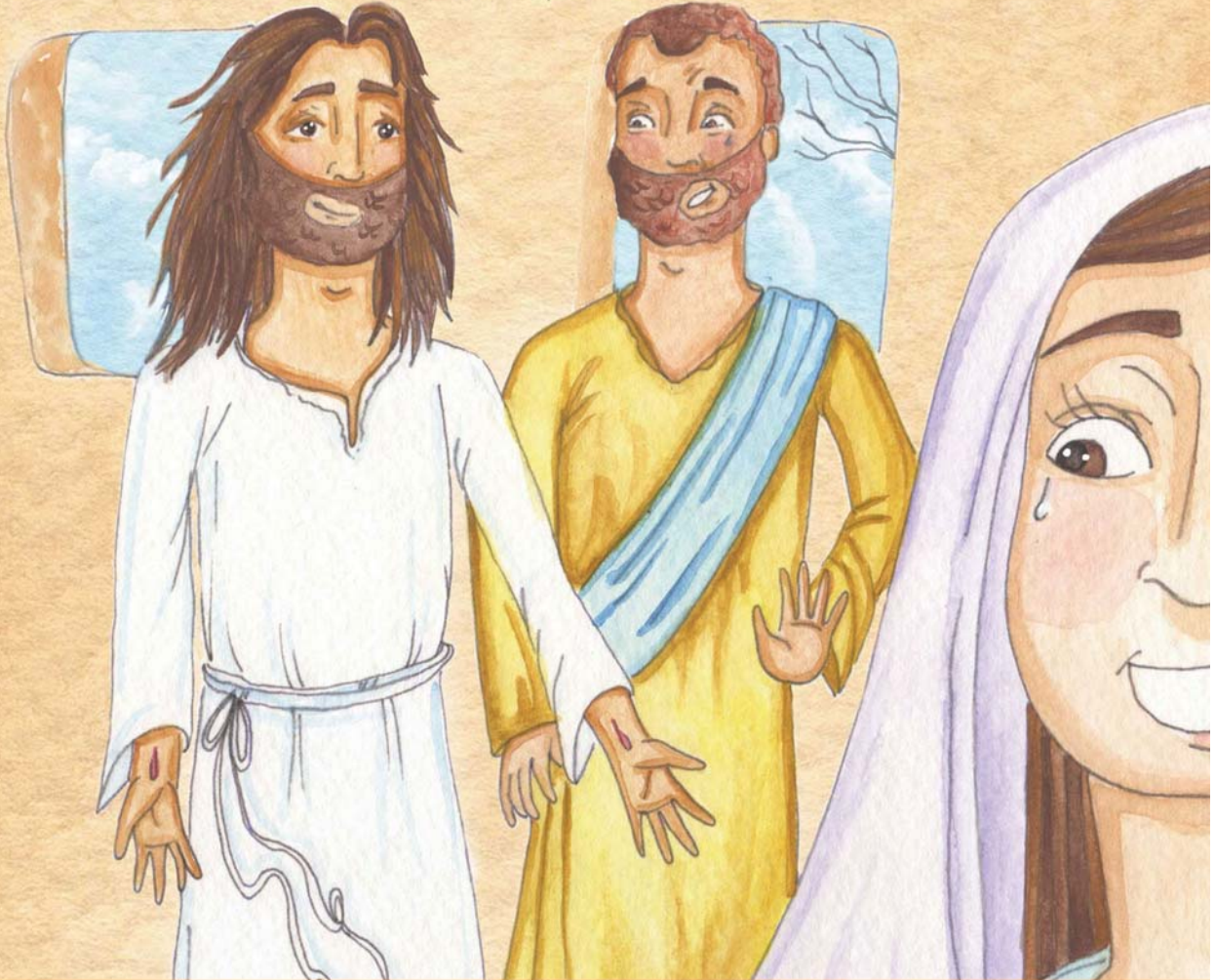


*Why Do We Celebrate*  
**EASTER?**



*By Mark I. Sutherland*

*Illustrated by Julie Hammond*

**“Why Do We Celebrate Easter?”  
Discussion and Scripture Guide**

# “Why Do We Celebrate Easter?” Discussion and Scripture Guide

Thank you for the investment you are making in the lives of the children in your life. This guide is designed to be used in conjunction with the “Why Do We Celebrate Easter?” book, or as a standalone discussion about the incredible story of Easter.

In the following pages, you will see key themes for each page of the book, followed by Scripture references that support the content on each page of the book. I strongly encourage you to take some time and work through this guide with your child, and help establish the importance of Scripture in knowing God, and His revelation to the world.

In His Service,

Mark I. Sutherland

**Page 2** - God created the heavens and the earth. *Scripture reading: Genesis 1*

**Page 3** - God knows everything before it happens. And God planned how to save man from sin before He created the world, because He loved us. *Scripture readings: Psalm 139; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; John 3:16-18*

**Page 5** - Everybody sins. But God had a plan. God gave Mary a baby, and she named Him Jesus. Jesus was God’s son. *Scripture readings: Romans 3:23; Matthew 1:18-2:1a; Luke 2:1-21*

**Page 6** - Jesus grew up with His earthly family in Nazareth. *Scripture reading: Luke 2:39-52*

**Page 7** - Jesus taught all the people about God. And He told His disciples He would die, and then come back to life. *Scripture readings: Luke 4-16-19; Luke 6:17-49; Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 9:21-22*

**Page 8** - The Jewish rulers thought they were good enough to get into heaven and they didn’t like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. *Scripture readings: Matthew 5:20; Luke 9:21-22; Matthew 26:1-5*

**Page 9** - Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, went to the Jewish rulers and told them he would betray Jesus for money. *Scripture reading: Matthew 26:14-16*

**Page 10** - On the night before He was crucified, Jesus ate the Last Supper with His disciples. *Scripture readings: Matthew 26:17-25; John 13:1-30*

**Page 11** - During the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine and gave it to His disciples, telling them to do the same thing to remember His death. *Scripture reading: Matthew 26:26-29*

**Page 12** - Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray. Then the soldiers came and arrested Him. They took him to the Jewish rulers, and then beat him. *Scripture reading: Matthew 26:30-68*

**Page 13** - In the morning, the Jewish rulers took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman ruler in Israel. Pilate at first tried to free Jesus, but then told his soldiers to beat Jesus and take Him away to be crucified. *Scripture reading: Matthew 27:1-31*

**Page 14** - The soldiers crucified Jesus. *Scripture reading: Matthew 27:33-36*

**Page 15** - The soldiers, and the Jewish rulers, made fun of Jesus when He was on the cross. But Jesus was paying for our sins, so we could go to heaven with Jesus. *Scripture readings: Matthew 27:39-44; Isaiah 53:10; 1 Peter: 2:24-25*

**Page 16** - After Jesus had been punished for our sins, He died. Jesus' disciples didn't remember He had told them he was going to be killed and then rise again. *Scripture readings: Matthew 27:50-54; Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 9:21-22; John 20:9*

**Page 17** - On the third day, Jesus' followers came to the tomb to properly prepare His body for burial. But when they arrived, the tomb was empty. *Scripture readings: Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1-15*

**Page 18** - Angels appeared at the tomb and told them Jesus was alive, and to go tell the rest of the disciples the good news. *Scripture reading: Matthew 28: 1-8*

**Page 19** - Jesus appeared to His disciples! He was alive! *Scripture reading: John 20:19-20*

**Page 20** - For 40 days after Jesus came back to life He taught His disciples. Then He returned to heaven, to get heaven ready for all the children of God. The disciples went everywhere, telling people about Jesus. *Scripture readings: Acts 1:1-9; Acts 2:22-24; Acts 2:41*

**Page 21** - We become God's children by believing Jesus is God, repenting for our sins, believing Jesus died for us and then that He rose from the dead. If we are truly God's children, we will now want to do what God wants us to do. *Scripture readings: Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 14:15*