

Easter: As You Go

EVERYDAY RYTHYMS. ETERNAL TRUTH.

Hey, grown-ups!

Welcome to Easter: As You Go!

This resource is designed to help you encourage your family to draw close to Jesus and reflect on some powerful truths in the weeks leading up to Easter. The Next Gen ministry of the Exchange exists to come alongside families and see kids of all ages exchange their old life for new life in Christ and live out their purpose. Thank you for letting us partner with you! We hope this resource will help you feel equipped and ready to disciple your family during one of the Church's biggest celebrations of the year.

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Easter: As You Go was intentionally created to be used in the middle of your busy, everyday life. The term "as you go" means you can use your everyday rhythms as cues to be intentional about discipling your kids. This resource is a 4-week tool that starts on March 8th and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Each week has only 5 days of content, leaving room for extra full days that will most definitely happen. If you get behind and miss some, don't worry! Let the pressure fall off. There is no expectation that you have to use this resource exactly as it's written. Doing something imperfectly is better than doing nothing at all. Adapt it to your family and use what you can!

Easter: As You Go is written with all ages in mind. So get ready and invite the whole family to join in. You can do this! We believe in you.

We are praying for you as you take this next step in leading and guiding your family towards the Truth. We are here for you if you have any questions, and we are cheering you on!

-The Next Gen Team

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How to use this resource:

>Option 1: Start with the short devotional at the beginning of each week. This sets up the week's focus and introduces the topic for your family to learn about. There will be 4 prompts to use throughout the week at times that work the best for you. You can do these in any order! For example, plan out the meal time one on a day when your family can have a meal together, and drive time on a day when you know you'll be in the car for a bit.

>Option 2: You can just use the devotional for each week. (For example: For week 1, choose a day of the week and just do the content from the devo. For week 2, choose a day of the week and read the devo from that week's content. Same for week 3 and week 4.) If you can only do one day a week, try to choose at least one of the prompts to pair with it.

>Option 3: If a whole month sounds daunting to you and you would rather ease in more gently, that's ok! We got you. Set a reminder for yourself and just start on Palm Sunday, March 29th. This day marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday. (For example: Read the devos from each week for four days during Holy Week, and on day 5, focus on learning the memory verse together as a family.)

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MEMORY VERSE



“PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US A NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.”

— 1 PETER 1:3

Memorizing scripture together as a family can be such a fun way to learn the truth! Come up with family competitions, practice together, and set up a prize for whoever can say it (the best they can) at the end. Here are some tips to use this month as you learn this verse together:

- **Write it out and place it somewhere visible (bathroom mirror, fridge, car dashboard).**
- **Make it musical — sing it, chant it, or put it to a rhythm.**
- **Add motions for key phrases like “living hope” and “resurrection.”**
- **Practice one phrase at a time instead of the whole verse at once.**
- **Repeat it in transition moments (school drop-off, bedtime tuck-in).**
- **Celebrate progress, not perfection!**

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WEEK ONE

Living Hope

Read: 1 Peter 1:3-5

Have you ever really hoped for something?
Maybe you hoped to make the team.
Or hoped a friendship would work out.
Or hoped a hard situation would get better.

Most of the time when we say “I hope,” we mean, “I really want this to happen... but I’m not sure if it will.” But when the Bible talks about hope, it means something stronger. In these verses, Peter says we have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. That means our hope is alive — because Jesus is alive!

Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins on himself. Then he was buried, but he didn’t stay in the grave. He rose from the dead 3 days later! And because He did, our hope isn’t just a wish. It’s confidence. It’s knowing that no matter what happens — good days, bad days, confusing days — Jesus is alive and He is with us!

A living hope means:

- When you feel left out, Jesus sees you.
- When you mess up, Jesus offers mercy.
- When life feels unfair, Jesus promises that this isn’t the end of the story.

Hope isn’t pretending everything is fine. Hope is trusting that Jesus is alive and still working. This week, every time you say the memory verse, remember: Your hope isn’t a “maybe.” It’s built on an empty tomb. And that kind of hope changes how you live!

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WEEK 1: Younger Kids Edition



Morning Time

Grow Questions are a way to help disciple kids to learn big truths in a little way.

LittleLIFE March Grow Question:

Who alone is good?

Answer: God is good!

KidLIFE March Grow Question:

Why did God send Jesus to save you?

Answer: God loves me! (1 John 4:10)



Drive Time

While you are in the car, listen to the song *LIVING HOPE* by Phil Wickham.

Ask: What do you think this song is saying?



Meal Time

During a meal together, have everyone answer the question: What is something you have hoped for?

Say: Even if what we hope for doesn't come true, we can trust that God is good and that He has a purpose for our life!



Bed Time

Say: Did you know that no matter what happens in this life, our hope is in Jesus?

Let's pray together and thank God for what He did for us.

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WEEK 1: Older Kids Edition



Morning Time

Grow Questions are an easy way to teach foundational truths.

56LIFE March Grow Question:
What is the Trinity?

Answer: Our great God is 3 in 1-
Father, Holy Spirit, and Jesus the Son!

StudentLIFE March Grow Question:
What is the nature of God?

Answer: God the Father. God the Son.
God the Spirit. (2 Cor. 13:14)



Drive Time

While you are in the car,
listen to the song
LIVING HOPE by Phil
Wickham.

Ask: What do you think
it means to be set free?



Meal Time

During a meal together,
have everyone answer the
questions:

What is something you
have hoped for?

How can we choose to
trust God even if we don't
get what we wanted?



Bed Time

Ask: Have you ever hoped for
something and it didn't turn
out the way you wanted?

Let's pray together and turn
that disappointment over to
God and ask Him to help us
trust in the Living Hope we can
have through Jesus.

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W E E K T W O

Surrender

Read: Luke 22:39-44

The night before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed in a garden. He knew what was coming.

He knew it would hurt. He knew it would be hard.

And He prayed, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but Yours be done."

That's surrender.

Surrender isn't giving up because you lost. It's choosing to trust. Jesus showed us that even when something is scary or painful, we can trust God's plan. He didn't run away. He didn't fight back. He trusted His Father completely.

Sometimes surrender looks like:

- Obeying when it's hard.
- Telling the truth when it costs you.
- Trusting God when you don't understand what He's doing.

Surrender says, "God, I trust You more than I trust myself." Jesus surrendered so God's rescue plan could happen. Jesus showed us that we can trust God's plan for our lives.

This week, ask yourself:

Is there something I need to trust God with instead of trying to control it myself?

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WEEK 2: Younger Kids Edition



Morning Time

Ask: Is there something we could give up today in order to help someone else and show them the love of Jesus?



Drive Time

Using the Memory Verse, come up with a song together. Add in hand motions as well!



Meal Time

Before leaving the table, read the Easter Story from the Jesus Storybook Bible or another kids' Bible.



Bed Time

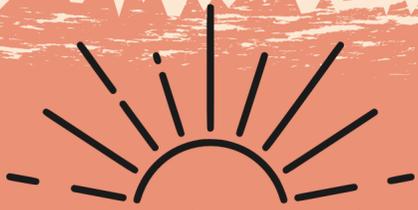
Listen to the song *I SURRENDER* by Hillsong.

Talk about what it means to lay down our wants and do what Jesus asks us to do instead.

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WEEK 2: Older Kids Edition



Morning Time

Ask: Have you ever heard of fasting before?

Fasting is when you choose to give up something in order to make more room for Jesus.

Is there something you would like to give up today?



Drive Time

Using the Memory Verse, come up with a song together. See if Al has a tool to make it funky, or turn it into a rap for some extra fun.



Meal Time

Before leaving the table, have everyone take turns reading these verses about surrender.

- Galatians 2:20
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Romans 12:1-2
- Psalm 37:5



Bed Time

Listen to the song *I SURRENDER* by Hillsong.

Ask: Is there something you feel like God is asking you to surrender in order to get closer to him?

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W E E K T H R E E

Sacrifice

Read: Isaiah 53 and John 1:29

Have you ever given something up for someone else?
Maybe you shared something you really wanted.
Maybe you took the blame so someone else wouldn't get in trouble.

Maybe you gave your time to help a friend.
That's sacrifice — choosing to give something up for the good of someone else.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the “Lamb of God.” That means He became the sacrifice for us. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote that someone would come who would carry our pain and take the punishment for our sin. And that someone was Jesus!
He didn't just say He loved us, He showed it. He gave His life so we could be forgiven. He took our place so we could be free!

Sacrifice always costs something. For Jesus, it cost everything. This week, when you think about sacrifice, remember: You matter so much to God that Jesus was willing to give Himself for you. That kind of love is a sacrifice. Jesus gave up himself for our good. We don't deserve this gift, yet Jesus freely offers it to anyone who will believe.

Jesus died for you. Will you live for Him?

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WEEK 3: Younger Kids Edition



Morning Time

Say: Sacrifice is a form of deep kindness and love where you choose to put another person's needs before your own.

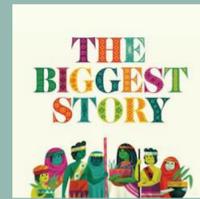
IDEAS:

- Give your friend the last piece of candy, even though you wanted it.
- Let your sibling choose the movie, even if you wanted to watch your favorite show.
- Give up playtime to help a parent clean up.



Drive Time

As we focus on the theme of sacrifice, listen to this podcast episode for kids, explaining the true story of the Resurrection.



The Biggest Story Podcast
Episode: Jesus Lives: The Story of the Resurrection



Meal Time

Invite someone over for a meal or pay for someone else's meal as a way to serve someone. Explain why to your kids and talk about what sacrifice means and how they can live that out, just like Jesus did.



Bed Time

Pray together and thank God for giving us everything, even when we don't deserve it.

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WEEK 3: Older Kids Edition



Morning Time

Say: Sacrifice is a form of deep kindness and love where you choose to put another person's needs before your own.

Ask: How can you give something up for someone else today?



Drive Time

As we focus on the theme of sacrifice, listen to this podcast episode explaining God's Big Story of rescue for us.



God's Big Story Podcast
Episode: Jesus Dies & Comes Back to :Life



Meal Time

Invite someone over for a meal or pay for someone else's meal as a way to serve someone and sacrifice personal comfort for the good of another. Explain why to your family and talk about what it looks like to live life sacrificially.



Bed Time

Ask what sacrifice means to them after they have given up something for the good of someone else.

Pray together and thank God for giving us everything, even when we don't deserve it.

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W E E K F O U R

Resurrection Joy

Read: Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

When the women went to Jesus' tomb, they expected sadness. Instead, they found surprise. And then amazement. And then joy!

The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. Jesus was alive!

Resurrection joy isn't just being happy because something good happened. It's deeper than that. It's the kind of joy that knows even death doesn't win.

Because Jesus rose:

- Sin doesn't have the final word.
- Shame doesn't get to define you.
- The worst day isn't the last day.
-

That's why Easter is such a big deal. Jesus' victory over death isn't just an amazing story from long ago; it changes everything for us today! Because Jesus is alive, we can have new life. Resurrection joy means we can live differently. We don't have to live afraid. We don't have to live stuck. We don't have to live without hope. We can exchange our old life for new life in Christ. When we surrender to Him and let him be in charge of our life, he gives us the free gift of salvation. Then, we can live out our purpose on this earth and tell others about the joy we can all have because of Jesus' resurrection.

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WEEK 4: Younger Kids Edition



Morning Time

Plan ahead and have the table set up with party hats and a fun breakfast.

Say: Imagine you walked into the biggest surprise party ever. That's how the women felt at the empty tomb!



Drive Time

As you are driving, ask who we can share the good news of Jesus with.

Plan ahead: bring some paper and a crayon for them to draw a picture telling how much they love Jesus and send it to the person you thought of.



Meal Time

Scan the QR code to watch a short video with your family.



The Easter Story Video By Orange
YouTube Channel: C Street Kids Walhalla



Bed Time

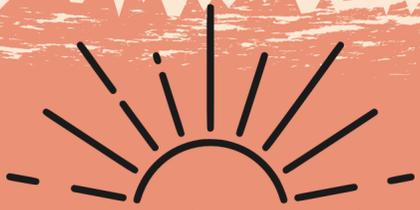
Talk about how the women and the disciples ran to tell others about the good news of Jesus coming back to life.

Play Happy Day and have your kids run in place. Hit pause, when the music stops they have to freeze until the music starts again.

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WEEK 4: Older Kids Edition



Morning Time

Plan ahead and have a fun surprise of your choice ready for your family to walk into.

Say: Imagine you walked into the biggest surprise party ever. That's how the women felt at the empty tomb!



Drive Time

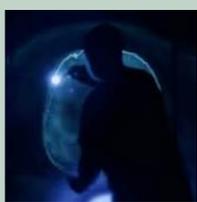
As you are driving, ask who we can share the good news of Jesus with.

Challenge: Text that person and invite them to Easter with the Exchange!



Meal Time

Scan the QR code to watch a short video with your family.



The Easter Story Video By Orange
YouTube Channel: C Street Kids Walhalla



Bed Time

Choose an evening with good weather and go for a walk or a jog together. Talk about how we can choose to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Ask: What is one way this week that you can tell someone about what Jesus did for you?

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Hey, grown-ups!

We hope *Easter: As You Go* has been a helpful tool for your family. Easter is such a powerful time when many young people first understand their need for a Savior. Here is a helpful acronym for G.O.S.P.E.L.

God created us to be with Him

Our sins separate us from God

Sin cannot be removed by being good enough

Paying the price for our sins, Jesus died and rose again

Everyone who believes in Him alone will have eternal life

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever

If your child is ready to respond to the good news of the gospel, here are some verses for you to read with them. Romans 3:10, 10:9, 10:13, and John 3:16-18

Let your child decide for themselves if they would like to pray. There is no special thing you have to say. Simply admit you are a sinner in need of God, believe Jesus died for your sins and rose again, and then confess Jesus as Lord!