



# The Story Of Easter

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Jesus' disciples believed he was the Son of God, they saw how he healed the sick, made the blind see and fed thousands with a few loaves of bread and fish. He was such a good and kind man that it scared some people that he was becoming too powerful and they ordered him to death by being crucified on a cross. Jesus' disciples were very sad but there was nothing they could do to save him, Jesus told them not to be afraid and that he would return from the dead. As the sun began to set Jesus became very weak on the cross and they ran to find help because once he had died they would need to bury him. Upon their return Jesus had died and his disciples gently wrapped his body in clean cloths and carefully took him to a tomb where he would be buried.

The people who had wanted Jesus killed started to worry as he had told them that he would rise from the dead three days later and now they began to think it may come true. Fearing what Jesus said, they hurried to the tomb to stop Jesus' disciples from stealing his body incase they were going to pretend that he had rose again by hiding him and they would be held responsible for killing the Son Of God.

Once they got to the tomb it was ordered that a huge stone be put in front of the doorway so that nobody could get in or out, and to be sure it was secure guards were placed all around. The following morning as day was breaking there was a tremendous earthquake and the guards were very scared and didn't know what was happening. A beautiful angel sent by God came down from heaven and moved the huge stone away from the doorway of the tomb to rest upon it. The guards were so shocked that they fainted to the floor.

Jesus' mother Mary and her friends had set off that morning to visit Jesus' tomb, they carried spices and perfumes to put on his body. As they were walking they talked about how they could try to move the huge stone sealing his tomb, they dearly wanted to see him but were helpless to get inside. To their surprise when they reached the tomb they saw the huge rock had been rolled to one side and a glorious angel was perched ontop of it.

The ladies were afraid of what had happened but the angel gently soothed them; "Do not be afraid. I know that you are here to see Jesus but he is not here anymore, he has risen just as he said he would. Come inside and see the place where he lay." When the ladies looked inside the tomb it was empty. "You must go quickly and tell the other disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and is going to Galilee where you will see him." Said the angel.

The ladies did as they were told and went to tell the other disciples, but when they spoke of the good news nobody believed them. They urged the disciples to go see for themselves, and when they did they found the cloths that Jesus had been wrapped in but his body was gone. The word began to spread of how Jesus was crucified on the cross and how his tomb was then found empty and everybody became excited. A man approached Jesus' friends as they were walking home and they invited him in for dinner. The man picked up a loaf of break and broke it into pieces before praying for the meal and sharing it out. It was then that the friends realised that the man was Jesus! But as soon as they said his name he disappeared before their eyes.

The disciples went to tell everybody that Jesus had risen from the dead as he said he would. After telling the good news to everybody that they knew the men stopped to rest. It was then that Jesus appeared again and told them not to be afraid, he showed them his hands and feet where he had been nailed to the cross to show them it was really him and they believed and loved him. Since that day everybody knew that Jesus was alive in heaven with God and we celebrate those holy days each year at Easter.

Every Easter we give decorative eggs to our loved ones as a symbol of new life, celebrating the rising of Jesus from the dead into the arms of God. Old legends tell of how a Saxon goddess transformed a wounded bird into a rabbit so that it could survive the winter, who found it could lay eggs and decorated them every spring to give thanks as an offering to the kind goddess, we know of him as the Easter Bunny.

