

## THE EASTER STORY

### FROM THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW AND LUKE



THE EASTER STORY is a love story. It's the story of a loving God willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of his creation. The Easter story tells us how Jesus fulfilled all that God had promised. The last days of Jesus' life were filled with dangers and sadness. Jesus, the King of the Universe, would experience betrayal, rejection, insults, and physical, emotional, and spiritual terror. Through all, Jesus remained obedient to the end. On a Friday afternoon, he was crucified and died.

However, the Easter Story does not end with defeat and death. On Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering Satan, death, and the forces of evil. Jesus atoned for our sins, reconciled us with God, and gave us hope for a new future. Easter is a story of love, victory, and new life.



### THE LAST WEEK

*For three years, Jesus had traveled with his disciples, preached, healed, and announced the coming of God's kingdom. A week before his death, Jesus entered Jerusalem, taught his disciples and prepared them for his eventual death. As a final preparation, Jesus wanted to share the Passover celebration with his disciples. As Jesus said often, all of these things happened as fulfillment of God's promises to prophets in the Old Testament (see Matt. 1:22; Luke 18:31; 22:37).*

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." Matt. 26:2

*In those days, the Jewish leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. Judas Iscariot approached them with a plan to betray Jesus. They had found their opportunity to get rid of Jesus.*

# • Celebrating Easter •

## Reading Plan & Discussion Guide

Easily use this reading plan to spiritually prepare for Easter.

Includes reading selection and reflection questions to help you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and to anticipate His glorious return. This is designed to be used alongside [Rose's Easter Story](#) pamphlet.

From Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday, this 9-day guide can easily be used for the days leading up to Easter.

*Suggestion:* If you want to use it for the weeks leading up to Easter, cover 2 "days" for each week.

---

### Suggestions for Use

**SMALL GROUP/FAMILY:** Encourage individual members to dig deeper into scripture by giving each member *Rose's Easter Story* pamphlet and discussing the study questions included below. There are several different types of questions. You don't need to cover all the questions.

**INDIVIDUAL:** Pick 1-2 verses to review each day. Reflect, journal, and/or meditate on 1-2 questions per day.

	Excerpt from The Easter Story to Read	Key Scriptures to Read	Reflection Questions/Applications
<b>Day 1</b>	Read Pg. 1, The Easter Story	John 3:16	Easter is the greatest love story. It's about God giving his very life for you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How is Jesus the greatest gift of all? How might you explain this gift to someone else at Easter time?</li><li>• God gave his son because of his love for you. How does love prompt generosity? How is this different than gifts given out of obligation? How does understanding the generosity of Father God affect your generosity? Explain.</li></ul>

*Chart Continues >*

	Excerpt from The Easter Story to Read	Key Scriptures to Read	Reflection Questions/Applications
Day 2	Read Pg1, The Last Week	Matt. 1:22; Luke 18:31; 22:37	<p>Jesus highlights the prophecies he was about to fulfill through his suffering, death, and resurrection. Why do you think Jesus shared this with his disciples?</p> <p>Imagine you were one of the twelve disciples. Why do you think it was hard for them to understand what Jesus was telling them about his death?</p> <p>On a scale of 1-10, how important do you think it is to study the prophecies Jesus fulfilled. Explain.</p>
Day 3	Read Pg. 2, The Lord's Supper	Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:19	<p>Jesus "broke" the bread and said it was his body. Read the "beating and flogging" section under the Medical Effects of Jesus' Treatment chart on pg. 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How was Jesus' body broken?</li> <li>• Was there a time you felt physically and emotionally broken? How does knowing that Jesus understands the pain of brokenness comfort you?</li> <li>• Take a moment to thank God that His brokenness led to your wholeness.</li> </ul> <p>Passover was a time set aside for the Jewish people to remember and celebrate their Exodus out of Egypt and out of bondage.</p> <p>But Jesus instructed his disciples to "do this in remembrance of me." In other words, they are to now celebrate their freedom in Christ and their freedom from the bondage of sin through his sacrifice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sin has God freed you from? Is there any place in your life you want to step into more freedom?</li> <li>• Take a moment to surrender those areas to God.</li> </ul>

*Chart Continues >*

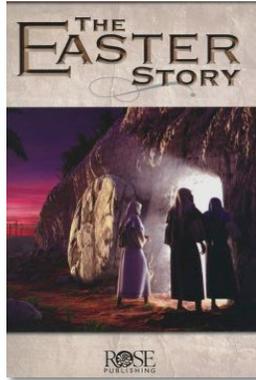
	Excerpt from The Easter Story to Read	Key Scriptures to Read	Reflection Questions/Applications
Day 4	Read pg. 2 Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial	Matt. 26:31-35	<p>Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him. Peter refuses to believe this prediction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has God ever warned you about a sin, but you didn't listen? Explain.</li> <li>• There are many ways to "deny" Christ. You can "deny" Christ's Lordship by not being obedient. You can "deny" Christ's power by believing a circumstance is greater than his authority to intervene. You can deny Christ's love by questioning that his plans are not good. What are some ways you have struggled to put God first? What makes this hard to do at times?</li> <li>• How does knowing that Jesus forgives and still uses Peter in mighty ways give you hope?</li> </ul>
Day 5	Read pg. 3, Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane	Matt. 26:39, Matt. 26:45	<p>Crucifixion was gruesome, and Jesus knew the pain he would need to endure. Yet, he surrendered to the will of his father.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has God ever called you to a difficult task? Have you ever struggled to accept it? Explain.</li> <li>• How has prayer sustained you during difficult times?</li> <li>• Jesus' disciples kept falling asleep when he asked them to join him in prayer. Yet, it's clear that the disciples' lack of consideration didn't stop Jesus from loving and sacrificing for them. Have you ever been let down by someone close to you? How can you choose to still serve them when they fail to serve you?</li> </ul>
Day 6	Read pg. 3- 4, Jesus Arrested & Jesus Tried Before the High Priest	Matt. 26-47-56; Matt. 26-63-28	<p>The priests used their authority to bring about injustice. They spit on Jesus, mocked him, and beat him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever been mocked or mistreated for your faith? How did you respond?</li> <li>• Jesus proclaims that he will be on the "right hand of the Mighty One." The right hand of a throne represents a place of authority. Jesus has full authority, yet he doesn't strike back. Why didn't he defend himself? Explain.</li> </ul>

*Chart Continues >*

	Excerpt from The Easter Story to Read	Key Scriptures to Read	Reflection Questions/Applications
Day 7	Read pgs. 5-6	Matt. 27:2, Matt 27:15-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The crowds chose to release Barabbas, a sinner, over Jesus, who never sinned. How is this a picture of the cross?</li> </ul>
Day 8	Read pg. 7, The Death of Jesus, The Crucifixion  Look over the chart on pg. 11.	Matt. 27:45-50, Luke 23:44-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on Jesus' crucifixion. What part of it touches you most? Is it the pain? Is it Jesus' statement of feeling forsaken? Is it the shame he endured through ridicule and mocking? Explain.</li> <li>After the earthquake and seeing all that happened, the guards finally believed Jesus was the son of God. What did it take for you to realize Jesus was the son of God? In other words, reflect on your testimony. Who is one person you can share your story with today?</li> </ul>
Day 9	Read pg. 8, The Burial of Jesus and The Resurrection.	Luke 24: 1012	<p>The Easter story does not end in defeat. On Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering Satan, death, and the forces of evil.</p> <p>Here are just some of the ways Jesus' resurrection ended in victory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You now have eternal life.</li> <li>Your sins are atoned for.</li> <li>You are reconciled with God.</li> <li>You have hope for a new future.</li> </ul> <p>Which of these promises stand out to you right now? Why?</p>

This reading plan and discussion guide cover events leading up to Jesus' resurrection. *Rose's Easter Story Pamphlet* covers even more events, including Jesus appearing to his disciples, Jesus' restoration of Peter, The Great Commission, and Jesus' Ascension.

Which of these promises stand out to you right now? Why?



Learn More

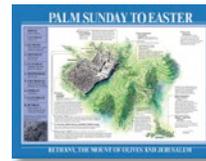
## The Easter Story Pamphlet

The *Easter Story* pamphlet tells the most dramatic story in history, which is drawn directly from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and the story of Jesus from the Last Supper, to Ascension, including:

- The Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus' arrest
- Jesus' trials by the High Priest, Pilate, and King Herod
- The Passion of Christ, including his death on the cross, burial, and resurrection
- The Road to Emmaus, the Great Commission, and the ascension
- Prayer of confession and belief in Christ for readers to pray

This is a perfect giveaway for Easter services or hospital and shut-in visitation.

Pamphlet ..... 978-1-59636-482-0 ..... \$4.99

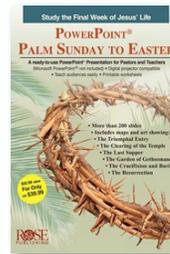


Learn More

## Palm Sunday to Easter, Wall Chart

Get an incredible bird's-eye view of Bethany, the Mount of Olives, and Jerusalem side-by-side with the events of Holy Week in this full-color wall chart! This 19.5" x 26" full-color, Bible wall chart is printed on heavy chart paper, and laminated front and back with high-quality lamination. Perfect for use with water-soluble markers. Rolls for easy storage.

Wall Chart.....978-1-89094-716-3.....\$16.99

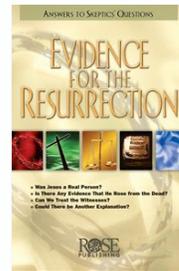


Learn More

## Palm Sunday to Easter, PowerPoint

This Holy Week PowerPoint presentation gives you a bird's-eye view of Jerusalem, the Temple, Bethany, the Mount of Olives, Golgotha, and the Garden of Gethsemane. It also includes a timeline that shows what happened each day and takes you and those you teach from Palm Sunday through to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ..

CD-ROM PowerPoint ..... 978-1-59636-065-5 ..... \$39.99



Learn More

## Evidence for the Resurrection, Pamphlet

The bestselling *Evidence for the Resurrection* pamphlet answers big questions about and compelling theories for the bodily resurrection of Christ with historical, archaeological, and cultural evidence. This 12-panel pamphlet presents evidence and logic that have convinced critics over the years and will equip you with the right information when you talk to someone who questions the Resurrection story.

Pamphlet ..... 978-1-89094-797-2..... \$4.99



www.tyndale.com/rose-publishing

csresponse@tyndale.com

or call 1-855-277-9400



Money Back Guarantee!

