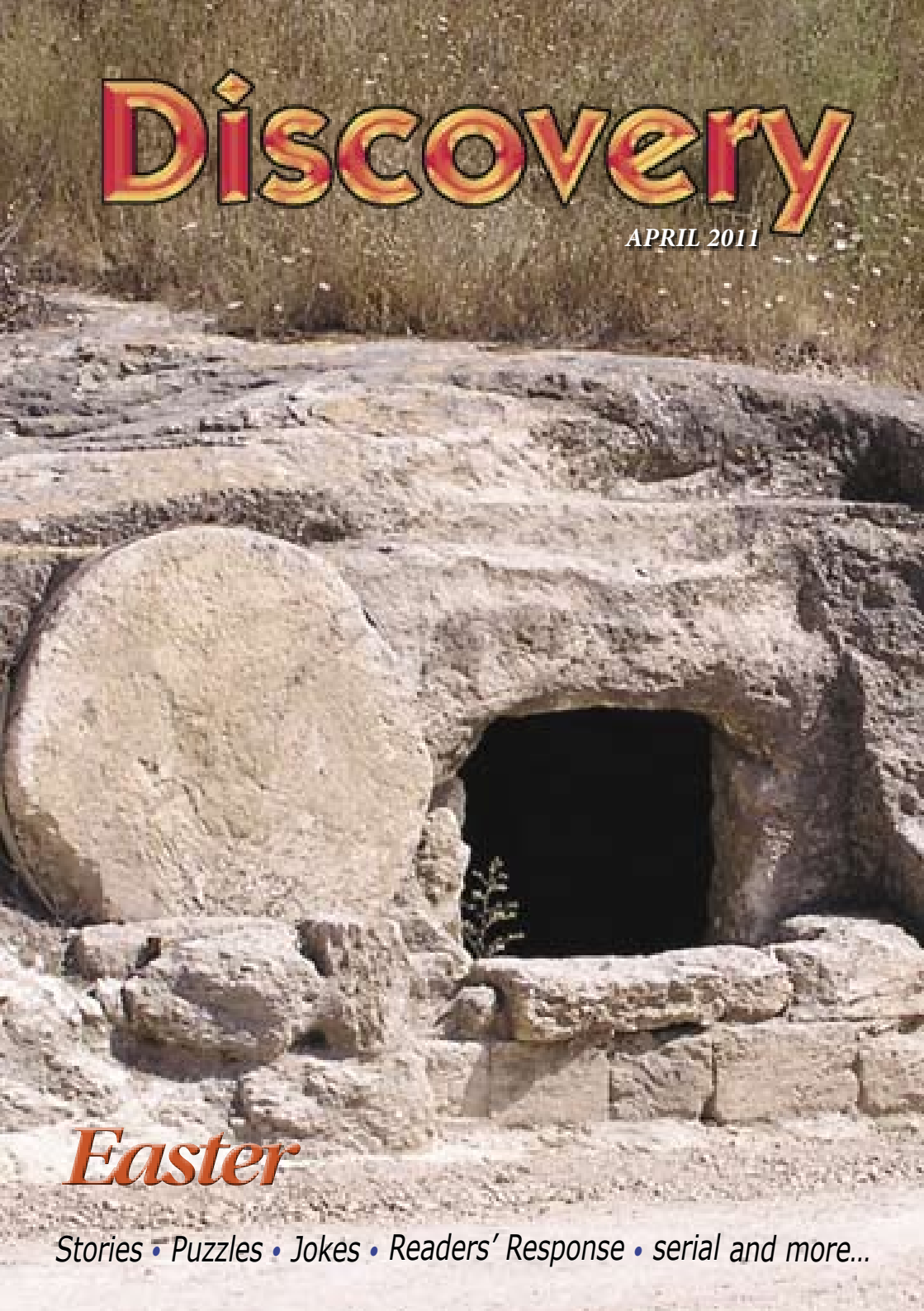


Discovery

APRIL 2011



Easter

Stories • Puzzles • Jokes • Readers' Response • serial and more...



“Easter is an amazing time. It’s a great opportunity to think about new life. Because of what Jesus has done on the cross we can enjoy a new kind of life.

A life lived to please God and not ourselves. A life of love, just like the one Jesus lived.

Thank you Jesus that you lived and died, so we can live.”

Wendy



“The Resurrection brings my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.”

Robert Flatt

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;

Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...

Phillips Brooks, “An Easter Carol”

Answer to puzzle on page 6

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | Y | O | U | E | E | I | A |
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| Y | R | D | O | G | I | S | K |
| E | U | I | O | E | G | G | N |

ANSWER: LUKE 24:6 “HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!”



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As well as *Discovery* we produce 5 different levels of FREE Bible lessons. These are posted monthly to all who would like them. If you would like to join please ask your parent or guardian for permission, then send your name, address and age to:

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ANOTHER VIEW

A long time ago, when I was still a child, I proudly paraded with many other school children down the streets of our village on Palm Sunday and again at Easter. My hands held an Easter cross high above my head.

I found that cross amongst junk. My older brother had made it from the base of a spent Christmas tree and a sturdy stick threaded through the base centre. As we didn't have much money then, he'd become an expert at making interesting things out of scraps.

The cross was strong and in good shape so I decorated it right away with brightly coloured crepe paper streamers. Our teacher told us that all crosses were to have pure white bread on top, so I stuck a white bread roll on mine. I didn't understand the reason for it then, but I was still very excited to be part of the parade and showed off my decorated creation to the crowd that had gathered to watch.

After Palm Sunday I kept my beautiful cross next to my bed ready for the next parade a week later and at bed time admired it, looking forward to Easter when we would be allowed to eat our bread. A little worried that my bread might go mouldy like old bread often did, I checked it frequently. But it remained perfect.

When Easter came and I took the bread roll off my cross after the parade, it had become crisp and tasted even better than fresh bread.

A cross stood for the way Jesus' died; a sad occasion. But bread symbolised something good. Jesus has been called the "Bread of Life" (spiritual food) through his death and resurrection and offers mankind something exceptional - eternal life with God in heaven and wisdom and strength on earth. That is something to celebrate and we did!

Just as bread is an important food in our every day diet, so is it also important to get our regular supply of spiritual food. And Jesus is the Supplier. We simply cannot do without. If we do, we soon discover spiritual emptiness. I did. At a certain point in my life everything became meaningless. Although having searched for truth, I hadn't found or understood it when difficulties overwhelmed me. But thank God Jesus reassured me of God's forgiveness. Talking with Him from then on about all my problems and trials has given me comfort and peace. Today He still calms me. I wouldn't want to be without him.

I hope you will hold him high too.

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS



You will need a little coloured water, a saucer, a short candle, a glass, a coin and matches.

This is what happened at the cross of Jesus.

The coin represents you or me - place it in the saucer, towards the edge.

The coloured water represents our sins - pour it into the saucer until the coin is submerged.

The candle represents Jesus - stand it at the centre of the saucer, and light it.

The flame represents the life of Christ.

Watch carefully, as you take the glass and place it over the lighted candle. Within a few seconds, the flame will consume all the oxygen in the glass and be extinguished. However, it will have created a vacuum which, in turn, will draw the water up inside the glass (thus surrounding the candle) and leave the coin dry.

On the cross, Jesus gave up His life (the flame went out) so that he could take our sins on Himself, and we could go free.



I saw God's hand in creation

The sea, the earth and the sky,
The mighty strength of the oceans
And the rivers trickling by,

I saw the might of the forest,
The beauty of tree and flower,
Yes, when I looked at creation
I saw something of God's power.

Then I saw a greater marvel,
The wonder of Calvary's cross
When God gave His Son to suffer
Such terrible pain and loss.

Creation it cost God nothing –
Just a word and it was done,
But Calvary's a greater wonder
For salvation cost God's Son.

God's might in nature is awesome,
But a greater sight must be
When I see God's love at Calvary
Where He gave His Son for me.

REVEAL THE WORDS

The numbers at the top and left of this puzzle show the number of squares (for each group) that are to be shaded in (or crossed out). The numbers are in order of top to bottom and left to right. Use the combination of groups in the rows and columns to figure out where the shading does and doesn't occur. When you have shaded in the correct squares, the remaining letters will spell out part of a verse from Luke's account of the resurrection. Can you find the verse? Who said this to whom?

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | |
| | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | |
| | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |

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| 0 4 0 1 | H | E | W | O | R | D | H | M |
| 2 0 4 | I | S | A | S | L | I | K | E |
| 1 0 3 0 1 | Y | R | D | O | G | I | S | K |
| 0 6 0 | E | U | I | O | E | G | G | N |

A MIRACLE OF SURVIVAL

As the minutes ticked by, Monica became increasingly anxious. Her husband was long overdue from his shift at the mine. The underground work was dangerous with the constant threat of accidents and cave-ins.

Just as she feared, the news was bad. A shaft had collapsed deep underground and 33 Chilean miners - including her husband - were trapped with no means of escape.

Determined rescuers searched day after day for signs of life, but there was no response. Seventeen days later, when all seemed lost, a tapping sound was heard and to the amazement of everyone a note was drawn up from the bore hole saying: "All 33 of us are well inside the shelter."

Great rejoicing broke out throughout Chile and worldwide. Food and supplies were lowered down the small bore hole, but a larger rescue shaft was going to take months to complete. Could the men survive that long?

The best drills and equipment were put into use and advice and skills came from all over the world. Miraculously, in October 2010, 69 days after the men were trapped, the escape shaft was completed.

In a complicated but successful operation, each of the 33 men was hauled to the surface in a narrow metal capsule from 600 metres of rock below. In good condition they emerged to a

heroes' welcome. United with their families, they were watched by a proud nation and an overjoyed world.

As the President of Chile proclaimed: "We prayed to God and he listened to our prayers."

This miraculous escape reminds us of another rescue recorded in the Bible.

Like the Chilean miners we were all lost and without hope in the world. We were cut off from a holy God and were unable to save ourselves. We needed a rescuer - one who was willing and able to save us. At great cost God sent His Son Jesus to be our Saviour and His death on the cross made it possible for us to be saved.

Just as the narrow escape capsule was the only means of rescue for the doomed miners, Jesus is our only means of escape. There is no other way.

It wasn't enough for each miner to believe the capsule was capable of taking him to safety, he had to get on board in faith and trust. So we must be willing to accept Jesus as our personal Saviour and give ourselves over to Him. When we do this, we can experience freedom and the joy of deliverance, not just for this life but for all eternity.

"Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone."

Acts 4 : 12

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

For years completed

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Amy Abernethy Chidiebere Anya Josiah Baxendine Campbell Holtslag Esther Matalau Florendine Otak Viliami Payne Kendal Ray Vanetta Rosenberg Jessie Yu</p> <p>2 Sophie Batt Amy Brunt Gemma Brunt Lisalotte Charles Amy Gielen Jackie Graham Alex Kinley Chukwuamaka Ndianefo Mary Shepherd Iveren Ugangese</p> <p>3 Oluwasayo Babalola Roosmarijn Charles Dawn Hodder Elizabeth Martin Tabitha Mitchell Iheanyi Okoroafor Hamish Pook Chidiebere Solomon Elizabeth-Joy Symington</p> | <p>4 Deborah Barkley Tim De Beer Sarah Gosse Darren Jolly Ebuka Obojiofor Seini Schaumkel Hannah Share Daniel Shepherd Abigail Tyler</p> <p>5 Allan Dean mma Macintyre Oluchukwu Ndianefo Xixi Xian</p> <p>6 Osita Anaeto Ruth Lauridsen</p> <p>7 Oscar Perks Carolyn Tanner</p> <p>8 Melissa Stewart</p> <p>9 Anna Bradley Sunday Ezeh Ben Hince Inno Nwankwo</p> <p>10 Sunday Eji</p> <p>13 Imhoede Omosimua</p> <p>17 Barbara Ocansey</p> <p>32 Margaret Sheridan</p> <p>41 Murray Park</p> |
|---|---|

BIBLE READINGS

APRIL

| DATE | BOOK | VERSE | |
|--------|---------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Fri | Acts | 15:36-41; 16:1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Sat | Acts | 16:6-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Sun | Acts | 16:16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Mon | Acts | 16:25-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Tue | Acts | 17:1-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Wed | Acts | 17:10-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Thu | Acts | 17:16-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Fri | Acts | 17:22-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Sat | Acts | 18:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Sun | 1 Thess | 2:1-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Mon | 1 Thess | 2:10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Tue | 1 Thess | 2:13-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Wed | 1 Thess | 2:17-20; 3:1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Thu | 1 Thess | 3:6-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 Fri | 1 Thess | 4:1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 Sat | 1 Thess | 4:13-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 Sun | 1 Thess | 5:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 Mon | 1 Thess | 5:12-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19 Tue | 1 Thess | 5:16-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 Wed | 2 Thess | 1:1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 Thu | 2 Thess | 3:1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 Fri | 2 Thess | 3:6-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 Sat | 1 Kgs | 2:1-4; 2:10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24 Sun | 1 Kgs | 3:1-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 Mon | 1 Kgs | 3:10-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26 Tue | 1 Kgs | 5:1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27 Wed | 1 Kgs | 5:7-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28 Thu | 1 Kgs | 5:13-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29 Fri | 1 Kgs | 6:11-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30 Sat | 1 Kgs | 7:51-8:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Readers' Response



"Hey kids - this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz

or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025

WE MIGHT AS WELL

**New-born babe, the Son of God
Lying in a manger**

**Ordinary, yet extraordinary man
Hanging on a cross.**

**A world of sin and hopelessness
Dying without new life.**

**He's the One and we're the world
He will give light to all.**

**We might as well give in to God
For all the pain we caused Him.**

**New Life's reflected in the trees
Hope is in the stars**

**The sun gives light unto the moon
As God gives light to us.**

**"There can be miracles when you believe
Though hope is frail, it's hard to kill"**

**Now we can have immortal hope
A hope that will never die.**

**We might as well give in to God
For all the pain we caused Him.**

Written by Estella Riley (14yrs) with help from God!

And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. (NLT)

Romans 1:4-5



THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

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| Q | E | H | T | R | T | S | I | R | H | C |
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SEE IF YOU CAN FILL IN THE SPACES FROM THE CROSS ABOVE.

C _____

 _____.

_____ CORINTHIANS 15 _____ B

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| H | I | N | D | E | E | D | T | | |
| A | Y | T | N | E | W | T | U | | |
| S | R | A | I | S | E | D | B | | |

NOW SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE WORDS TO FILL IN THE SPACES BELOW.

C _____

 _____.

_____ CORINTHIANS 15 V _____ A



PUPPET PLAY - “WHAT IS EASTER ALL ABOUT?”

You will need three “people” puppets, one sheep puppet, a piece of plain paper, and a pair of scissors.

HOST. Today, we are going to ask the question “What is Easter all about?” First, here’s my panel of guests. Representing the younger generation is Miss Know it all.

MISS KNOW IT ALL. Thank you, Thank you. Just ask me the question, and I will give you the answer, because I know everything.

HOST. Secondly, representing the older generation, is Mr Don’t know a lot.

MR. DON’T KNOW A LOT. Although my name is Mr. Don’t Know a lot, I know heaps and heaps of things, so all you need to do is ask me the question.

HOST. Finally, representing the animal kingdom, is Shaun the sheep. Say “hello” Shaun.

SHAUN. Baa. Baa.

HOST. Thank you Shaun. If we have time, I will ask Shaun his opinion, but I don’t really think he will be much help at all. Today’s question is “What is Easter all about?” and I happen to know the answer myself. Easter is all about HOLIDAYS. Everybody I know goes on holiday at Easter, but let’s hear what my guests say.

MISS KNOW IT ALL. Easter is not about holidays. Easter is all about BUNNIES. Everyone knows that Easter is the time that all the bunny rabbits come out.

MR. DON’T KNOW A LOT. It’s certainly not about Holidays or Bunnies! No, Easter is all about EGGS. The ones I like best are those Cadbury Cream eggs. They are so delicious.

HOST. Thank you. Now Shaun, have you any idea at all what Easter is all about?

SHAUN. Baa. Baa. I need a volunteer to help me.

SELF. (Holding up your hand). I will. What shall I do?

SHAUN. Take that piece of paper and fold over the top right corner.

SELF. (Folding the top right corner so that it meets the left edge). Done.

SHAUN. Take the top left corner and fold it over.

SELF. (Folding as before so that the top left corner meets the right edge to produce a “house” shape). Oh I see it now Shaun, Easter is about spending time at home with your families!

SHAUN. Now fold the paper down the middle.

SELF. (Folding as directed, to produce an “aeroplane” shape). Oh yes, now I understand. Mr. Host was right all the time. Easter is all about going off on holiday on an aeroplane!

SHAUN. Now cut a strip off the paper, next to the longest edge.

SELF. On no, that would spoil my aeroplane. (Cut about a 1 cm. strip parallel to the longest edge). Done - what next?

SHAUN. Open the paper up.

SELF. (Opening up the paper to reveal a cross). I think Shaun has given us the right answer. Easter is all about a cross. But not a paper cross. It’s about a wooden cross on which Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died to take away our sins.



AT THE CROSS

Mary and a group of her friends had followed the crowd that were going with the soldiers as they shoved the prisoners out to the execution ground. John was with Mary's group and although none of them wanted to watch what was happening, they couldn't help it....they just had to see for themselves. As Mary was walking along, she was remembering what the angel had told her before Jesus was born about a sword piercing her own soul. If ever she felt as though a sword was piercing her, it was surely now. It was the worst time of her entire life!

They saw that the soldiers had gone to the top of a hill, and were spreading themselves out. Mary covered her eyes as the crosses were laid on the ground, and the three men were forced to lie on them. There were two others, thieves, who were being crucified too, and the soldiers put Jesus in the middle. The soldiers were hammering nails through the prisoners' feet and hands to the crosses.....the two thieves were screaming in pain, and cursing the soldiers as they did it.

The soldiers grunted with the effort of lifting up the crosses with the weight of the men on them, and there was the thud of the crosses going into the holes. It was not a pretty sight, and it was a very noisy scene. At last the deed was done. The priests were all standing around, and crowds of other people were there to watch as well. They were shouting out at the prisoners, shaking their fists at them...."Just getting what you deserve!" they were saying.

The two prisoners were shouting at

Jesus too, saying things like, "Get down off your cross, and take us too!"

"Look at You! If You are the King of the Jews, show us!"

Suddenly one of the thieves said to the other, "We deserve what we've got, but this Man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom!"

Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise".

John and Mary's group moved closer to the cross. Jesus looked down at them, seeing the women's faces swollen with weeping, and John with them. He said to His mother, "Look, there is your son". And to John He said, "Here is your mother!" They both felt warmed to their hearts and realised He was telling John to take Mary home with him.

This was not the end of the story.... on the third day after the crucifixion, Mary and her friends went out to the burying place to do what had to be done for a dead person. To their utter amazement, the grave was empty! Peter and John came running to see if they could find Him, but He had gone! Later on, they all saw Him again; He was just the same, but with the marks of the nails in His hands and feet. Mary could hardly believe it all, but now things were starting to fall into place. No longer was Jesus just her son, He was truly the Son of God and her Saviour and Lord. She understood now that He belonged to the whole world as the Saviour of all mankind!!

THE GOSPEL ON A BUN

Dana walked into the kitchen and sat down.

"Hi Dana," Mum said, washing her hands in the sink. "How was your day at school?"

"OK, I guess," Dana replied, chewing her fingernail.

Mum poured two glasses of orange juice and carried them to the table. "Was it nice to see Miss Don back?" she asked, placing the glasses on the table, and sitting down.

"That's just it," Dana explained, folding her arms across her stomach. "Miss Don was away. The Principal told us that her brother, Steve, drowned trying to rescue his friend."

"That's awful," Mum said quietly, placing her arm around Dana's shoulder. "Would you like to talk about it?"

Dana leaned her head against Mum's shoulder. "I think it's really sad," Dana began. "Steve drowned trying to rescue his friend," she said, blinking back tears. "It's not fair."

"You're right," Mum agreed, "it's not fair."

They sat in silence.

"They must have been really good friends though, don't you think?" Dana asked.

"Yes, I guess they were," Mum replied. "And Steve was a very special guy, because he gave up his life for his friend."

Dana drank her orange juice,

while Mum went to the pantry and brought back a plate of freshly made hot cross buns.

"Do you think that Steve would have risked his life for someone that he didn't like?" Mum asked, finishing her orange juice.

"I don't know, maybe," Dana answered, blowing her nose on a tissue. "He might have asked someone to help him."

"Do you know that we have a friend who gave up his life for us?" Mum asked, picking up a bun.

"Do we, who?" Dana wanted to know.

Mum traced her finger over the cross on the bun. "Jesus," Mum answered. "He gave up His life for us. And for those that hated Him."

Dana looked at the bun. "Oh, of course," she said, tracing her finger over the cross. "Jesus died on the cross so that we could be forgiven. Isn't it Easter this weekend?"

"Yes, He did," Mum answered. "And you are right, Easter is all about how Jesus died and rose again. Now we have hope of eternal life with Him in heaven. It's God's good news for us, the Gospel - G-God O-offers S-sinful P-people E-eternal L-life."

"I wonder if Miss Don knows what Easter really means?" Dana thought out loud. "Could we make her some hot cross buns? I can put the crosses on them."

"What a great idea Dana," Mum said. "She could do with a friend right now."

Why did He have to die?

*Jesus God's Son,
Beaten and crucified,
Life just begun.*

*Why did He have to die?
He who could give
Health to the sick and make
Dead people live.*

*Why did He have to die?
When He could do
Wonders and miracles
All His life through.*

*He did not have to die,
It was His choice;
Because He suffered there,
I can rejoice.*

*Jesus who died for me
Jesus now lives
And through His death for me
Loves and forgives.*

EASTER ELIMINATION

If a child chooses the wrong answer, they are eliminated. If they choose the right answer, they stay in. Continue until you are left with a few 'winners'.

1. Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

- A. Peter.
- B. Judas.

2. Which garden was Jesus praying in when he was arrested?

- A. Eden.
- B. Gethsemane.

3. When the guards came to arrest Jesus.

- A. Jesus tried to resist them.
- B. He willingly let them take him.

4. Who denied knowing Jesus three times?

- A. Peter.
- B. Thomas.

5. Did Pilate find that Jesus had done anything wrong?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.

6. Who did Pilate release instead of Jesus?

- A. Barabbas.
- B. Lazarus.

7. How many criminals were crucified alongside Jesus?

- A. Two.
- B. Three.

8. On what day of the week was Jesus crucified?

- A. Thursday.
- B. Friday.

9. Jesus died on the cross because

- A. He chose to die.
- B. His enemies were too powerful for him.

10. When Jesus died it was

- A. To take on Himself the punishment we deserved for our sins.
- B. To set us a good example of how we should endure punishment.

11. Only Jesus could have died for us because

- A. He was a miracle worker.
- B. He was both perfect man and God in one Person.

12. The purpose of Jesus' death was

- A. To show us that some people could obtain life after death if they were good enough.
- B. To save us from our sins, now and forever.

13. What did Jesus ask his Father to do about those who were crucifying him?

- A. Take revenge.
- B. Forgive them.

14. God abandoned Jesus when he was on the cross because

- A. God couldn't stand to look on sin.
- B. God didn't really care what was happening.

15. Jesus cried out "It is finished" because

- A. He was totally exhausted and on the point of death.

B. The work the Father had sent him to do was now complete.

16. On what day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead?

- A. Sunday.
- B. Monday.

17. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to us today?

- A. Jesus is alive and is able to give us all the power we need to live lives pleasing to God.
- B. A happy ending to what would have been a sad story.

18. After Jesus rose from the dead

- A. No one saw him again.
- B. He appeared to people at least eleven times.

19. Before Jesus returned to heaven, he promised to send someone to help us through life. Was it

- A. Angels.
- B. The Holy Spirit.

20. When Jesus returns to earth again, it will be

- A. As a baby, born in Bethlehem again.
- B. In the clouds with his mighty Angels.



**Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection
and the life. He who
believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and
whoever lives and believes
in Me will never die.”**

John 11:25-26