# EASTAR PDES Publications ready to personalize & print





Brunch

Invitation



Easter



Invitation



# Here's a great idea— Invite your friends to church this Easter season!

or 4 **REASONS** why I should bother to pray, ask, and remind people to come to church when I'd rather just relax and sit around enjoying Easter lilies..

### 1. Life is scary

Earthquakes, terrorism, hurricanes, deadly flu—there is a lot to be afraid of in our world today. But those who have met the One who calms storms, know that though the journey might be challenging, we are ultimately promised a safe harbor. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only reliable guide through scary times.

### 2. People are lonely

Lies, abandonment, abuse, disappointment—no matter how wonderful the person or relationship, there are times when the best of human companionship will disappoint. That's because, as St. Augustine said, we all have a God-shaped place inside that only Jesus can fill. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only person whose love will never fail through all of life, through death, and into eternity.

### **3. Everyone needs a purpose**

As a former Watergate conspirator said, many folks live their lives climbing the ladder of success only to realize it was leaning against the wrong wall. Jesus' resurrection provides us with the power to live lives of significant purpose and to discern between true and false success. Invite your friends to discover Jesus, the only compass to guide you to a life of genuine, meaningful purpose.

### 4. We're all going to live forever

Most folks today believe that and the Bible agrees. The question is, if you are going to live forever, what neighborhood will you live in? Jesus promises that for those who believe in Him they will live in an eternal neighborhood of light, joy, purpose, and companionship with loved ones. But Jesus won't force anyone to live in His neighborhood. Problem is, any place outside His source of light, joy, purpose, and companionship is an eternal place of darkness, pain, regret, and isolation—not a neighborhood we want anyone to live in. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, so they can live forever in the neighborhood of joy.

# Invite your friends to church this Easter season!



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# Thank you for sharing Easter with us

# The message of Easter

If Jesus had stayed in the grave— When you feel lonely you'd be truly alone. When you feel afraid your fears would win. When you feel helpless you'd be defeated. When you die you'd face eternal darkness.

But Jesus didn't stay in the grave and if He is your Savior and Lord— You'll never be alone, He's always with you. Your fears can be erased by His love. He's there to help you in every trying time. When you die, you'll enter joy and life!

That's the message of Easter-Jesus is Risen-Rejoice!

To continue your experience of Easter Joy, on the back of this page we have resources to help answer questions about Easter and information on activities you and your family may enjoy.....





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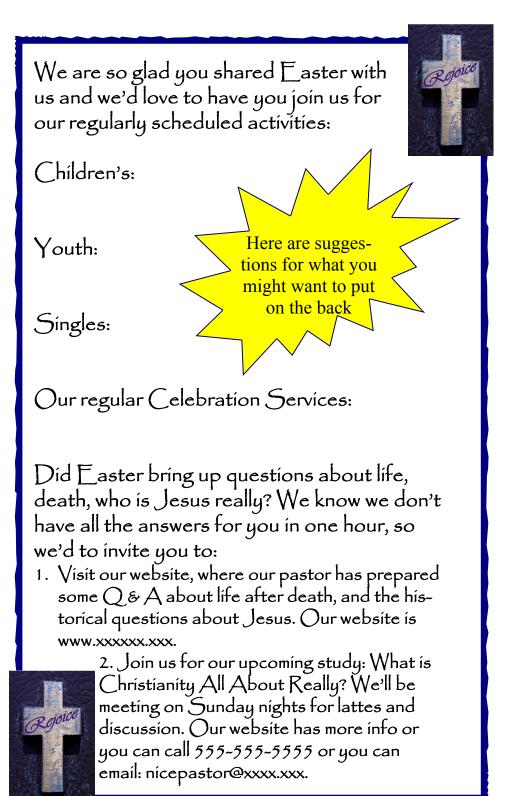
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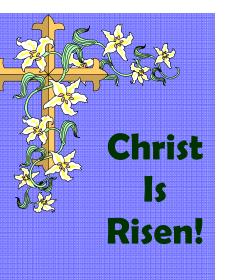


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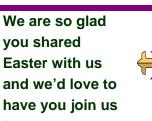
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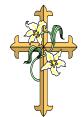
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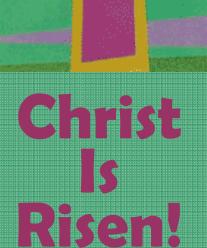
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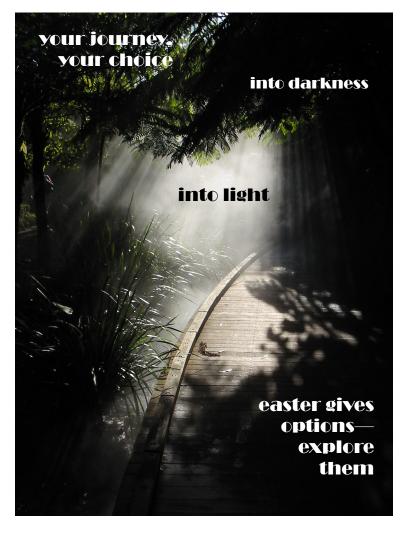
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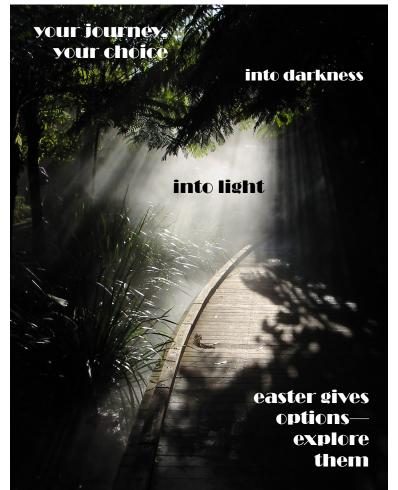


into darkness

into light

easter gives options explore them

into darkness



your journey, your choice

your journey.

your choice

into light

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# still have questions?

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Many people do.

You've just heard the story of Jesus rising from the dead but after you leave the church, when brunch is over and you've had your fill of chocolate you might wonder—

Is it just a story?

Or did it really happen?

And if it did, what does it mean to me?

If you've got those questions, we've got options for you on the back of this sheet we hope you'll check out the websites and events we've got to help you in your research.

Take all the time you want. The issues are worth it.



Many people do.

You've just heard the story of Jesus rising from the dead but after you leave the church, when brunch is over and you've had your fill of chocolate you might wonder—

Is it just a story?

Or did it really happen?

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www. JesusCentral.com: Here is how they describe this website:JesusCentral.com seeks to offer the general public a highly credible, educational reference on Jesus (note: our Editorial Chair holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Stanford University). . . The educational approach is to offer historically accurate material and to portray Jesus in a manner that is of most relevance to the audience. Upon studying material of the JesusCentral.com, one should at least have an accurate, basic understanding of Jesus' core message, Jesus' self-stated purpose, who Jesus claimed to be, why Jesus was controversial and executed, and what caused such a massive following of Jesus, significantly impacting Western Civilization.

**www.equip.org:** this is the website of the Christian Research Institute and Hank Hanegraff, the Bible Answer Man. Though this site is a goldmine to find in-depth and well-researched answers on the Christian faith they are not easy to find. You have to go to the bottom left corner of the home page, and type in a topic or click on the Topical Index which will take you to a list of their great, free articles. Search around on the site, it is worth it.

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# reek Faster from Yvon Prehn

This is a very rich, very sweet bread—a treasured recipe from a very dear Greek friend.

- 1 ½ cups lukewarm milk2 packages active dry yeast
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups sugar
- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup melted butter or margarine 8 or more cups flour
  - 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon sesame seed

Heat milk, but do not allow to boil. Cool to lukewarm. Sprinkle yeast over the top and allow to sit for 5 minutes. Add salt and sugar, stirring until dissolved. Add beaten eggs, vanilla, and butter or margarine; mix well. Add enough flour to form a stiff dough. Turn out of the bowl onto a floured board.

and allow to rise until double in bulk. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle on sesame seeds. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 35 for about 10 minutes. Place in a large greased bowl and allow to rise in a warm place until double in bulk, about 1 hour. Punch down. Divide into three parts. Roll each part into a rope about 15 inches long. Place together, and tuck under each end. Cover The dough will be sticky when you begin to knead it, but continue to add flour as you knead, until the dough is smooth. Knead -50 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 1 large loaf.

Variation:: to make INCREDIBLE Jalapeno cheese bread, knead in 1/4 cup (or more if you are brave) canned, chopped jalape nos and 1 cup (or more if you want) of cheddar cheese after you've kneaded in all the flour. Omit sesame seeds.

# reek Easter

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# **Freek Easter Bread**

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2 packages active dry yeast 1 ½ cups lukewarm milk 1/2 teaspoon salt 1 1/2 cups sugar

- eggs, lightly beaten
  - teaspoon vanilla
- cup melted butter or margarine or more cups flour
  - egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon sesame seed

salt and sugar, stirring until dissolved. Add beaten eggs, vanilla, and butter or margarine; mix well. Add enough flour to Heat milk, but do not allow to boil. Cool to lukewarm. Sprinkle yeast over the top and allow to sit for 5 minutes. Add form a stiff dough. Turn out of the bowl onto a floured board.

Knead for about 10 minutes. Place in a large greased bowl and allow to rise in a warm place until double in bulk, about 1 der each end. Cover and allow to rise until double in bulk. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle on sesame seeds. Bake in The dough will be sticky when you begin to knead it, but continue to add flour as you knead, until the dough is smooth. hour. Punch down. Divide into three parts. Roll each part into a rope about 15 inches long. Place together, and tuck unpreheated 350 oven for 35-50 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 1 large loaf.

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# **Easter Bread** Greek

This is a very rich, very sweet bread—a treasured recipe from a very dear Greek friend. from Yvon Prehn

2 packages active dry yeast 1 ½ cups lukewarm milk eggs, lightly beaten 1/2 teaspoon salt 1 1/2 cups sugar

- teaspoon vanilla
- cup melted butter or margarine
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# HI!

We hope you enjoyed our Easter Events for children!

We want you to know that is just a little sample of the great things we have going on each week at our church for your



children! On the other side of this sheet is more information—look it over



and please let us know if you have any questions.

Bring a friend—hope to see you soon!

Your friend, The Church Bunny

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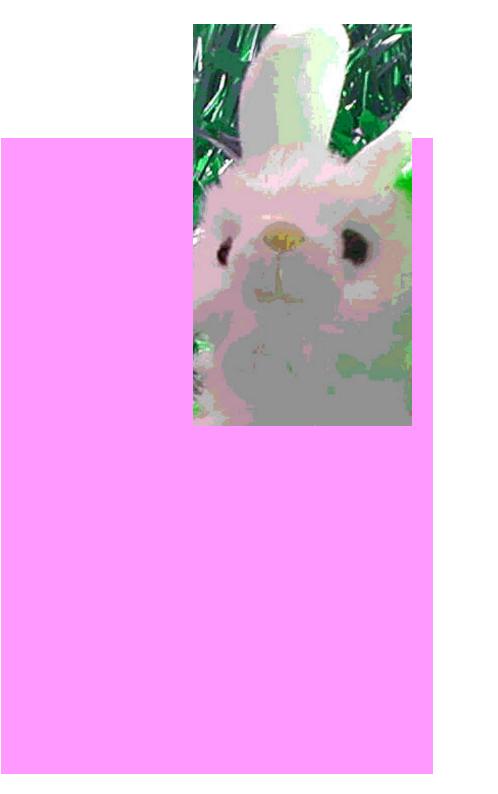
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And you'll find Hopping directions to get You here on time.....





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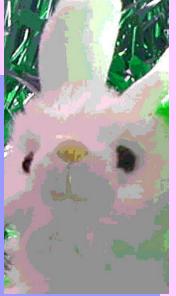


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# Join sus for Easter fun!



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Black is for the sins we made, White is for the grace he gave. Purple is for his hour of sorrow, Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans is yummy to eat, It's a picture, a promise, a special treat, To help us remember Jesus' work complete, Gives us hope beyond any earthly sweet.

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# An Easter Goodie with a Message from the Church Bunny:

Chocolate is wonderful and the great goodies at this time of year are part of the fun, but why not take kid's love of goodies and use it for a fun teaching time? You can do that with—



# **Resurrection Cookies**

Making these cookies allows you to act out and discuss the Easter story with children in your church, family, or any group.

Following are the directions for making Resurrection Cookies and the Bible verses to read with them.

This is wonderful handout to give to parents and Sunday School teachers for a special activity during the Easter Season.

• You could also consider making it something for people to give to neighbors. If doing that, include information about your church and invite them to an Easter event at church.

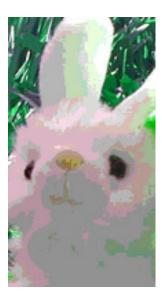
• You can make as many copies as you want and pass it around at church, mom's groups, Sunday School classes or small groups.

Following is the recipe and the verses that go with it.

# Rejoice! Christ is Risen!

The Church Bunny says, "Make cookies with a friend so they can learn about Jesus' love for them!"





# The Church Bunny Says:

Let's make Resurrection Cookies!

These are wonderful goodies with a message that goes beyond the yummy treats we expect at Easter and uses them as a lesson about the real meaning of Easter—Jesus and his death and resurrection.

Ingredients: 1 cup whole pecans 1 teaspoon vinegar 3 egg whites Pinch of salt 1 cup granulated sugar Zip-lock plastic bag Wooden spoon Masking tape Bible (verses are also on the next page)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Place pecans in zip-lock bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28–30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John. 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us He wants us to know and belong to Him.Read Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat egg whites with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of masking tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus's tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.

Now it is time to leave the cookies and go to bed. Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20, 22.

The next morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

HE HAS RISEN!



The Church Bunny reminds you that goodies are always best shared with a friend and nothing is more wonderful to share with your friends than Jesus. Bring your friends to church for Easter!

# Bible Verses used with Resurrection Cookies

**John 19:1** Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

**John 19:28** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

**John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**John 3:1** There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

**Matthew 27:57** When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

**Matthew 27:65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

**John 16: 20** Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. . . .22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

**Matthew 28:1** In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great

earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.



# **Resurrection Cookies**

# An Easter Goodie with a Message

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### **HE HAS RISEN!**



### **Bible Verses used with Resurrection Cookies**

John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Matthew 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

John 16: 20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. . . .22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.



# An Easter Goodie with a Message:

Chocolate is wonderful and the great goodies at this time of year are part of the fun, but why not take children's love of goodies and use it for a teaching moment?

You can do that with—

# **Resurrection** Cookies

Making these cookies allows you to act out and discuss the Easter story with children in your church, family, or any group.

Following are the directions for making Resurrection Cookies and the Bible verses to read with them.

This is wonderful handout to give to parents and Sunday School teachers for a special activity during the Easter Season.

You could also consider making it something for people to give to neighbors. If doing that, include infomation about your church and invite them to an Easter event at church.

You can make as many copies as you want and pass it around at church, mom's groups, Sunday School classes or small groups.



Following is the recipe and the verses that go with it.

# Rejoice! Christ is Risen!



# **Resurrection Cookies**

These are wonderful goodies with a message that goes beyond the yummy treats we expect at Easter and uses them as a lesson about the real meaning of Easter—Jesus and his death and resurrection.

Ingredients: 1 cup whole pecans 1 teaspoon vinegar 3 egg whites Pinch of salt 1 cup granulated sugar Zip-lock plastic bag Wooden spoon Masking tape Bible (verses are also on the next page)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Place pecans in zip-lock bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John. 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat egg whites with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of masking tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus's tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.

Now it is time to leave the cookies and go to bed. Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20, 22.

The next morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.



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We want you to know that is just a little sample of the great things we have going on each week at our church for your



children! On the other side of this sheet is more information—look it over



and please let us know if you have any questions.

Bring a friend—hope to see you soon!

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