



March/April
2009



Nurture Friendship With Jesus

Easter offers many opportunities for families to reflect on Jesus' love and sacrifice—and to strengthen relationships with him. It's also the perfect time to help children realize that Jesus is more than a long-ago historical figure. He's alive and always with us, and he's the best friend we'll ever have.

Most children won't yet understand terms such as "Savior," "Redeemer," and "Lamb of God"—terms they'll likely hear a lot of this Easter. And concepts such as death and resurrection are too abstract for little ones to grasp. To describe a relationship with God in child-friendly language, there's no better word than "friend." Children are familiar and comfortable with the concept. They're starting to form their own friendships and know how it feels to have and be a friend.

Try this approach for sharing the message that Jesus is our forever friend:

Talk to children about their friends. Have kids talk about their friends' special traits. Ask what they like to play with each individual and why their friends are important to them.

Brainstorm the qualities of good friends. Ask children what good friends do and how they act. Discuss what makes someone your best friend. Ask older children what they're willing—and unwilling—to do for their friends.

Share the good news that Jesus is the perfect friend. Children learn pretty early that friends can let them down. Remind your kids that God's Son, Jesus, loves them so much that he died for them. He'll never leave them or disappoint them. No matter who your children befriend on earth, Jesus will always be their best friend. Because Jesus came back to life on Easter, we can have a "forever friendship" with him on earth and in heaven.



PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To show your children that Jesus is their very best friend.
2. To help you nurture your children's growing friendship with Jesus.
3. To fill your Easter celebrations with joy, learning, and spiritual growth.
4. To assure your children—and you—that Jesus is always with you.

Parenting Insights

Help your children build strong, lasting friendships with Jesus:

1. Show kids how your relationship with God works. In age-appropriate words, talk to children about times you've felt really close to God.
2. Model a prayer life for children. Let kids overhear your daily talks with God. Also, frequently discuss ways that God answers your prayers.
3. Emphasize that the Bible is relevant. Apply a specific biblical message to a child's situation. For example, if your children are afraid, explain that the Bible says God will never leave them.
4. Encourage children to trust Jesus during tough times. Remind kids that their best friend, Jesus, has a plan for their lives.

(Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children)

Faith-Filled Families

Almost two-thirds (64%) of parents said they've grown more religious since having children, in a recent *Parents* magazine poll. More than half (57%) said they attend worship more than once a week. And 90% said they regularly talk with their children "about God or a higher power." When parents were asked about the challenges of raising spiritual kids, their top two answers were society's lack of support for religious values (33%) and busy schedules (24%).

OpenTheBook

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves.... Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you."
John 15:12-16 (NLT)

Jesus demonstrated the ultimate love and friendship for us by dying on the cross. Because he didn't stay in the tomb, we're no longer slaves to sin. Instead, he chose us to be his friends and to live with him forever.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Use signs of spring to introduce children to the Easter story.** When you see blooming flowers and budding trees, talk about how God makes things come alive again.
- 2. Say simple prayers with children throughout the day.** Friends like to talk to each other often. By praying, we can keep in constant contact with God.
- 3. Tie in the Easter message to your family traditions.** During an egg hunt, for example, talk about how Jesus is always looking for us.



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

What does Easter mean to your children? While it's fun to fill baskets and enjoy candy, make sure kids know Easter Sunday's real significance. Start a conversation with your children about the holiday—and the real reason we celebrate. Ask:

1. Why is Easter so exciting? What do you look forward to the most, and why?
2. What happened on the first Easter? What would it have been like to see the empty tomb that morning?
3. Why did Jesus die for us? What can you tell him for doing that?
4. Why is Jesus such a good friend? What do you want to tell other people about him? Who can you tell about Jesus this week?

Family Experience: Friendship Eggs

Try this easy, memorable Easter experience to celebrate your relationships with each other. Invite extended family members or neighborhood children to join in the fun!



When you dye eggs this Easter, make the experience even more meaningful by affirming one another in the process. Prepare several dozen hard-boiled eggs. Cover a table with newspaper, and set out crayons, spoons, and bowls of egg dye.

Give each person an egg. Have everyone use crayons to write on the egg the name of the person to their right. (Assist younger children.) Then encourage people to write or draw something they appreciate about that person. Take turns dipping eggs into the dye.

Afterward, have each person tell what they wrote and why. Continue writing affirmations and coloring eggs so everyone has a pile of eggs—and friendship reminders.

For a faith connection, use this egg-dyeing experience as an opportunity to talk about how God changes people when they believe in him (just like the eggs changed!).

Come join us for children's weekend at
Mt. Moriah!



One Way: Traveling with Jesus

Ages 3 – fifth grade

Friday, March 20, 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children's Sunday, March 22

Special guests:

Friday evening:

Rev. Kevin Davis & puppet/drama team from Salem Baptist Church, Apex

Saturday: Rev. Todd & Leigh Anne Moore & creative ministries team from Dortches Baptist Church, Rocky Mount

Children will learn Bible stories of obedience and of God's love and care. Learning activities, crafts, games, music and creative arts will enhance their experience in fun ways!

Sign up on-line at:

www.mountmoriahbaptist.net



MARCH

Children:

March 4	Megan Davies
March 8	Claudia Parker
March 16	Sarah Moore
March 27	Emma Boswell
March 28	Blake Andrews

Children ministry volunteers:

March 15	Kelly Vaughan
March 26	Rhonda Fisher
March 29	Tammy Stogner

April

Children:

April 3	Sydney Carson
April 14	Zachary Johnson
April 19	Ashton Norris
April 23	Alyssa Pilkington

Children ministry volunteers:

April 4	Sheree Clement
April 20	Lynn Strickland
April 21	Francine Wilkerson



Vacation Bible School

June 15-19, 9 a.m. to 12

Ages 3 - completed fifth grade

Volunteers needed!

Contact Susan Wells to find your place!

Check the bulletin board in the children's
building
for VBS updates and information



Mount Moriah Children's Softball

Grades 1-5

Practice begins in May

Sign up on the website:

www.mountmoriahbaptist.net