

Easter Weekend Family Activity

Dr. David Booth | Discipleship & Families Pastor

My favorite tool for treasuring Jesus as a family together during Easter is preparing and enjoying "resurrection rolls". These yummy treats teach the family the story of Jesus' death and resurrection in a fun and creative way. You will read the Bible together, taking cues from the resurrection roll recipe card. Each step teaches a unique detail or truth to savor. You don't have to use all of the detail this year. Just enjoy what your children can and make it an ongoing family tradition.

On Good Friday:

Making Preparations together: gather your family for a treasure hunt of ingredients to be used in your Easter Weekend family faith activity. Look for the following ingredients in your pantry. Or go to the store together and buy anything else necessary to complete the activity (ingredients: 1 can of crescent rolls, 8 large marshmallows, 1/4 cup melted butter, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1 cookie sheet.)

Later, gather your family around the screen you have prepared to view the YouTube video summarizing Jesus' last week and death on the cross. (Search for The Bible Project on YouTube and view the "Gospel of Luke Ch. 19-23" video) Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unHmAf7lNk>

After viewing the video, have a parent say, "After Jesus died, his body was removed from the cross and prepared for burial." Take your family to the kitchen to prepare the resurrection rolls. (If you elected not to watch the video, use this time to review with your children the fact that Jesus loved us so much that He died on a cross to pay the penalty for everyone's sins.)

After gathering your ingredients together, say, Jesus is alive and loves to hear us pray — let's pray before preparing our resurrection rolls. Have someone in your family talk to the Lord Jesus out loud. You might pray something like this: "Dear Jesus, thank You for this chance to learn truth from the Bible together as a family. We want today's family time to help us remember Your love and treasure You with our hearts and our lives."

Someone say: The snow-white marshmallow represents that Jesus was perfect and without sin. Because of His love for us, Jesus paid the penalty for everyone's sin. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21a)".

Someone else: Read John 3:16-18. Say: Nicodemus was a Jewish leader who would have gotten in a lot of trouble for talking to Jesus or following Him. But Jesus meant so much to Nicodemus, and another secret friend of Jesus named Joseph, that after Jesus' death, they prepared His body for burial. "...Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds" (John 19:39b). The melted butter, sugars, and cinnamon represent the materials used to prepare Jesus' body for burial clothes. Have each person use the melted butter to wet the marshmallows (1 for each crescent roll) and cover them with spices according to taste.

Someone else say: John 19:40 says "Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs." The crescent roll dough represents the linen strips used to wrap Jesus' body. Wrap the marshmallow in a dough triangle, making sure to pinch the edges of the dough together so that it is a completely sealed-up ball. Repeat this for all the marshmallows. Use up the remaining butter and spices for the outside of the linen strips.

Someone else say: Finally, Joseph took Jesus' body "and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away" (Matthew 27:60). Lay your resurrection rolls on a cookie sheet, place them into the oven and close the oven door. Tell your family that Jesus was in the tomb on Friday, Saturday and Sunday — on Sunday we will see if any changes happened to the rolls. (After concluding family time, discreetly take the resurrection rolls out of the oven and refrigerate until ready to bake early Sunday morning.)

On Sunday, Resurrection Day:

Bake the resurrection rolls. When the rolls are ready, take them out of the oven and set them aside to cool. Once again, gather your family around the screen to watch the Easter Sunday video.



View The Bible Project "Gospel of Luke Ch. 24" YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Vb24Lk10h5M

Finally, serve everyone the resurrection rolls and begin to enjoy them. Have a parent read aloud from John 20:1-10. Say, “the tomb was empty, except for a pile of linen burial strips. Let’s see what happened to the marshmallow inside the resurrection rolls.” Peel open the dough and see if it is empty just like Jesus’s tomb was empty (the marshmallow will have melted). Like the first Easter Sunday, the surprise is that Jesus’ body is no longer wrapped up where it was left. He is risen! Pray: “Thank you, God, that Jesus is alive so we can be forgiven, have a personal relationship with Him now, and live forever with Jesus in heaven one day.”

Digging Deeper:

How does the resurrection make a real difference in my life?

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 “*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me...*”

Paul explains that **it is impossible for the resurrection to make a real difference in your life if it didn’t really happen, even if you believe that it did.** Paul lists a series of eye-witnesses, many of whom were still alive to verify that Jesus really did rise from the dead. Even Jesus’ half-brother James, who didn’t believe Jesus was God, believed Jesus was God after he saw Him raised from the dead.

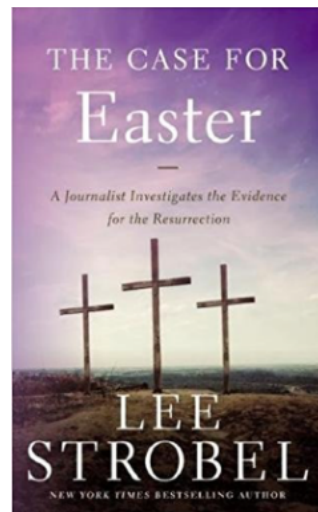
1. Because Jesus is alive, you can enjoy a real relationship with the living God, Who made You for Himself. John 1:3 says “*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*” Jesus, God the Son, created everything—including you and me. Colossians 1:16 explains the reason for Jesus creating us: He created us “*for him.*” That simply means for a relationship with Himself. God’s delight is for a relationship with you where He is perfect Father, and you are His beloved, adopted child. “*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*” (John 1:12).

2. God’s reason for the resurrection is so that we would love and obey Jesus more than anyone else. The Bible says Jesus

is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and has earned the Name above all names. Jesus deserves the highest place of worship and affection in our hearts and lives. Why was Jesus risen from the dead? Colossians 1:18 explains He was risen “*so that He Himself would come to have first place in everything.*”

3. Your former life gone, and is risen to live for Christ Jesus, not for yourself. Everyone who has surrendered to Jesus as Lord and received His forgiveness is now “*dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 6:11). 2 Corinthians 5:15 says “*And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*”

4. Everyone who has Jesus as their Savior and Lord will also get a resurrection body like His that can inhabit heaven forever. 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 explains this hope: “*I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’”*



A good resource that covers the historical reality of the resurrection is Lee Strobel’s “*The Case for Easter.*” It can be found in Christian bookstores and online re-sellers like Amazon.