

Jesus Loves the Little Children



An Easter Experience for families with young children

Welcome to
‘Jesus Loves the Little Children,’
an at-home Easter experience for families
with young children. From the beginning,
God had a plan of redemption for his
people. This self-guided experience is an
opportunity for you and your children to
remember God’s love for each of us.

From the Garden of Eden to the Empty
Tomb, enjoy this experience through
God’s story with your little children as you
prepare for Easter.

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A Note of Preparation

There are 5 experiences for you and your children to enjoy together. Each experience should only take about 5-15 minutes. You might choose to set up all the experiences at one time to tell the whole story, or you might choose to do one experience per day beginning on Wednesday as you lead up to Easter.

Each experience also provides an optional portion to read from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. If you do not have this Bible, I highly recommend it. You do not need it, though, to enjoy this experience with your children. If you have another storybook type Bible, you should be able to find the appropriate story to read along with each of these experiences.

To prepare, look over the 5 experiences below and gather any necessary supplies in advance.

- The Garden of Eden ... a leaf, paper and crayons for each person
- Happy Birthday ... a babydoll and a birthday hat
- Jesus Teaches Us ... a bowl with soapy water and some wash cloths
- Jesus Dies ... two small sticks for each person, tape or string
- The Empty Tomb ... an empty plastic egg and a sweet treat for each child

We hope you and your children enjoy these moments together and find Jesus meeting you there!

The Garden of Eden

Optional Reading from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
'The terrible lie'



You Say:

A long time ago God created our world. And it was perfect. Everything about it was good. God said so. He made the sun and the moon, the planets, the plants and animals . He made people too. And they lived in the Garden of Eden with God.

Unfortunately, the people who lived there made a bad decision. And God had to discipline them for their choices. Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful Garden and they could no longer live with God.

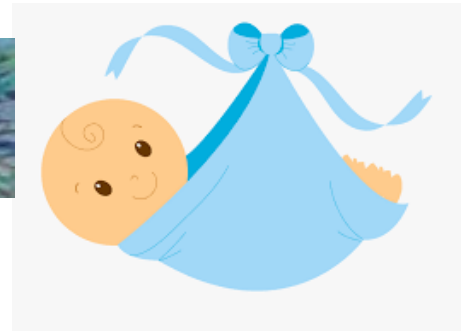
You Do:

Place the leaf upside down on a hard surface. Put the paper on top of the leaf and gently color on the paper. Soon you should see a print of the leaf on your paper. You can do this multiple times to make a beautiful garden on your paper.

You Pray:

God, thank you for loving us so much that you would make a special place for us.

Happy Birthday



Optional Reading from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
'He's Here'

You Say:

God had a plan from the beginning. He was going to send His Son for us.
Do you know who that little boy was?

That's right!
That son is Jesus!
Jesus was born because that was God's plan for us!

You Do:

Place a party hat on the baby doll and sing Happy Birthday

You Pray:

God, thank you for loving us so much that you would send your son to us.

Jesus Teaches Us

Optional Reading from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
"The Servant King"



You Say:

Jesus spent several years teaching people. He had several friends we call his Disciples. One day he had a special meal with them and he taught them that a good leader serves other people. He did that by washing their feet!

You Do:

Take turns washing everyone's little piggies using some warm water and washcloths. Extra tickling and giggling required!

You Pray:

God, thank you for loving us so much that you would show us your ways and how to be your friend.

Jesus Dies for Us

Optional Reading from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
'The sun stops shining'



You Say:

When Jesus was arrested and put on the cross he was not guilty of anything. Jesus had healed many people and shown God's love to everyone He met. But some people did not like what Jesus was doing and they treated Him very badly.

It was a very hard thing for Jesus to die on the cross. He had even asked God if there was another option. But this was the only way.

So Jesus endured people being mean to Him and people saying bad things about him because God asked Him to.

You Do:

Use your sticks to make small crosses. You can tape them or tie them together with string if you'd like.

You Pray:

God, thank you for loving us so much that you would die for us.

The Empty Tomb



Optional Reading from
The Jesus Storybook Bible
'God's wonderful surprise'

You Say:

After Jesus died, a wealthy man put Him in his tomb. Later, some of Jesus friends came to anoint His body. But when they arrived at the tomb the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there.

At first they were so confused and left, but one woman stayed to ask where Jesus' body was. Soon she realized that the man who was there was her friend Jesus.

He was ALIVE! And she was so happy she ran to tell her friends.

You Do:

Give each child an empty egg. When they open it and discover that there is nothing there, surprise them with a sweet treat.

You Pray:

God, thank you that you are not in the grave and we can be your friend forever!