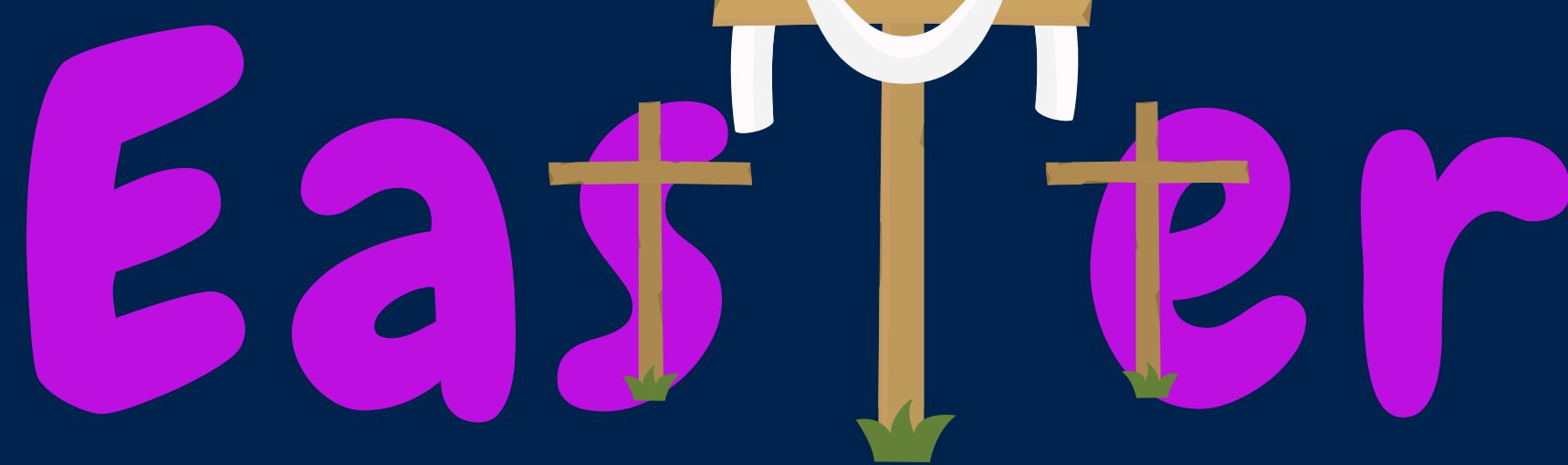


Easter



Around the World

Easter is celebrated in most countries, but not in majority Muslim or Communist countries

In Brazil, Easter is called "Pascoa," closely linked to Passover. They have a lot of chocolate eggs, but not plastic Easter eggs

Orthodox Christians in Europe, Africa and the Middle East celebrate Easter later than traditional Easter because they use different calendar to set the date

In Haiti, they have special church services for Easter, often including a watch night, and a Easter Sunrise service

Easter is celebrated two different ways (or both at once): as a Christian holiday (Jesus' death and resurrection) and as a secular holiday: chocolate, eggs, flowers

In Kenya, many Easter celebrations begin on Palm Sunday. On Good Friday, many Kenyans have processions, re-enacting the Stations of the Cross.

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate Easter. It is a Christian holiday

In Tanzania, Christmas and Easter are the two largest celebrations. They often celebrate similarly to Kenya, and share a meal together as families

In India, the areas that have more Christians celebrate Easter, while those with more Hindus do not. Not many decorate eggs, but many buy them

In Uganda, they often have passion plays and parades. Many eat chicken or goat for Easter dinner

Easter

A Basic History

1

Around
30AD

Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead

The Easter holiday began as a time to celebrate and remember how Jesus gave everything for us to be able to be redeemed and made new. You can read about it in each of the Gospels: Matthew 26-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 22-24, and John 17-20.

2

325AD

The First Counsel of Nicea decrees Easter to be celebrated after the spring equinox

This means that the date of Easter moves each year with the lunar calendar. This broke the tradition of Easter occurring at the same time as Passover, but the two holidays still align occasionally.

3

1700s

Easter begins to be secularized

Eggs had long time been associated with Easter/Lent, but the Easter bunny/egg hunt tradition begins with German immigrants. Fast-reproducing rabbits and egg-laying birds represent fertility and the renewed life of springtime and the Christian resurrection. As chocolate becomes a thing, so do chocolate eggs.

4

Now

Easter is a Big Deal

Easter, as both a secular and a Christian holiday, is celebrated most everywhere that has (or had) a Christian influence. People spend around 30 billion dollars (about the same as Mother's Day) for Easter. For most practicing Christians, Easter is the second biggest holiday after Christmas.

Easter

Connected to Missions

1



Write Easter cards to your missionaries and child sponsorships

Ask them how they celebrate Easter where they are, and what it means to them. Tell them about how you celebrate Easter, and why it is an important holiday to you.

2



Have a community Easter Egg Hunt

This is your chance to reach out and share Jesus with your own community! We are to be missionaries HERE and THERE. Think of creative booths to do before/after the hunt to extend the time with people.

3



Make your own, and give opportunities to share the story of the Resurrection Eggs

Rachel, a missionary, put together simple Resurrection eggs (with videos) at FiveMinutesOfFergie.com on her Friday Finds blog. WorldRenewal.org/kids-holidays also has an Advent/Lent book for lots of LENT ideas.

4



Learn more about the Gospel and how to share it with others

"This Is the Gospel: A Kids Read Truth Story & Scripture Book" is a great tool to study and learn what the Gospel is, and what is the mission of missionaries to share.