



Kate & Mack's

# Easter Countdown

**Hi, kids!**

Easter is almost here, and it's time to get busy! We know that Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth, and Easter is when we remember his death on the cross. But it's also a time for celebration, because Jesus didn't stay dead — he rose from the dead! And if we believe in Jesus and ask him to save us, we will live with him forever in heaven one day. That's the greatest gift ever given to us!

Sometimes it's hard to remember that Easter is coming since we're busy with school. But it's a day we need to remember, because Jesus' resurrection fulfilled so many of the promises God made to us in the Bible!

Mack and I have come up with seven ways to help you get ready for Easter. You can also find more Easter activities in "Easter Around the World with Kate & Mack" at [wycliffe.org/kids](http://wycliffe.org/kids).

So are you ready? Let's get started.

**1. Read about Jesus' last days before he was crucified, and how he rose from the dead!**

It's really good to remember what Jesus sacrificed for us when he died on the cross. And he did it all because he loves us! So as you get ready for Easter, read these chapters as a family and talk about what Jesus' death and resurrection mean to us.

 **John 13:1-17**

 **John 18**

 **John 19**

 **John 20**

**2. Memorize John 3:16.**

Write out this verse on a brightly colored piece of paper and put it somewhere you'll see it every day, like on your bathroom mirror, on the fridge or by your bed. Then work on memorizing it by Easter.

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**— John 3:16 (NLT)**

### 3. Make a cross – with your fingerprints!

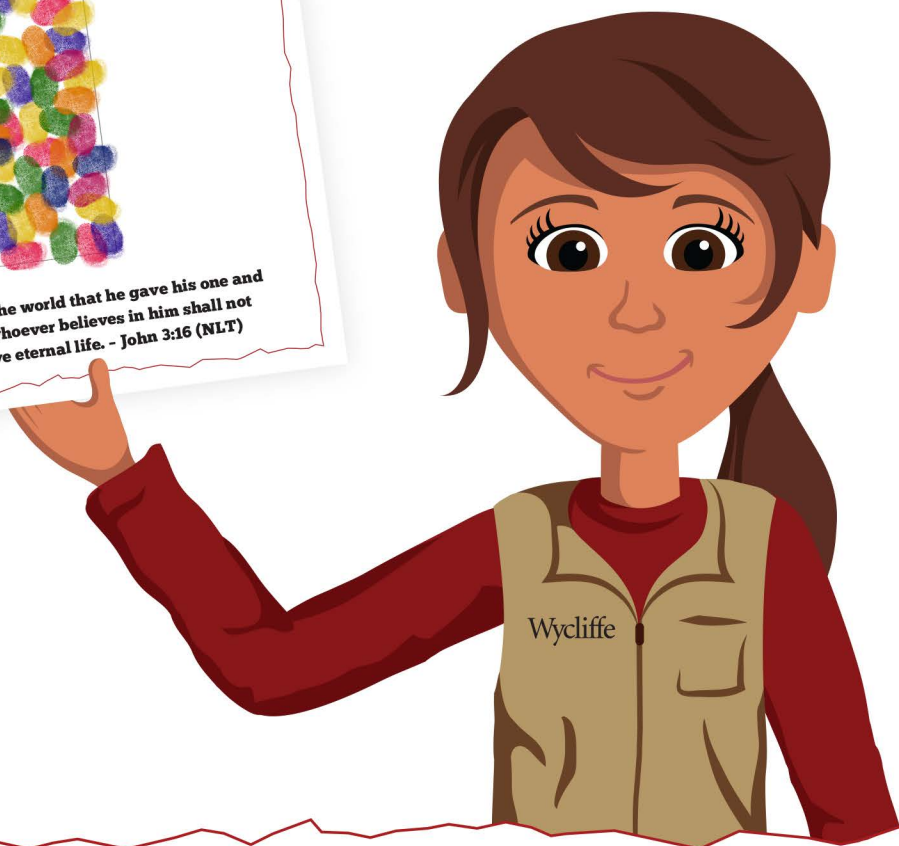
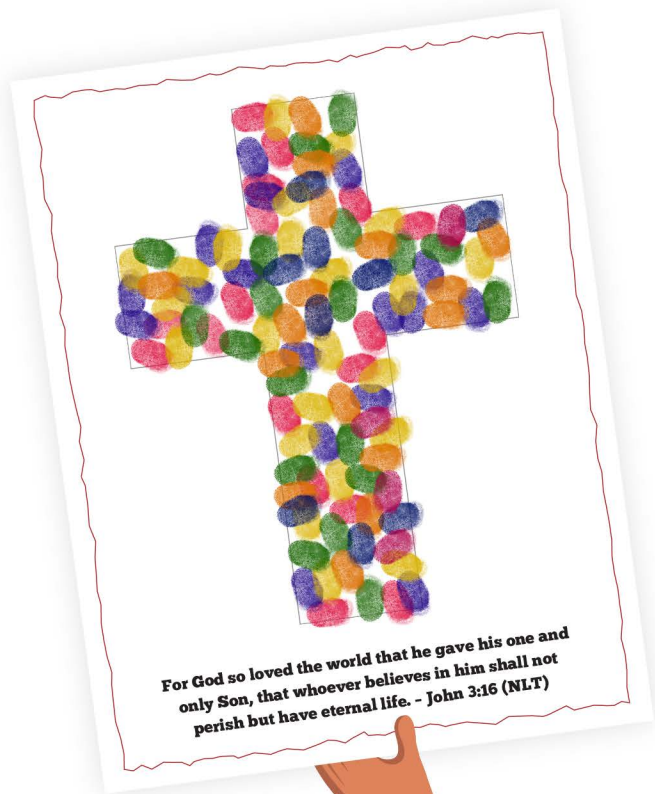
God loves us so much that he was willing to let his only Son die for us. Let's decorate a cross to help us remember that God sent Jesus so that we can live with him forever.

#### Supplies:

- ✓ Cross template
- ✓ Paint or colored stamp pads

#### Directions:

- ✓ Print out the cross template in this activity packet.
- ✓ Use colored paints or a colored stamp pad (try to use four or more colors).
- ✓ Use your finger (either your thumb or your pointer finger) to fill the cross with different colored fingerprints.
- ✓ Let picture dry and then hang it somewhere you'll see every day. It's a good reminder of God's amazing love for us!



#### 4. Draw a picture of the Easter story.

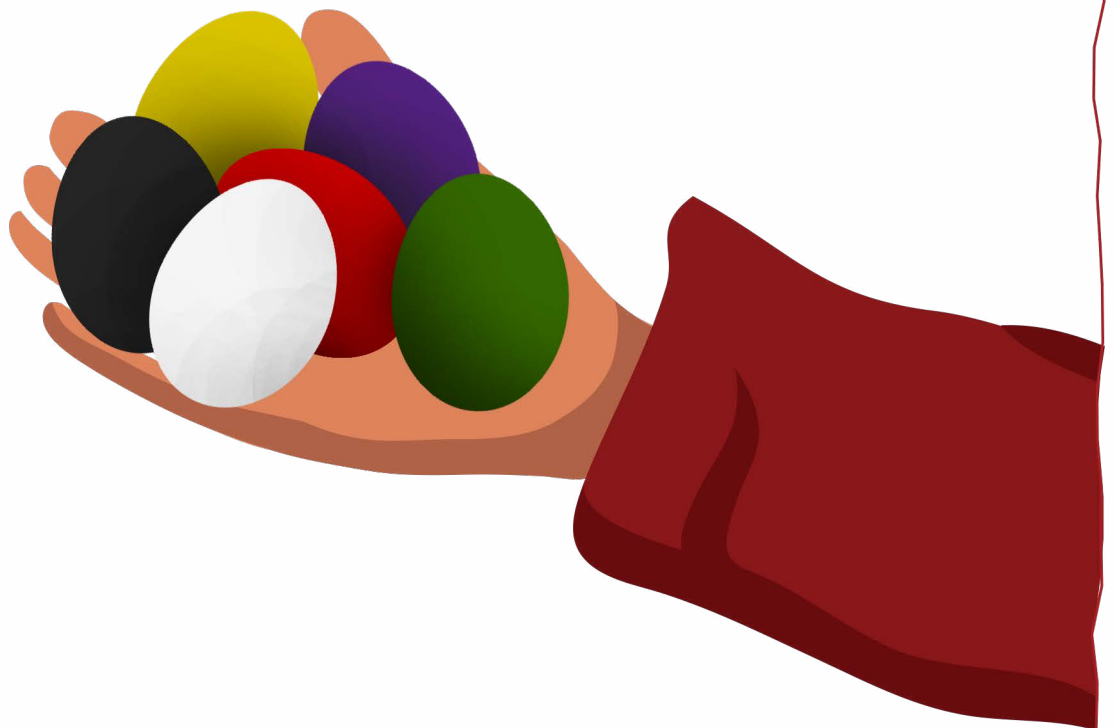
Think of the Easter story and draw what it means to you. Maybe you'll draw a picture of Jesus on the cross or of the empty tomb. Put your picture somewhere you'll see it every day, and when you look at it, thank Jesus for dying for your sins.

#### 5. Dye Easter eggs.

Did you know that even dyeing eggs can help you tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection? It can! Each color reminds us of something:

- ✓ **RED** — the blood Jesus shed on the cross.
- ✓ **BLACK** — the sin and darkness Jesus freed us from.
- ✓ **WHITE** — the forgiveness and purity found in Jesus' blood.
- ✓ **GREEN** — the new life we have when we believe in Jesus.
- ✓ **PURPLE** — Jesus is the King of kings.
- ✓ **YELLOW** — the light of God.

So as you dye your eggs this year, think of the Easter story!



## 6. Decorate an Easter tree.

Christmas isn't the only time you can decorate a tree! Easter is a good time to think of who Jesus is and what he's done. And a fun way to do that is by decorating an Easter tree!

### Supplies:

- ✓ A branch (or a couple of small branches)
- ✓ A vase or pitcher
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Ornament template
- ✓ Colored pencils
- ✓ String or yarn

### Directions:

- ✓ Put the branch (or branches) in a vase or pitcher.
- ✓ Print out the ornament template.

- ✓ Think of Jesus. What comes to mind when you think of him? Write it out on the egg. (It might be something like "He is love" or "He is my savior.")
- ✓ Color the ornament.
- ✓ Cut it out and tie a string through the ornament.
- ✓ Now hang it on the tree!

You can make as many ornaments as you want. After all, there's a lot that we can say about who Jesus is! And this tree is a good way to remember how wonderful he is and how much he has done for us.






## 7. Make resurrection cookies!

These cookies aren't just delicious — they're also a great way to remember the resurrection. Each ingredient reminds us of a part of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, and once the cookies are baked, they're empty on the inside, just like the tomb after Jesus rose from the dead! (These cookies are especially fun to make the night before Easter, because then you get to find the tombs — or cookies — empty on Easter morning.)







### Ingredients:

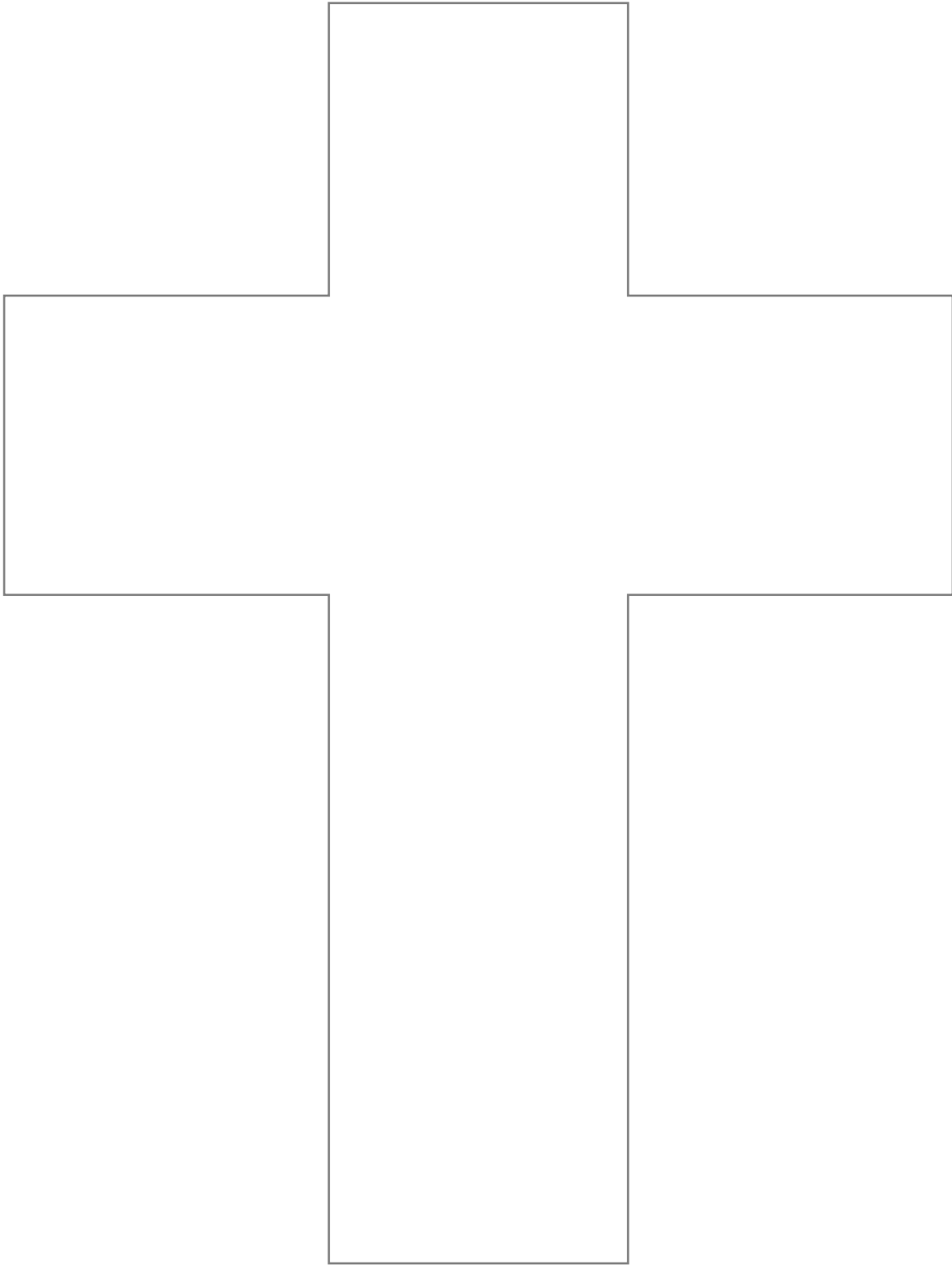
- ✓ 1 cup pecans
- ✓ 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- ✓ 3 egg whites
- ✓ A pinch of salt
- ✓ 1 cup sugar

### Directions:

- ✓ Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.
- ✓ Place the nuts in a plastic storage bag and pound them with a wooden spoon until they're in small chunks.
  -  **This reminds us of the Roman soldiers beating Jesus**
- ✓ Get the vinegar ready. Before you pour it into a medium sized bowl, smell it.
  -  **This reminds us of the soldiers forcing Jesus to drink vinegar when he was on the cross.**
- ✓ Add the egg whites.
  -  **The eggs remind us of life, and more**

**importantly, of how Jesus gave us eternal life by giving up his life.**

- ✓ Pour a pinch of salt into the palm of your hand. Before adding it to the bowl, take a small taste of it on the tip of your finger.
  -  **The salt reminds us of the tears that were shed by Jesus' followers and also of the bitterness of our sin.**
- ✓ Add the sugar to the bowl.
  -  **This reminds us that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us.**
- ✓ Using a hand mixer, beat the egg whites to form peaks.
  -  **The white color reminds us of how we are washed clean and made pure in God's eyes, because Jesus' blood cleanses us of sin.**
- ✓ Fold in the nuts and drop a teaspoonful of mix onto a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper.
  -  **The cookie mounds remind us of the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was buried.**
- ✓ Put the cookies in the oven and turn the oven off. Then, using masking tape, seal the oven closed.
  -  **This reminds us of the sealed tomb where Jesus' body was laid.**
- ✓ Open the oven the next morning and give everyone a cookie. When you bite into them, you'll see that the cookies are hollow!
  -  **This reminds us of the empty tomb on Easter morning. Jesus wasn't dead — he is risen!**



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