

Easter Resources – 2022

LENT – Wednesday 2nd March to Thursday 14th April

EASTER – Friday 15th April to Sunday 17th April

PASTOR'S NOTE

Easter is sometimes a hard season to prepare for spiritually. Many Christians are used to the advent season as a time to prepare for celebrating a Christ-centred Christmas. But when it comes to Easter, it can be tricky to find good resources or to even know what to do. Many people observe Lent, which typically involves giving up something for 40 days. However, this can easily lead to self-reliance, pride or faith in traditions. Or it can lead to shame and frustration because, let's face it, Lent goes for a long time!

In this document I've gathered some resources that should help you in preparing for Easter. Some of these are geared towards the timeframe of Lent but they are all thoroughly biblical and are designed to strengthen faith by focusing us on Jesus. If you are interested in a resource that has more readings than you can fit in before Easter, then choose which ones you will do. At the end is a page on how you can make your own Resurrection Eggs at home.

All of these resources can be used each year and so they are worth buying. To make physical and digital purchases, you can visit www.koorong.com or www.reformers.com.au or follow the links in this document. Also, if you use the PrayerMate app then some of these resources can be accessed there (the paid ones are from as little as \$2.99).

Pastor Adam Humphries

READ THE BIBLE!

You can't beat just reading through the final week of Jesus' life! Pick a Gospel and go for it!

Matthew – Chapters 21-28

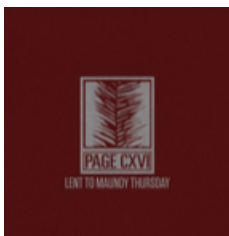
Mark – Chapters 11-16

Luke – 19:28 – Chapter 24

John – 12:12-20:23

MUSIC

Much of our church music is Easter music since it is about the cross and the resurrection. Some particularly helpful resources come from Page CXVI who have reworked old hymns and written some of their own to go along with the annual church calendar. The Lent and Easter albums are fantastic! Get digital copies at - www.pagecxvi.com.



LENT TO MAUNDY THURSDAY

By Page CXVI

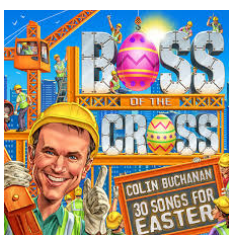
Reimagined hymns and new songs that set a sombre mood for this season of preparation.



GOOD FRIDAY TO EASTER

By Page CXVI

Reimagined hymns and new songs that highlight the sorrow and joy of Easter.



BOSS OF THE CROSS

By Colin Buchanan

Lots of new and old Easter-themed songs.

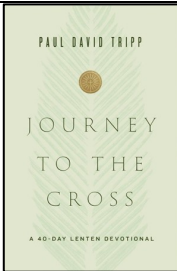


RISEN

By Sovereign Grace

These songs focus on the cross and the resurrection.

BOOKS FOR ADULTS



Journey to the Cross

Written by Paul Tripp

In these 40 daily readings for Lent, Paul Tripp helps us meditate on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ in a way that helps us to mourn our sins and find renewed joy and strength in the wonderful forgiveness secured by Jesus for us.

Each reading has reflection questions at the end and a suggested passage of Scripture for reflection.



To Seek and to Save

Written by Sinclair Ferguson

FROM THE PUBLISHER – *Journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem with these reflections for Lent by Sinclair Ferguson. As you walk through the second half of Luke’s Gospel, you’ll meet the people Jesus encountered on the way to the cross—and prepare your heart to appreciate his death and resurrection afresh.*



The Glory of the Cross & The Beauty of the Cross

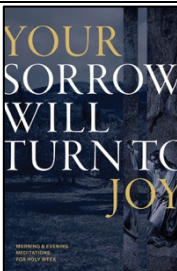
Written by Tim Chester

These two bible-centred Christ-honouring resources point us to the glory and beauty of Jesus’ life and death through daily readings and helpful reflections.

Glory of the Cross – 40 days in the Gospel of John.

Beauty of the Cross – 47 days in the book of Isaiah.

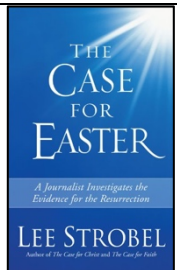
Look up these books at <http://www.thegoodbook.com.au/> to download free discussion guides for reading with a friend!



Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy

Written by Desiring God

A team of eleven pastors and scholars (including John Piper, Justin Taylor, David Mathis and Tony Reinke) have created a book that guides us through Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday). With eight days of morning and evening readings, we are encouraged to meditate on what Jesus has done for us. You can purchase a physical copy or download a **free** ebook: www.desiringgod.org/books/your-sorrow-will-turn-to-joy



The Case for Easter

Written by Lee Strobel

This short book is a great Easter read, looking at three main pieces of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus (the medical evidence, the missing body and the witnesses). It’s a shorter version of Strobel’s book “The Case of Christ” so why not read it for even more evidence for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?



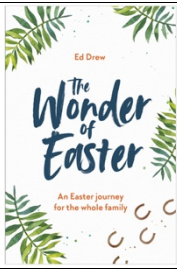
The Third Day

Published by The Good Book Company

Something for young adults (and the not so young!) is this comic about the Easter story.

The illustrations are great and the words are simply the text of Luke’s account.

BOOKS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



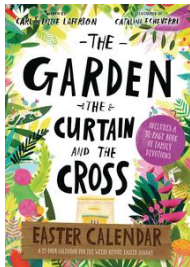
The Wonder of Easter

Written by Ed Drew

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FAMILY RESOURCE

This Lent family devotional book has 34 daily readings which are linked to Luke and the Old Testament. Each reading has questions for different age groups.

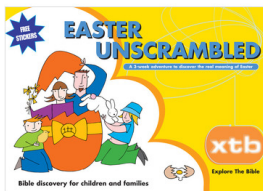
One strength is that it has 5 daily readings per week and a chart showing which are the key ones so it's okay if your family doesn't cover every single reading.



The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross – Easter Calendar

Written by Carl & Lizzie Lafterton

This product is inspired by “The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross”. It contains a calendar that's like the ones we use at Advent and a booklet with 15 readings for families. If you have a copy of the book, you might like to read it during the Easter season since the readings connect to the Bible passages in the book.



XTB: Easter Unscrambled

Written by Alison Mitchell

This book (with 2 sections) has 3 weeks of Bible readings to help families explore what Easter is really about.

The **XTB** (eXplore The Bible) section is for 7-11 year olds to do daily reading with pictures, puzzles & questions.

The **Table Talk** section is for families (or groups) with children as young as 4. It takes 5 minutes a day and is linked to the XTB verses.



The prolific Andrew McDonough has many books in his Lost Sheep series that are centred on the Easter Story.

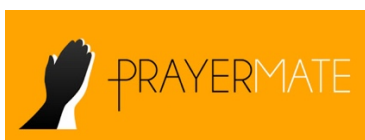


A Very Happy Easter

Written by Tim Thornborough

This cute book for pre-schoolers tells the Easter story but with a focus on the emotions felt by the people who were present at the first Easter. Children are encouraged to not only use their eyes and ears while this story is read to them but also to use their faces to copy those of the people in the book.

ACCESSING EASTER RESOURCES THROUGH APPS

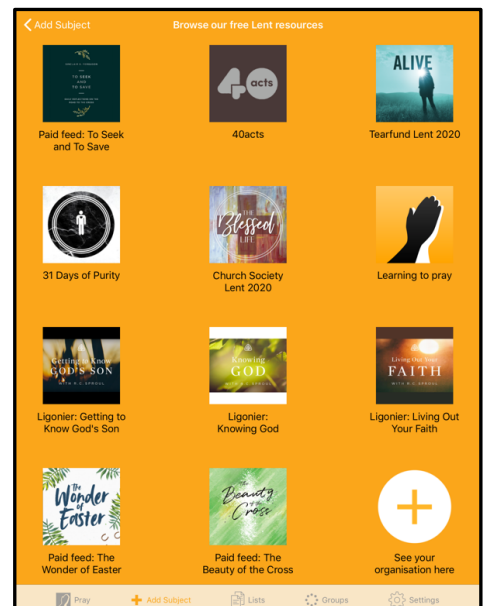


Some of the resources mentioned above can be accessed through the **PrayerMate** app. You can install it on your phone or tablet and then subscribe to a feed. The paid ones are as little as \$2.99 each.



You can access Bible plans through the **YouVersion Bible** app. If you search for “Lent” or “Easter” you can find lots of plans that include devotional readings. Search for your favourite authors to get a plan you trust.

- Tim Keller – <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/1489>
- John Piper – <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/487>
- What's in the Bible (by Phil Vischer – includes videos for kids!) – <https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/524>



RESURRECTION EGGS

For our family, resurrection eggs have become a great tradition! We started with ones like these, purchased from a shop.

However, as the kids got older we wanted to involve them more in putting the eggs together. So we now create Lego mini-builds for each day! We use family devotions I found online to figure out what to make each day (see below). You could make your own crafts or trinkets to go in each egg.



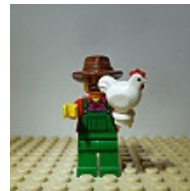
Tips for making resurrection eggs:

- Find a good devotion (See below)
- Purchase a dozen hollow plastic eggs from the supermarket or a craft shop
- Find an item for each day to put in each egg
- Put a bible verse or passage in each egg too
- Start on the Wednesday two weeks before Easter so you finish on Easter Sunday
- Set aside family time each day to open an egg, read the bible verse & devotion and then pray



Humphries 2016 resurrection eggs – <https://flic.kr/s/aHskwbBBrh>

Humphries 2017 resurrection eggs – <https://flic.kr/s/aHskYj7g4D>



Easter devotions for families

There's no reason why you can't use any of the devotions mentioned earlier in this resource document. You might find that simply having something tactile and visual to go along with the written devotions is helpful for your children. However, if you would like to use free resources then check out these suggestions below.

Wendy Lin

I have found Wendy's family devotions to be very helpful. The Matthew's Gospel series is aimed at younger families and the Luke's Gospel series at primary school kids. They have Bible readings, questions, prayers and suggested visual aids. You can modify them to suit your needs. They both go for 14 days but the Matthew one starts two days earlier.

Download Wendy's resources here - <https://musingsinadelade.blogspot.com.au/p/resources.html>

Carmelina Read

Carmelina has put together a nice 6 day devotion for pre-schoolers to early high-schoolers, with extended ideas on activities and crafts to do.

For an explanation and a link to a PDF, visit <http://gotherefor.com/offer.php?intid=28627>.