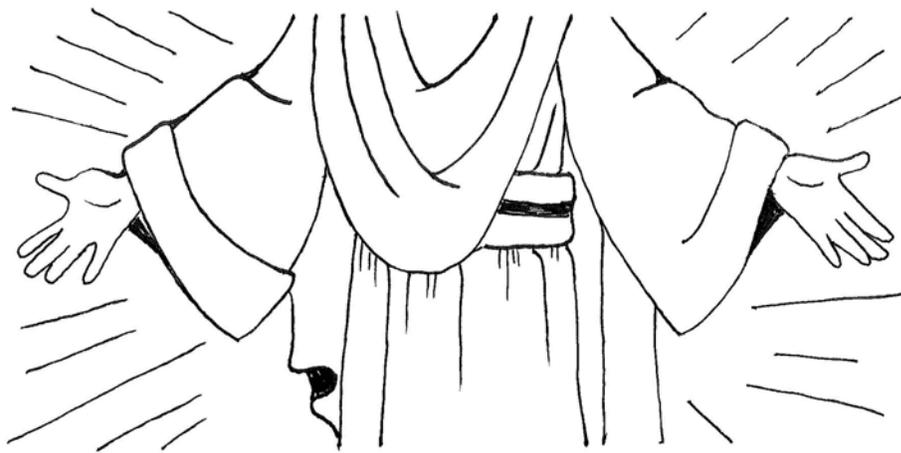


A decorative floral swirl in the top-left corner, featuring a dark red circular element, green and blue vine-like lines, and small leaf motifs in blue and pink.

SIMPLY EASTER



Give Me A Sign!

A decorative floral swirl in the bottom-right corner, mirroring the top-left design, with a dark red circular element, green and blue vine-like lines, and small leaf motifs in blue and pink.

SIMPLY EASTER



Give Me A Sign!



Simply Easter Give Me A Sign!

Jesus was gone. People were in shock. They only knew that once a young man walked among them, loved them, healed their hurts and gave them hope. It was an exciting time to be alive. He died on a Roman cross. Rumor had it that He did the impossible. He was ALIVE after being dead three days!

Now what?

Re-Visit His-Story

...A life filled with pure joy, total sacrifice and hope.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

Simply Easter features stories of people that Jesus died to rescue. They follow the signs pointing the way to God. The audience sings familiar Easter songs. Special music makes the Easter celebration memorable!

And on the third day... Jesus rose from the grave just as He said. Ever since that 'third day' people have believed that God knew what He was doing when He sent His one and only Son into the world.

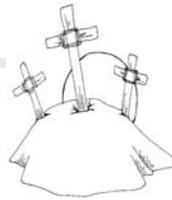
HE IS NOT HERE:
FOR HE IS RISEN
AS HE SAID.
COME,
SEE THE PLACE
WHERE THE LORD LAY.

MATTHEW 28:6



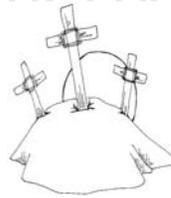
SURPRISE THE AUDIENCE!

Display one large Cross. Add cardboard signs. Tell stories of everyday people who met Jesus during his final days on earth. Before you know it, you have told the precious Easter story one more time and folks feel they have been in Jesus' presence with people just like them.



CHEER ON THE PARTICIPANTS!

Teachers and leaders help small groups. They guide children and organize older groups. Divide printed segments. Assign specific speakers. Follow specific segment instructions. Gather for one rehearsal. Easy!



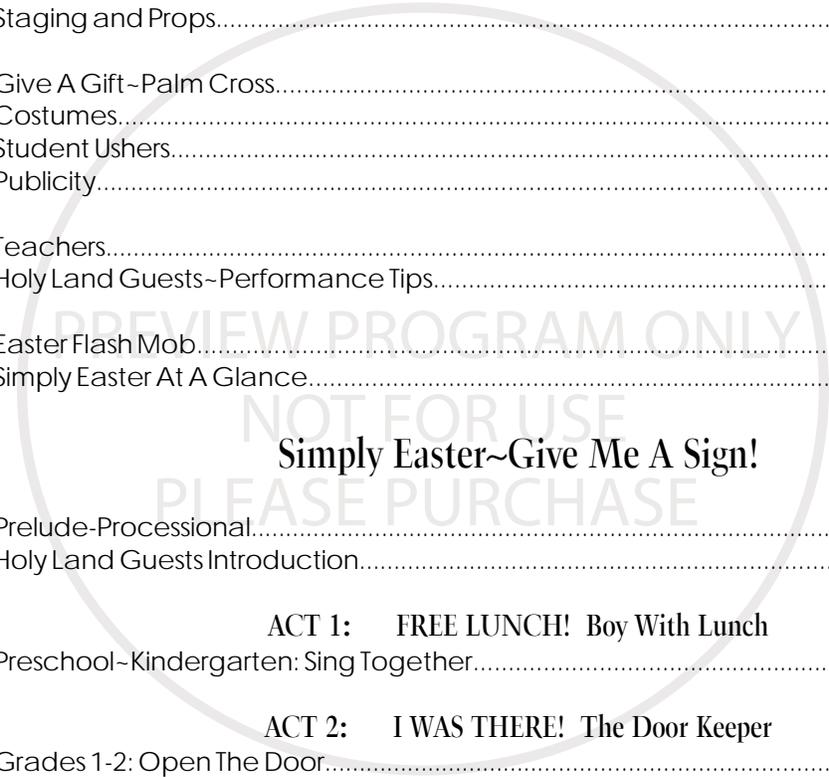
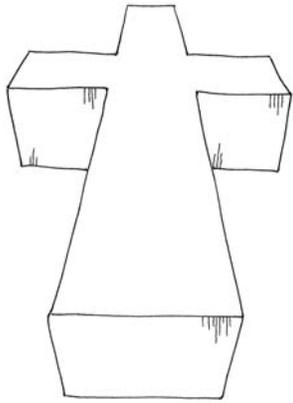
CELEBRATE EASTER!

The adventure begins! This does not have to be difficult or time consuming. Browse **Simply Easter**, choosing what works. Add the wonderful personal traditions your local church loves about celebrating "He Is Risen".



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Important 'Techy' Information!

WHEN PURCHASING 'SIMPLY EASTER'
AS AN INSTANT DOWNLOAD,
PLEASE NOTE~

**YOU WILL DOWNLOAD ONE
PRINTED MASTER COPY OF THE PROGRAM.**

THE FILE DOES **NOT** SAVE TO YOUR HARD DRIVE.

DO NOT WRITE ON THE ORIGINAL MASTER COPY!!!!
MAKE ALL PRINTED COPIES FROM THE ORIGINAL MASTER COPY.
You have permission to make as many printed copies as needed for your group.

This is a ONE TIME ONLY Instant Download.

*It does not come with the automatic ability
to change information, insert names,
rearrange or add material via computer.
It is not saved on your hard drive
due to copyright protections.*

Some groups enjoy memorization and other groups avoid it. Except for young non readers, read all parts. If your group is fond of memorization, lead time will be longer and more intense rehearsal is necessary.



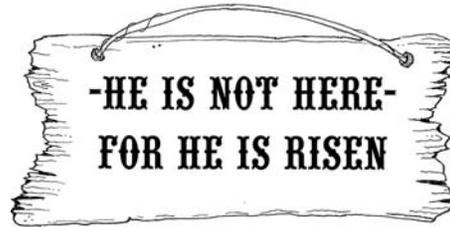
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Simply Easter



Simply Easter! Holy Land people share their stories about the day they were part of His-story. The 'signs' point the way from the Cross to the empty tomb.

Simply Easter! Today's children, teens and grown ups meet people of another time who share their encounters with Jesus.

Assign speaking parts. Participants include Sunday School classes, friend groups, family units, church committees and choir members.

NO MEMORIZATION!



Simply Easter! Fill Easter with spiritual insight straight from God's Word. Spark inspiration to live the lives God planned.

Simply Easter! Add music talent and traditional Easter songs sung by the audience. Adapt program options as desired.

Simply Easter! Celebrate the Egg-Stravaganza Party. Fun, food and fellowship is an optional conclusion to the event.



Directing The Director!



Lead With Love!

Print individual segments from your printed master copy. Assign parts to those who agree to participate. Adapt the speaking parts to the number of people available. Add music and local Easter traditions. Eliminate, combine or expand segments as needed. Organize the team simply.

Lead The Preparation!

Assign short segments to hand picked people. Non readers and young readers become part of the fun. The result is an inspiring presentation featuring highlights of the Easter story.

Lead With Enthusiasm!

Are you thinking, "Why me? I cannot do this?" Put those feelings aside and dive into this charming Easter presentation with a minimum of hassle. Keep it simple! Bless your church or school with a special touch to remind everyone of God's gift through Jesus.

Delegate!

Small group leaders prepare individual classes/groups. Trust the staff to carry out their assigned tasks. Never apologize when asking people to help.

Be Positive!

Easter season is busy but it is also exciting and meaningful. It is worth extra effort in the midst of family preparations and travel plans.



Pray!

Sometimes all it takes is just one prayer to change everything. Take details before the Lord and then-RELAX! Carry out individual tasks at hand. God is in control!

Plan!

Organize your program and party. Make adjustments, add music and involve as many people as possible. Create a memory.

Involve others in the planning process.

Prepare!

Hopefully you have received **Simply Easter!** with more than one month lead time. **We provide one printed master copy.** Complete permission is given to make as many printed copies using your copier as needed for your church or school. Print segments for individual groups.

Assign responsibility for small group practice to leaders.

Notes:



Adaptations ... Make It Work!

*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”*

-Benjamin Franklin

If needed, assign segments to older or younger participants. Combine, divide or eliminate speaking parts or segments as needed. Even if a printed segment provides parts for ten speakers doesn't mean that many people are needed. Present the Easter story with available people and available space.



Simply Easter! is presented in about 45 minutes depending upon added music. The Egg-Stravaganza Party is not included in this time frame.



PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

When Should We Present *Simply Easter*?

Sunrise Service, Sunday School, Palm Sunday or Easter Morning worship is perfect timing. Arrange an appropriate time in your schedule.

PLEASE PURCHASE

Is This Possible For Our Group?

SMALL CHURCH

10-20 PARTICIPANTS

1. ELIMINATE SEGMENTS REQUIRING MORE PEOPLE THAN AVAILABLE.
2. COMBINE SPEAKING PARTS/CLASSES/SEGMENTS AS NEEDED.
3. ASK SMALL GROUPS/CLASSES TO PRESENT TWO OR MORE SEGMENTS.
4. INCLUDE TEENS AND ADULTS AND SPECIAL COMMUNITY GUESTS.

MEDIUM CHURCH

20-50 PARTICIPANTS

1. ELIMINATE SEGMENTS REQUIRING MORE GROUPS THAN AVAILABLE.
2. COMBINE SPEAKING PARTS AS NEEDED.
3. INCLUDE TEENS AND ADULTS.
4. ASK MUSICIANS TO SING/PLAY SPECIAL MUSICAL PIECES.

LARGE CHURCH

50 + PARTICIPANTS

1. ORGANIZE SPEAKERS, SERVERS, SOUND AND LIGHTING STAFF.
2. INCLUDE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.
3. ASK CHURCH CHOIRS, MUSICIANS TO PARTICIPATE.
4. DIVIDE PARTS TO INCLUDE AS MANY SPEAKERS AS POSSIBLE.



Music!

Add Music!

We do not offer music with this program.

Coordinate music with the music team. The audience sings Easter Hymns and praise choruses. Include hymn book numbers in a printed program or use a projection system to illuminate lyrics. Choose spots for special music as desired.



Easter Hymns

Sing traditional Easter Hymns. Choose songs that fit your local tradition. Contemporary praise songs are available and may be perfect.

Optional Special Music

Choose specific people to perform solos, duets, trios, instrumentals. Place special music in the event as desired.

Easter Flash Mob

Sshh!

Keep It A Secret!

Here are a few fun musical suggestions to consider when considering a surprise. Keep it simple. Choose one or two songs. Add dance or flag waving if desired. See our specific tips.

JESUS LOVES ME

EASTER HYMNS

UP FROM THE GRAVE

JESUS PAID IT ALL

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

WERE YOU THERE?

EASTER CONTEMPORARY PRAISE AND WORSHIP

I WILL RISE (CHRIS TOMLIN)

LEAD ME TO THE CROSS (HILLSONG UNITED)

IN CHRIST ALONE (GEOFF MOORE)

EASTER SONG (KEITH GREEN)

THERE IS A SAVIOR (SANDY PATTI)



**ABSOLUTE MODERN WORSHIP FOR KIDS
ARRANGER: VARIOUS ARRANGERS**

12 Songs: Blessed Be Your Name, Beautiful One, Who Am I?, In Christ, Your Love Oh Lord, I Can Only Imagine, Audience of One, Majesty, Above All, Trading My Sorrows, Sing Alleluia, God of Wonders

We found this delightful collection of songs you will enjoy using with **Simply Easter**. Do not teach every song, Choose a few you know your children can learn to add to the spoken words.

**This is a suggestion!
You may have music that is perfect for your participants.**

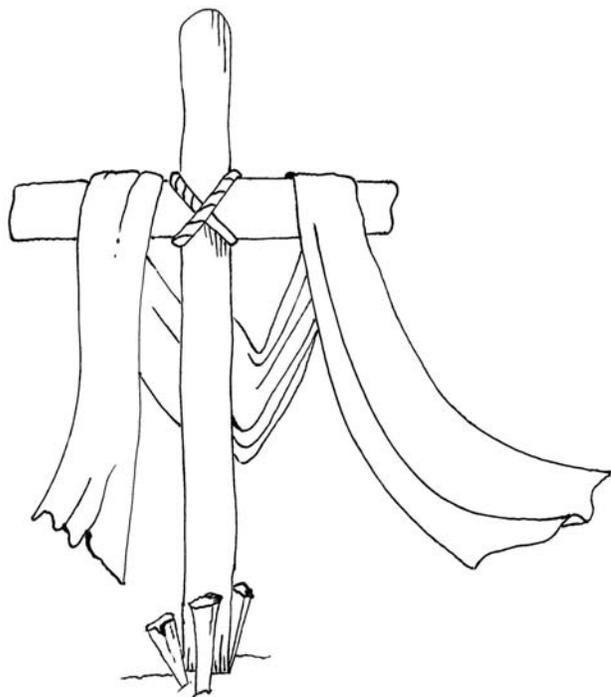
*Purchase separately from **Brentwood-Benson Music Publications** at www.brentwoodbenson.com Find it in their online catalog at: Kids Music-Non Seasonal-Collections. Listen to all songs online! Check the Benson-Brentwood website to place an order, check product availability and find more information about the product. Speak with one of their friendly sales representatives by calling: **1-800-846-7664 Ext 1 PURCHASE SEPARATELY***

Notes:

NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



Staging and Props



Feature highlights of the Easter story told by Holy Land guests with the small group assistance of today's children, teens and adults.

*One large Cross is the stage centerpiece.
Add hand printed cardboard signs
pointing the way to Jesus.*

Simply Art Team

A small team brings the stage to life with a large Cross, flowers, cardboard signs and lighting. Work behind the scenes to create and set the stage for a colorful and safe event.

Create The "Simply Easter" Look!

On Stage: Leave existing Easter decorations in place. Create a simple, eye catching atmosphere around the Cross.

OPTION #1: SEAT PARTICIPANTS IN ONE SECTION UNTIL IT IS THEIR TURN TO PERFORM. LEADERS ACCOMPANY THEIR SMALL GROUP TO THE STAGE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

OPTION #2: GATHER EVERY PARTICIPANT, IN THEIR GROUPS, ON STAGE. SEATED AROUND THE CROSS, THEY RESEMBLE THE CROWDS JESUS TAUGHT AND THE CROWD GATHERED AT THE CROSS. EACH SMALL GROUP STANDS TO INTERACT WITH THEIR HOLY LAND GUEST DURING THE PROGRAM.

EVERYONE FACING THE AUDIENCE HELPS PHOTOGRAPHERS CAPTURE PICTURES OF THEIR FAVORITE PARTICIPANTS.





Sound System

Use the existing sound system to it's best advantage. It makes the difference between a frustrating experience and a delightful event. Place microphones within easy reach. Speakers must be heard clearly.

Props

Cross: One way of creating a new look is to make a large, free standing, three dimensional Cross from sturdy cardboard. *Option: Obtain large pieces of cardboard from businesses who sell appliances.*

Make A 3-D Cardboard Cross: Stabilize it by cutting a widened base. That creates equal distribution of weight. Add more stability by duct taping the wide base to the floor. Cut slits (*as shown*) so the two pieces fit together.

Change shape and size as desired.

A flat, two dimensional cardboard Cross is also effective. If choosing this option, stabilize the base so it does NOT fall over during the program.

Easy Option: If your church/school has an existing wooden Cross, set it up center stage and build the event around it.

Purchase A Stand-Up Cross: www.orientaltrading.com offers a 3-dimensional cross. The cross is made completely of light weight, durable cardboard, so it can be handled and maneuvered easily by children and adults. It doesn't look like cardboard and instead looks like real wood. Assembly is easy and taken this cross down for storage is also simple. When fully assembled it measures 6 feet in height. Simple assembly required.

IN-36-2210 *Price will change:* @ \$25.99 one piece

Flowers: Fill empty spaces around the base of the Cross with paper flowers or real flowers. Oversized cardboard, handmade flowers with bright Spring, neon color add a cheerful, childlike touch.

Check out www.orientaltrading.com (Paper flowers) for an easy way to make wonderful, large flowers. Consider paper plate flowers, blossoming flower craft kit, paper Lily craft ideas and simple flower shapes. Giant tissue paper flowers created from inexpensive wrapping tissue, chenille rods and thin dowel rods are a beautiful way to add color. Crush bright green tissue paper and place around the flowers at the base of the Cross.



Lighting: Place small spotlights on the floor, shining upward from behind and beside the base of the Cross. Disguise lights with plants, flowers.

Cardboard Signs: See our illustration to make cardboard signs to be placed on or near the Cross or make homemade versions as desired. The best signs are large enough for the audience to read. Print with a large, plain black markers.

Light marker colors cannot be seen in the audience.

14 SIGNS: I CAME, FREE LUNCH, I WAS THERE, WALK THIS WAY, JESUS THE NAZARENE-KING OF THE JEWS, HE IS NOT HERE-HE IS RISEN, COME!, SEE!, GO! TELL!

Hand Carried Props: Each segment contains specific information. Choose one person to be in charge of making or providing simple items.

Speaking Parts

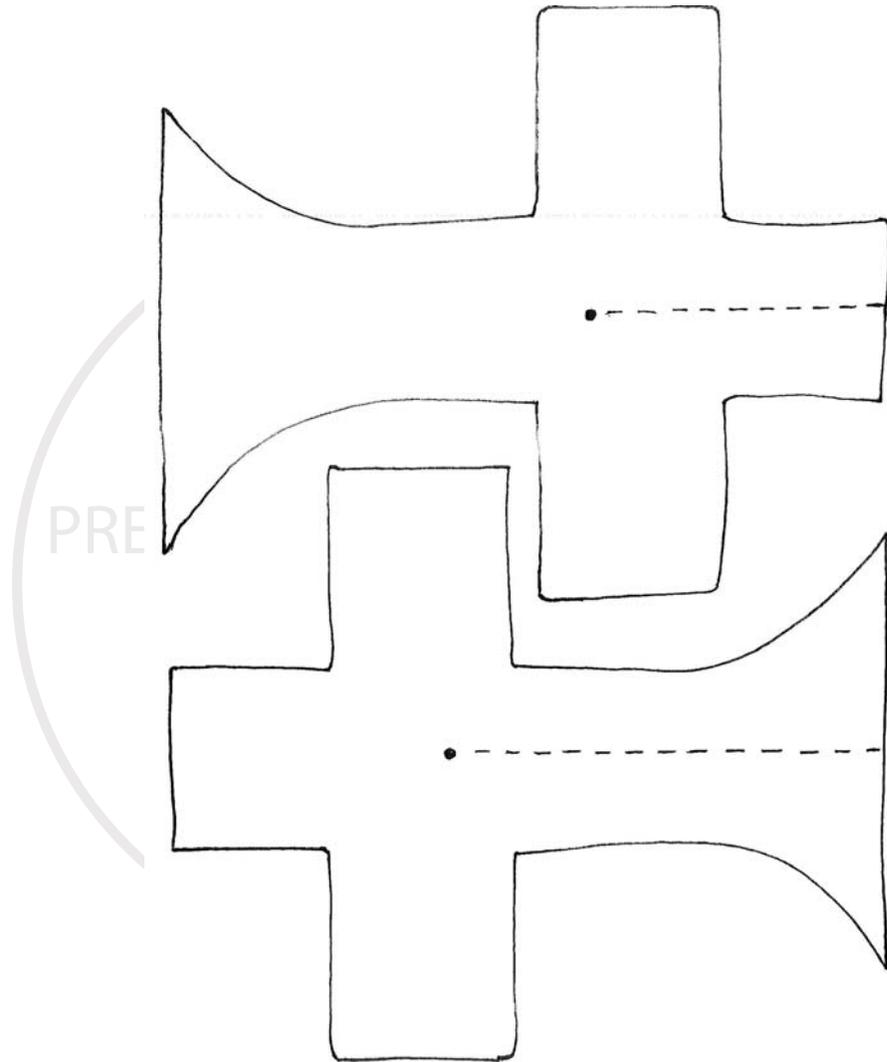
Memorization is NOT required. Attach individual script segments to posterboard, cardboard or colorful paper.

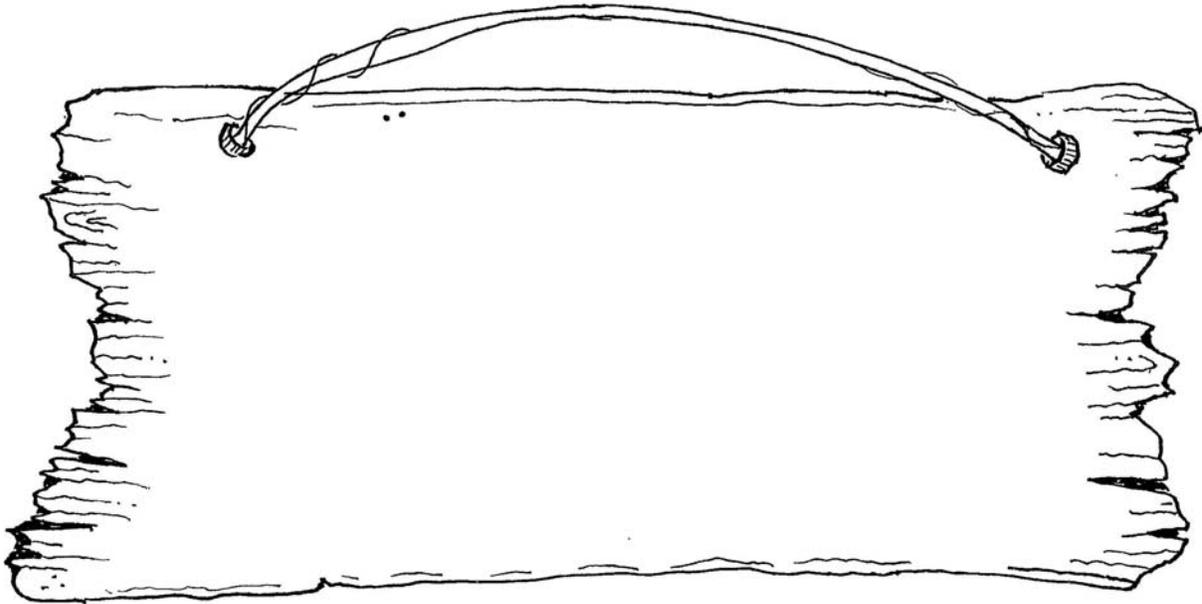
The hand held scripts look like part of the program.

Holy Land guests appear in simple costume to share their story. Age doesn't matter. The guest may be the Sunday School teacher, a teen or older adult as available. They join the group on stage and read from scripts.

Notes:



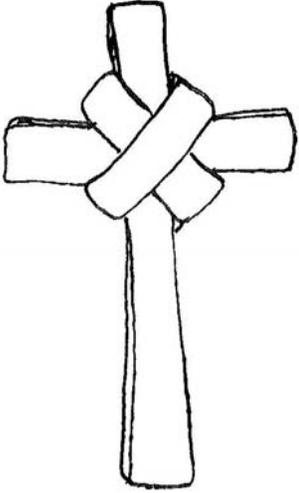




PLEASE PURCHASE



Give A Gift! Palm Cross



Palm leaf crosses are perfect giveaways. Guests will treasure these small crosses for years. The perfect size for tucking into Bibles or placing on a shelf or desk, consider making a palm leaf memory for your groups.

*Choose the best option for your group.
Check out various companies online.
Purchase quantities as needed.*

Making Palm Crosses

This is an easy cross to make, especially if teaching children.

Check the internet for a variety of options!

1. TAKE A PALM FROND ABOUT 1/2 INCH WIDE AND 13 INCHES LONG AND HOLD UPRIGHT.
2. FOLD THE TOP DOWN, AWAY FROM YOU AND THE BOTTOM UP, AWAY FROM YOU, TO FORM THE SHAFT OF A CROSS OF DESIRED LENGTH.
3. TURN THE END DOWN AND TWIST AROUND TO THE RIGHT AND ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE SHAFT TO MAKE A CROSSBAR IN PROPORTION TO THE LENGTH.
4. FOLD THE END AROUND BEHIND THE SHAFT.
5. BRING THE END FROM BEHIND, UNDER THE CENTER. FOLD FROM THE BOTTOM RIGHT TO THE TOP LEFT AND UNDER AGAIN FROM THE BOTTOM LEFT TO THE TOP RIGHT.
6. FASTEN THE END THROUGH THE BACK LOOPS TO LOCK.

Notes:



Palm Crosses

Oriental Trading: www.orientaltrading.com Simple yet thoughtful religious gifts, give them to students, friends and family. Wonderful and inspiring additions to your home decor, attach them to your wall or adorn a special picture frame. They are also perfect to keep in your office cubicle or car to look at every time you need a little faith and hope. Natural palm reeds. 3" x 4 1/4".

IN-13720387 Prices will change @ \$5.25/dozen

Mini Wooden Crosses

www.orientaltrading.com Offers these wooden crosses. These 3" authentic looking crosses are a simple, yet straightforward statement of faith. A heartfelt keepsake.

IN-27/468 Price will change @ \$3.99/dozen

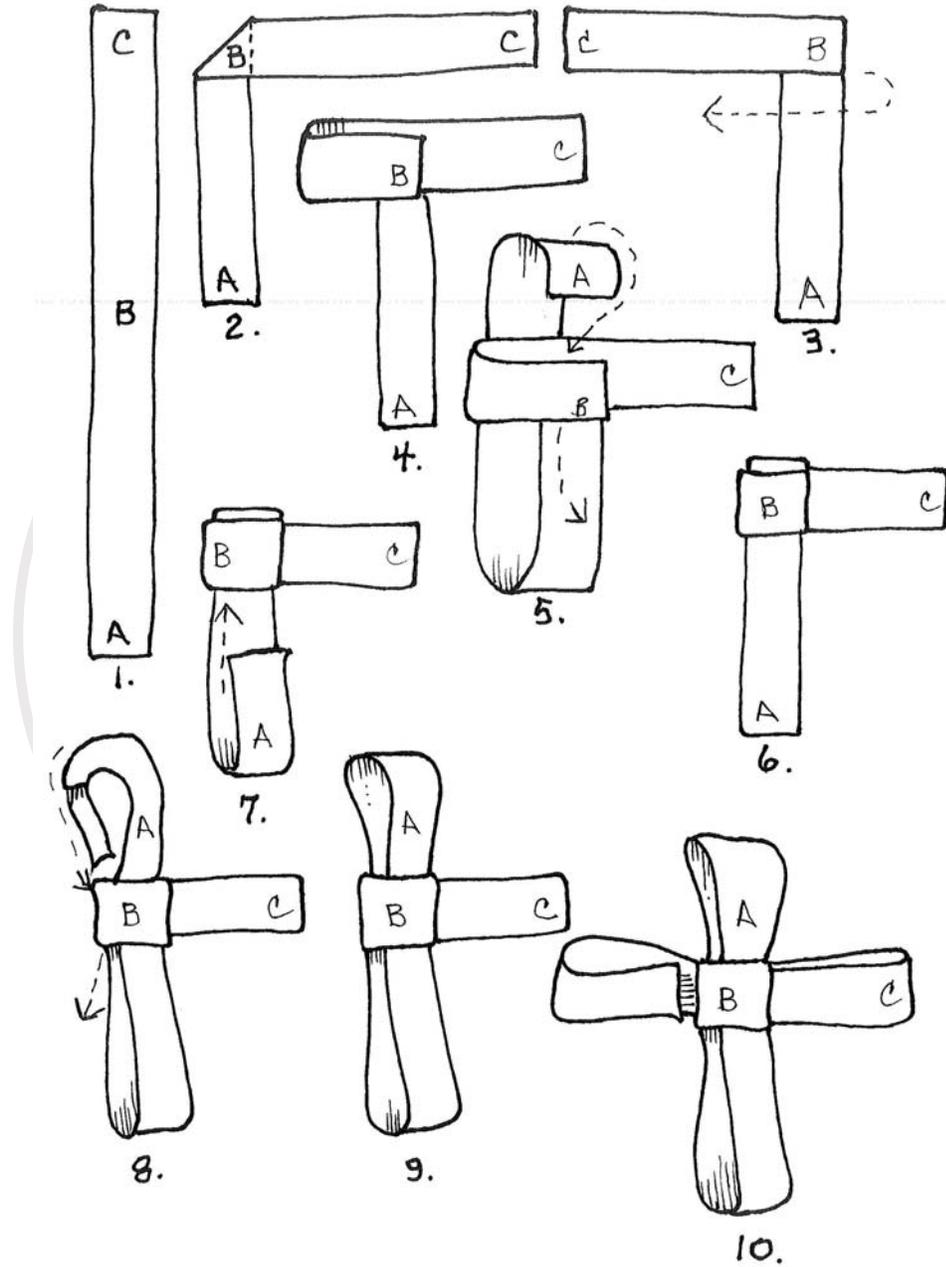
Cross Bookmarks

Religious Cross Bookmark w/Live Photography: www.orientaltrading.com 6 inch cross bookmarks feature gorgeous live photography. A great take home gift for the entire group to remind them of a wonderful Easter event.

IN-12/3650 Price will change @4.65/24 pieces

Notes:





Costumes

*The only costumed people are Holy Land guests.
Small groups dress in modern clothing.*

There are many options for dressing as Holy Land people. Choose your favorite costume design based on materials available. Keep it simple.

Holy Land Guests: The event includes several eyewitness accounts. Dress these participants in simple Holy Land costumes. Parts are appropriate for boys, girls, teens, adults.

Use available Christmas costumes from the church/school wardrobe room.

Participants may wish to provide their own costume.

Simple tunics, robes, leather pouches, walking sticks, sandals and other weather worn items work well.

Notes:



Student Ushers

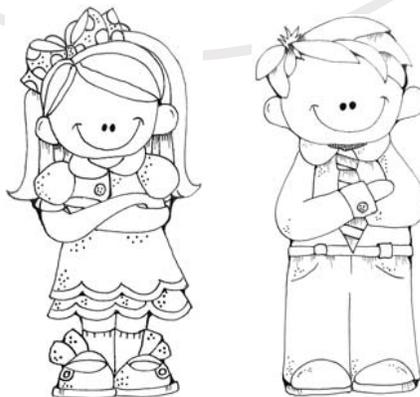
Ask a few children to serve as ushers. They hand printed programs to guests and seat people before the performance.

Place these special ushers at each entrance and coach them:

*"Happy Easter!
Welcome to 'Simply Easter'.
May I show you to your seat?
Where would you like to sit?"*

A friendly greeting is an added personal touch that is much appreciated by audience members. It starts the event with smiles and a warm welcome.

Usher List:



Publicity

Publicize 'Simply Easter'

*Publicize in all church communication channels.
Announce it in the church newsletter,
weekly worship bulletin and from the pulpit.*

Church Bulletin/Newsletter/Website

Print announcements in all forms of church media.
If you plan *The Egg-Stravaganza Party*, let people know
there will be fun and food following the performance.

Local Newspaper

Include a news announcement with church Easter publicity.
Talk to a news reporter and photographer
to request a feature article with pictures.

Television and Radio

Advertise on the local television cable channel.
Contact regional Christian radio stations.
Check it out! It is one more avenue of great publicity!

Special Invitations

Send family invitations home with Sunday School students.
This is effective for families who send children
to your children's ministry but are not personally involved.
Send real Easter cards with invitations tucked inside.



Teachers!

Include People Of All Ages

If there are more students than speaking parts, divide parts or decide how to involve extra students. If there are less students than parts, assign two or three parts to each student.

Assign specific jobs: holding signs, carrying props and dressing in costume. Some people may participate with special music.

Highlight Individual Parts

Attach speaking part copies to plain cardboard. Highlight individual parts. Performance copies must be in good shape for final performance.

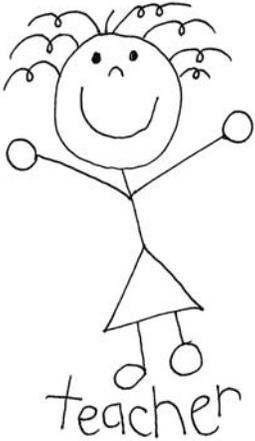
Practice!

Practice and plan props during the first few minutes of the Sunday School hour during the month before the event. Adapt the segment to fit your group. Reserve several Sundays for this purpose.

Gather the entire cast for a final dress rehearsal as needed. Keep it simple and allow for changes as needed.

Communicate!

Tell parents when to have their children at rehearsals and the performance. Invite families to attend and be sure they know what props, if any, their child is responsible to bring.



Attend Rehearsal and Performance

Line up and enter the area as directed. Sit in the designated area. Lead students on and off stage. Coach students quietly if they have problems speaking their parts.

Stage Fright is not uncommon!

Need Help?

The program comes together with little formal large group rehearsal. Work out staging issues during rehearsal with the Director and music team. Musicians and singers must know what music is to be performed and when that will happen.

The 'Egg-Stravaganza' Party!

Stay for fun, fellowship and food! Mingle with guests. Enjoy students and their families. Eat something delicious to reward yourself for the great performance!

Enjoy The Easter Experience!

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to touch lives. Enjoy your small part of the bigger picture. Jesus' Resurrection is life changing. Our children should hear the story for the first time and our adults should hear it again. The spiritual experience is amazing! Have fun with the production.

Notes:



Holy Land Guests Performance Tips



Simply Easter features people who watched Easter events unfold with shock and awe. These everyday people can be teens or adults. They come to the Cross to tell the exciting story of Jesus.

Small groups interact with the Holy Land people. It soon becomes apparent that with all the drama of the original death and resurrection story, it is still "Simply Easter".

DIRECTOR: Choose mature teens or adults who read well and are comfortable speaking in front of a group. They are the centerpiece of the event.



Holy Land Costume and Character

Dress simply in Holy Land garments.

Carry the specific script segment highlighted with specific parts for each person to read aloud.

Rehearse aloud to be familiar with the words and order of program segments.

Enjoy the experience and smile!



Stay in character. If group issues arise with children, go with the flow. Handle any impromptu malfunction with grace and humor.

Be involved with the story line. When not required to speak, stand quietly near the Cross. Watch and listen with interest. Remain on stage as directed.



Each person recalls their story as small groups honor Jesus at the Cross. Highlights from the last days of Jesus are told through the eyes of these interesting people. The printed signs are displayed at the Cross.

Boy With Lunch: FREE LUNCH! (Boy)
Door Keeper: I WAS THERE! (Girl)
Rufus and Alexander: WALK THIS WAY! (Two Boys)
Jerusalem Generation: JESUS~KING OF THE JEWS! (Two Teens)
Mary Magdalene/Easter Angel: HE IS RISEN! (Any Age)

Have fun becoming Holy Land Guests.
Draw the audience into the story of
Jesus' birth, death and resurrection!

Notes:



Sshh! Here's a Fun Surprise!



Easter Flash Mob

Just for fun, consider a surprise entrance.
The ever popular 'flash mob' brings a smile to everyone's face
as participants gather on stage in a unique way.

THE FORMAL DESCRIPTION!

*A flash mob is an organized routine
of a group of performers working together on a large scale
to surprise and amuse the audience for a short time
with a spontaneous performance.*

Flash mob performances can include dances and/or songs.

Simply Easter is based on people gathering around the Cross. A centrally located Cross on stage is the perfect set up for participants to gather and be seen for the first time.

THE MOB-STER: Assign one person the responsibility of organizing the flash mob. That person teaches the song, decides how people enter and rehearses with the 'mob'.

Watch youtube videos for tips of how others have adapted flash mobs to fit various venues and events. Be inspired to feature your group so the performance sparkles.

**Everyone participating in Simply Easter is in the flash mob.
In costume or in modern dress, they enter the scene as instructed.**

Catching the audience by surprise works best. This may not be possible due to the excitement the children will feel as they prepare. Try your best to keep it under wraps. If the secret gets out, it will still be fun!





Flash Mob Tips ~ This Is So Much Fun!

1. KEEP THE SECRET! THE PURPOSE OF AN EASTER FLASH MOB IS TO SPREAD JOY!
2. DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO FOR YOUR FLASH MOB. BE ORIGINAL, LIVELY AND FUN.
3. MAKE ADAPTATIONS TO FIT YOUR GROUP AND COMMUNICATE CLEARLY WHAT EACH PERSON WILL DO AND WHERE THEY WILL BE LOCATED. KEEP IT SIMPLE!
4. ORGANIZE THE MOB. REHEARSE AS NECESSARY. KEEPING IT SIMPLE WILL FREE YOU FROM HAVING TO GET EVERYONE TOGETHER OTHER THAN ONE OR TWO TIMES TO GO OVER PLACEMENT AND MOB ACTIVITY.
5. COMMUNICATE! BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT WHAT EACH PERSON WILL DO. SMALL GROUP LEADERS CAN DIRECT THEIR PEOPLE. IF PROPS ARE NEEDED, PROVIDE THEM.
6. KNOW THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR LOCATION.
7. ASK ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO VIDEO THE ENTIRE FLASH MOB EVENT SO IT CAN BE SHARED LATER ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHURCH/SCHOOL WEB SITES. WHO KNOWS? IT COULD EVEN GO VIRAL!
8. LET IT GO! TRUST THAT THE FLASH MOB WILL GO ACCORDING TO PLAN. STICK TO THE PLAN AND ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE. DO NOT EXPECT PERFECTION. IF IT IS A MIXTURE OF DANCE AND MUSIC, MISTAKES HAPPEN. THAT IS PART OF THE FUN.
9. FINISH AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. ONCE THE FLASH MOB EVENT/SONG IS OVER, DON'T LET THE PARTICIPANTS TAKE A BOW. THEY SHOULD MINGLE WITH THE CROWD AND BEGIN THE PROGRAM ON STAGE AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.



***Be Aware:** Some folks may not appreciate people standing up in the audience to sing or dance down an aisle. Others will love it! Maintain your own sense of humor and grace. This is a fun event so treat it accordingly. Be wise in your choice of activities and all should be well.*



Consider This Option:

Here is one way to 'flash mob' Simply Easter.

Use our suggestions as a jumping off point for your own creativity.



Scatter participants throughout the audience.
Some gather casually at the back of the room.
Some may be leaders who are already introducing and ushering.

Immediately following the Prelude and Welcome
One young child approaches the stage, stands in front of the Cross
and that one, single, young voice sings
"Jesus Loves Me" as an A capella solo.

**JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.
LITTLE ONES TO HIM BELONG. THEY ARE WEAK BUT HE IS STRONG.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.**

2-4 Children join the original child center stage and sing it together.
Arms around each other.

A group of older children/teens stand from their places in the audience and sing
from their seats. Slowly walk to the front as they sing "Jesus Loves Me".
Stand around the Cross.

The song then changes to another Easter hymn
or contemporary Easter praise song
that begins in the back of the room
with one person or a small group singing it.

More people stand from various places
in the audience and join the singing.
Move to the stage from the audience.

The praise music fades away to that one young child
who sings the song A capella, "Jesus Loves Me".

The entire group of participants should now be on stage.
They turn toward the Cross and sit on the floor, chairs,
ledges, stairs and face the Cross.

The Holy Land Guests, in costume,
now move to the front of the Cross
to begin the Introduction: "Give Me A Sign"



Simply Easter At A Glance

Prelude
Holy Land Guest Introduction
"Give Me A Sign"
I CAME!
Processional: Easter Flash Mob!

ACT 1: FREE LUNCH!
Holy Land Guest: Boy With Lunch
Preschool and Kindergarten: Sing Together

Special Music:
Audience Sings:

ACT 2: I WAS THERE!
Holy Land Guest: Door Keeper
Grades 1-2: Open The Door
Grades 3-4: Courtyard Question
Grades 5-6: I Believe

Special Music:
Audience Sings:

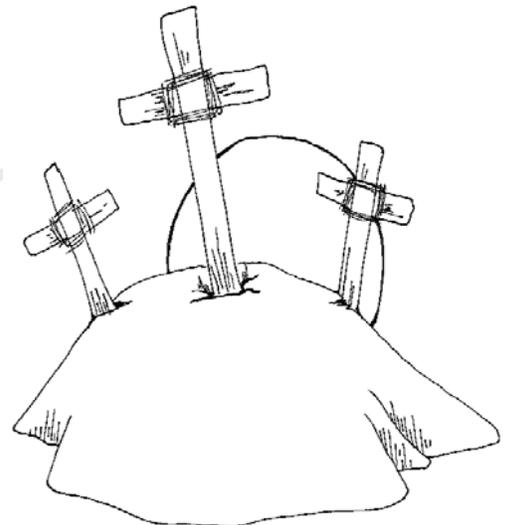
ACT 3: WALK THIS WAY!
Holy Land Guests: Rufus and Alexander
Grades 7-8: Walk This Way
Holy Land Guests: Jerusalem Generation Teens
KING OF THE JEWS
Grades 9-12: The Cross Made A Difference
Holy Land Guest: Mary and Angel
HE IS NOT HERE. HE IS RISEN!
Adults: Give Me A Sign!

CONCLUSION: COME! SEE! GO! TELL!
All Holy Land Guests

Audience Song and Prayer

EGG-STRAVAGANZA!

SIMPLY EASTER PARTY!



Simply Easter Give Me A Sign!

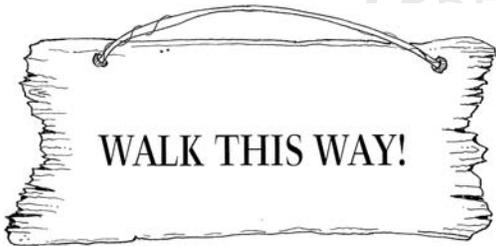
Prelude

Pianist, organist and/or other instruments perform for the gathering audience.

Varying ages of children are involved in the program. Consider asking several to sing as a group or individually.

Young students may play their beginning instruments.

The result is a delightful introduction.



Processional: Easter Flash Mob

Entrance into the room can be formal or casual.

Traditionally, small groups meet in another area and enter the room while music is played and the audience sings.

If surprising the audience with your version of a 'flash mob', create a joyful experience!

Make a Memory!

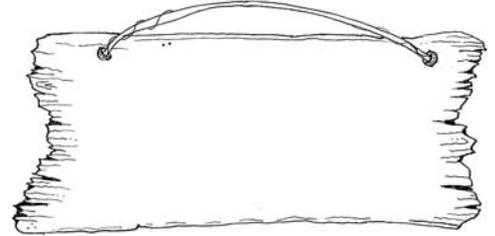


Holy Land Guests Introduction:

Give Me A Sign!

I CAME!

*Holy Land Guests stand side by side
in front of the Cross.
Speak and then fade into the background.*



**Boy With Lunch, Door Keeper, Rufus and Alexander,
Jerusalem Generation Teens, Mary and Easter
Angel**

Boy With Lunch: Through our eyes, see what happened to Jesus at this Cross. God's plan included everyday people. A sign appeared long ago. It simply said: I CAME. **(Display an "I Came" sign)**

Door Keeper: I didn't know it when I asked God for 'a sign' to believe Jesus' message of hope for Heaven and courage the night Jesus and Peter entered my life.

Rufus: Some say you have to "See it to believe it". I say that once you experience it, you can't deny it!

Alexander: I experienced the Cross of Jesus with our father, Simon, right in the middle of the action. We stand here as eyewitnesses to the day and the way Jesus died on the Cross.

Mary: I knew this day would come. Jesus fulfilled all the signs. I stood at a Garden Tomb. I saw Jesus! Alive again. I met an angel. I saw the one sign that gave me courage in my despair.

Easter Angel: The final sign proved to be the most amazing, unbelievable message of the ages. Until we see that Garden Tomb sign, remember:

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Stand near the Cross centrally located on the stage.



ACT 1: FREE LUNCH! Holy Land Guest: Boy With Lunch

Boy With Lunch, in costume, carries a covered wicker lunch basket and a large cardboard sign:



*Participants: Teacher, preschool, kindergarten
(No costumes required)*

Preschool and Kindergarten: Sing Together

Combine this young group on stage. They sing and speak as requested by their teacher and guest.

Cheerful, simple and quick works best for this age group.

*Option: Young children may not be able to stay on stage for the entire program.
If necessary, bring them on stage for their part.*

Teacher: Happy Easter, children! We have waited a long time to get to Easter time. Finally, we are here to tell Jesus' story! Stand up straight. Smile at the audience. Wave to your family!

Let me ask all of you a very important question: What do you think were Jesus' first words when he came bursting out of that tomb alive?

Children: *Jump up and down....raise hands to answer question*

I know, I know, I know!

Teacher: Good! Tell us what Jesus said!



Children: *(Raise arms in Victory and say Together)*
TA-DA!!!!

***Choose from these song suggestions.
There may be another Easter song that is desirable.
Sing a capella or with accompaniment.***

Let's sing a happy Easter song:

Jesus Died And Rose Again

(Tune: "Mary Had A Little Lamb")

Jesus died and rose again
Rose again, Rose again.
Jesus died and rose again.
On Easter Sunday morning!

You Bring Us Sunshine

(Tune: "You Are My Sunshine")

You bring us sunshine, You bring us rain,
We know You make things grow each day.
You bring us love to share with others
And we thank You when we pray.

Dear God we love you, we want to know You
And be more like You want us to.
Our hearts are open to spread your love, God,
'Cause we know You love us too.

You brought us Jesus, Thank You, Jesus.
You died to take our sins away.
We want to talk to You and thank You.
We know You hear us when we pray.

*Repeat final line melody as an ending:
It is a happy Easter Day, It is a happy Easter Day.*



Do You Know The Son of God?

(Tune: "Do You Know The Muffin Man?")

Do you **know** the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God?
Do you know the Son of God, Who died and rose again?

Oh yes, I know the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God!
Oh yes, I know the Son of God, Who died and rose again?'

Do you **love** the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God?
Do you love the Son of God, Who died and rose again?

Oh yes, I love the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God!
Oh yes, I love the Son of God, Who died and rose again?'

Will you **obey** the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God?
Will you obey the Son of God, Who died and rose again?

Yes, I'll obey the Son of God, the Son of God, the Son of God!
Yes, I'll obey the Son of God, Who died and rose again?'

Finger Play: Three Days

Day One-

Hold up one finger.

The guards watched the tomb.

Put hand above eyes. Pretend to watch.

All was quiet.

Hold finger to lips.

Day Two-

Hold up one finger.

The guards still watched the tomb.

Put hand above eyes. Pretend to watch.

All was quiet.

Hold finger to lips.

Day Three-

Hold up one finger.

The guards watched the tomb.

Put hand above eyes. Pretend to watch.

All was quiet.

Hold finger to lips.



SUDDENLY!

Jump, as if in shock.

The stone rolled from the door.

Make a rolling motion with hands.

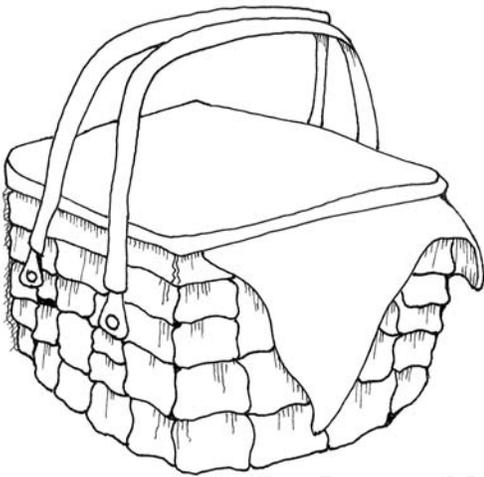
Jesus stepped out!

Take one BIG step.

God's Son was alive!

Jump up and down shouting, "Yay!"

Boy With Lunch: *Step in front of the Cross. Interact with the small group. Hold the FREE LUNCH Sign.*



(Shout....) Free Lunch! Free Lunch! Delicious, homemade bread and crispy fish sticks! First come, first served! Free Lunch!

Children all raise their hands and jump up and down!

Children: Me! Me! Me! Me!

Boy: Hold on, there is enough for everyone. Are you hungry? *(Reach into basket....)* Oh, oh. I seem to be out of bread and fish. Honest, this basket was filled to the top.

Jesus fed 5000 people—on the hill—over there! Everyone was there. Thousands of us, climbing the hill to hear Him speak. The longer the day got, the hungrier the crowd became.

My mom made lunch. I love her homemade barley bread. She gave me five! Count 'em, five loaves of bread! Mmm, good. And she tucked in a couple baby fish. She's always thinking of me.

She calls me her 'sweet babboo'. I'm getting much too old for that but I humor her. She's my mom.

(Look up at the Cross....Speak sadly and slowly) He's gone, isn't He? They did it. They killed Jesus. I didn't know.



Preschool and Kindergarten:

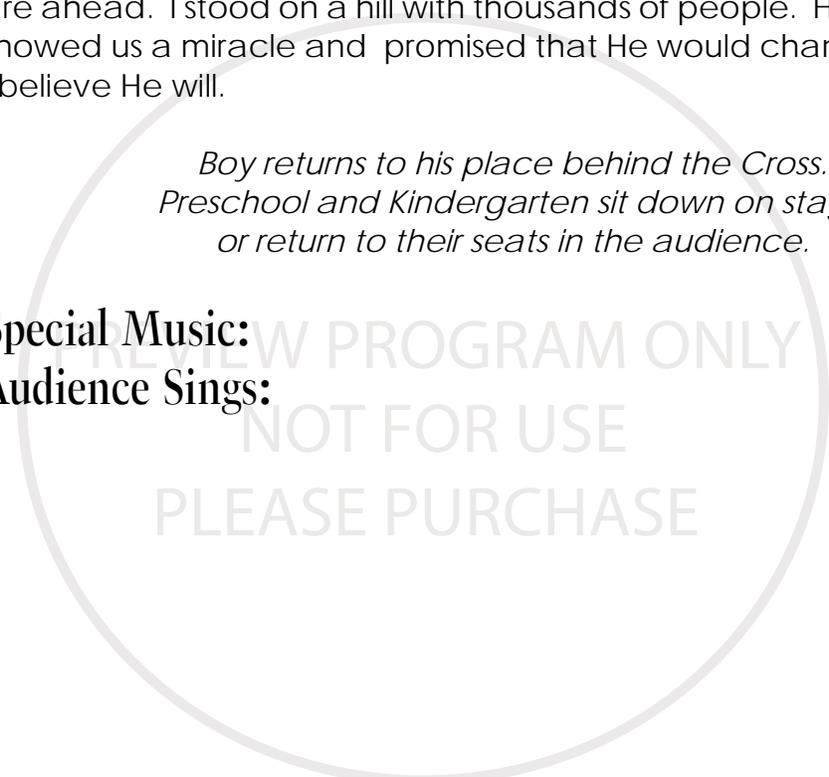
Stand around boy and pat him sympathetically.

Boy: Jesus was my friend. He smiled at me and took my small lunch in His hands. He kept breaking it apart until there were baskets filled with bread and fish. His friends passed the food around the crowd. Everyone ate. My mom's bread never tasted better.

Today, we stand at the Cross. I believe Jesus is God's Son. Better days are ahead. I stood on a hill with thousands of people. He fed us food, showed us a miracle and promised that He would change the world. I believe He will.

*Boy returns to his place behind the Cross.
Preschool and Kindergarten sit down on stage
or return to their seats in the audience.*

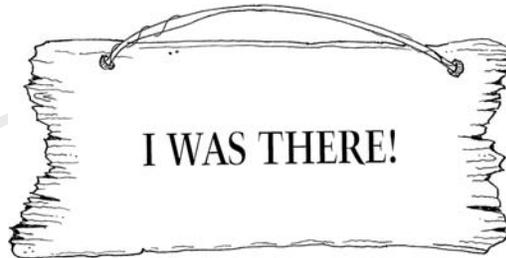
**Special Music:
Audience Sings:**



ACT 2: I WAS THERE!

Holy Land Guest: The Door Keeper

One girl portrays the servant girl who confronted Peter in the courtyard during the night Jesus was arrested. Dress in simple Holy Land garments. Carry one large sign:



Grades 1-2: Open The Door

Participants: *Teacher, Grades 1-2 students, no costumes needed. They speak and interact with the Holy Land guest as indicated in the script segment.*

Divide parts between available participants.

No memorization. Read as needed.

Teacher: Look up! We are standing at the Cross. Something happened here that changed the world. There were jealous enemies who wanted to see Jesus taken away.

Student #1: Jesus? Taken away? Where?
Where did He go?

Teacher: Some people wanted Jesus to die so they could go on living their sinful lives without anyone asking questions, making them feel guilty for not honoring God or talking about how God was giving the world a new gift.

Student #2: Jesus was our 'new gift', wasn't He.



Student #3: Look. There's a girl standing beside the Cross.

Student #4: I think she wants to tell us what happened.

Student #5: Hello! Hello! Come and talk to us.

Door Keeper: *(Step forward and bow shyly)* Me? I am just a humble servant girl. I am the door keeper at the palace of the high priest.

Teacher: We want to know how Jesus ended up at the Cross. Do you know?

Door Keeper: Yes, but you might not like my story.

Student #6: We want to hear your story.

Door Keeper: *(Place cardboard sign-I WAS THERE-at the Cross)* I was there that awful night. It was dark and noisy and the palace was filled with people shouting for justice.

Student #7: Justice? But Jesus was good.

Door Keeper: That day I just wanted Jesus to be gone. I was afraid. My job was to open the courtyard door and greet guests. I let one man inside who was different. He was rough looking like he had been traveling. He spoke an odd accent. I had a feeling he was with Jesus. So...I asked him.

Student #8: You asked him? You were brave!

Door Keeper: It was just a simple question.

Teacher: We must let this young lady be on her way. Let's keep looking for answers at the Cross.

*Students sit down on the stage with the large group
or return to their seats in the audience.
Door Keeper stands in place gazing at the Cross.*



Grades 3-4: Courtyard Question



Holy Land Guest: The Door Keeper

Participants: *Teacher, Grades 3-4 students, no costumes needed. They speak and interact with the Holy Land guest as indicated in the script segment.*

*Divide parts between available participants.
No memorization. Read as needed.*

Teacher: She's still here. She stares at the Cross like she knows a secret. She is the courtyard door keeper from the night Jesus was arrested.

Student #1: Should we speak to her?

Student #2: Don't do that. We might scare her away.

Student #3: She doesn't look scared. She looks.....sad.

Door Keeper: Yes, I am very sad. The death of Jesus on this Cross was my fault. I didn't mean to speak. I cannot take it back. How could I know I would cause pain? I asked one simple question in the courtyard. Just one question. It wasn't even a question. I knew the face of this man from somewhere.

Student #4: It can't be THAT bad. What did you say?

Door Keeper: The man seemed familiar. He looked like a follower of Jesus I saw in the city. Someone lit a warm fire. A group stood around it discussing the 'Jesus thing'. I was just making conversation. I said, "You were there too, with Jesus the Galilean."

Student #5: Oh-oh. I know what happened. You spoke to Peter in that courtyard. And Jesus was already in the court with the mob.



Door Keeper: Peter, the fisherman. He went crazy. He looked at me with wild eyes. He yelled. He swore. He denied he even knew Jesus. I was in shock. I am only a maid in the court of the high priest. There was no reason to give my words any power.

Student #6: Your words were not the words that killed Jesus. Peter was warned by Jesus that he would be afraid and deny he knew Him.

Student #7: Your words confirmed what Jesus already knew. His closest friends would run away from Him that night.

Door Keeper: I was there. I know how sad Peter was. I wonder if I could have saved the day.

Teacher: We know a secret, Door Keeper. This story and your part in it has a happy ending.

Door Keeper: *(Sadly)* I cannot imagine a happy ending at this Cross.

Door Keeper gazes at the Cross.

Students sit down on the stage with the large group or return to their seats in the audience.



Grades 5-6: I Believe!

Holy Land Guest: The Door Keeper



Participants: *Teacher, Grades 5-6 students, no costumes needed. They speak and interact with the Holy Land guest as indicated in the script segment.*

**Divide speaking parts between available participants.
No memorization.**

Teacher: Cheer up, Door Keeper! Let us tell you the end of His-Story.

Student #1: Jesus is alive!

Door Keeper: *(Sadly....)* He died on the Cross. I followed the crowd. I saw Him myself. I cried. I wanted to change my part of His-Story. I am disappointed in my part of Jesus' trial.

Student #2: But His-Story WAS changed! This is what happened.

Student #3: Jesus left your courtyard as a convicted man. The crowd shouted for Him to be crucified. It was ugly.

Student #4: Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, taught God's truth, cried for their pain and yet the crowd rejected Him. His closest friends disappeared. They were afraid.

Student #5: Peter denied he knew Jesus but at least he was there. He remembered the joy of walking on water and then sinking when his faith failed. In spite of Peter's failure the night you met him, he was the Rock.

Door Keeper: The Rock. I like that. The Cross was not the end. The Cross was just the beginning.

Student #6: There were people in the crowd who loved Him and trusted His words. They are the people of the Cross who are God's gift to the world, telling His Story wherever they go.



Door Keeper: I felt the earth shake. I saw the sky grow dark. At that moment, standing near the Cross, God finished His plan when His Son became my salvation. I believe!

Student #7: I know it is true because three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He's alive!

Door Keeper: He's alive?

ALL STUDENTS: HE'S ALIVE!

Student #8: He is alive! Jesus said it himself: *"The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him and on the third day He will be raised to life."* (Matthew 17:22-23)

Door Keeper: Then it is settled. I WAS THERE and I believe. Tell everyone that Jesus is no longer on the Cross. He IS alive!

Students sit down on the stage with the large group or return to their seats in the audience.

**Door Keeper
returns to her place
behind the Cross.**

**Special Music:
Audience Sings:**

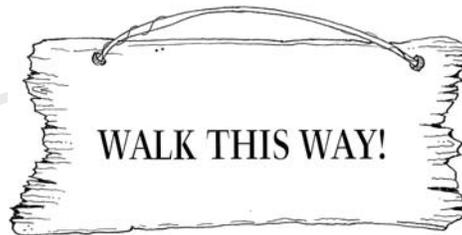


ACT 3: WALK THIS WAY!

Holy Land Guests: Rufus and Alexander

Two Boys/Teens: Portray the sons of Simon of Cyrene, who carried the Cross. Middle School or older teens dress in simple Holy Land garments.

Carry one large sign to leave at the Cross:



Grades 7-8: Walk This Way!

Participants: *Grades 7-8 students, no costumes needed. They speak and interact with the guests as indicated in the script segment.*

Divide speaking parts between available participants.

No memorization.

Rufus and Alexander step forward carrying their sign.

They gaze at the Cross.

Student #1: *(Whisper loudly)* Who are they?

Student #2: Maybe they are lost. Let's ask them where they came from?

Student #3: No way! I doubt they know how they got here. Look how they are studying the Cross.

Student #4: *(Looking up from an open Bible)* I know who they are. I found their names in the story of the Cross.

"There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus' cross."

(Mark 15:21 TM)



Student #5: Let's find out for sure. The sign they are carrying reads "*Walk This Way*". Unusual. Ask them.

Student #6: Hey! You guys! You seem a little lost. Do you need help?

Rufus: (*Bowing*) We want to leave a sign at the Cross of Jesus. Do you know Him? Are we in the right place?

Alexander: My brother and I are still in shock. Our father, Simon, was forced to carry the Cross to the hill. We were walking home from work, minding our own business. My father is a strong man but he is weeping today.

Rufus: He is brokenhearted because of his part in the death of Jesus the Nazarene.

Student #7: I know you! You are Rufus and Alexander, the sons of Simon the Cyrene.

Alexander: Jesus Walked to the Cross willingly. Our father walked the Way of the Cross unwillingly.

Student #8: Simon gave Jesus much needed relief in His last hours.

Rufus: I thought of the Prophet Isaiah's words: "*And your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way. Walk ye in it.'*" (Isaiah 30:21) I kept walking with the crowd, watching my father, hoping I could protect him.

Alexander: We were happy when the Roman soldiers released our father. He came back to us with tears in his eyes....

Rufus:and hugged us. Like me, he heard those words of Isaiah ringing in his ears, "*This is the right road. Walk down this road.*"

Alexander: We continued walking into Jerusalem with the screams of the crowd ringing in our ears. The walk was long and sad for a father and two sons who just wanted to go home. Our lives changed the day this Cross was lifted.



Student #9: There is a happy ending to this story.

Rufus: We heard rumors but we dared not believe something so impossible. People said Jesus rose from the dead. How can that be?

Alexander: My father knew something was different about that Man. He saw it in His eyes, heard it in His voice, felt it all the way to the Cross. Rufus and I are going to the tomb to see for ourselves that Jesus rose from the dead.

Student #10: We send you on your way with joy. (*Pointing behind the Cross....*) Walk THIS Way!

"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." (1 John 2:6 NAS)

Student #11: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**Rufus and Alexander
return to their area
behind the Cross.**

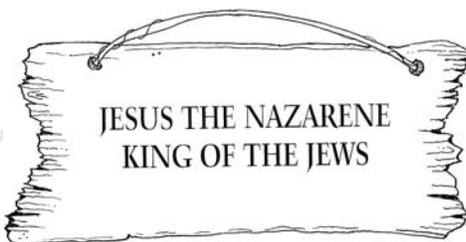
*Students sit down on the stage with the large group
or return to their seats in the audience.*



KING OF THE JEWS!

Holy Land Guests: Jerusalem Generation

Two Teens: Teens portray the new generation of believers. Dress in simple Holy Land garments. Carry one large sign that looks beaten up to leave at the Cross:



Grades 9-12: The Cross Made A Difference!

Participants: Grades 9-12 students, no costumes needed. Interact with the guests as indicated in the script segment.

*Divide speaking parts between available participants.
No memorization.*

*Jerusalem Teens step out from behind the Cross.
They study their sign and look up at the Cross.*

Student #1: You look so serious. What is puzzling you?

Jerusalem Teen #1: Have you seen this sign? It was laying over there on the ground. Where is Jesus?

Jerusalem Teen #2: We came to see Jesus. He isn't here. An empty Cross? A sign? What happened here?

Student #2: Jesus died here. We have come to honor His life.

Jerusalem Teen #1: People speak of Jesus in hushed voices. They say when Jesus was born people were searching for the Messiah, the King of the Jews. His birth was in Bethlehem just over the hill and was unusual.



Jerusalem Teen #2: This sign was on His Cross. Who killed Jesus? He was good. He was kind. He was everything we long for in our land. Where is He? The Cross is empty.

Student #3: (*Shaking head...*) The answer is good and bad. People from Jerusalem cried out for the death of Jesus. They didn't know Jesus was their Messiah, the Savior of the world. It was a dark, dark day.

Student #4: Jesus said He would die and yet there is great hope for all people. He said He will come back.

Jerusalem Teen #1: Come back? From the dead? No one lives again after they die. I don't believe it!

Student #5: Believe it! There is sadness here at the Cross but there is joy at the Garden Tomb. He is not here because He is Risen from the dead! Jesus rose from the grave! Jesus is alive!

Jerusalem Teen #2: Alive? After this? It is a miracle! Certainly Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God!

Student #6: Pilate ordered the sign. He posted it so that everyone that passed by could see their decision to "Crucify Him". The leaders tried to have it changed to: "He SAID He was the king of the Jews", Pilate wisely said to leave it alone. "I have written what I have written".

Jerusalem Teen #1: What should we do with the sign?

Student #7: Leave it at the Cross. This place is where God showed all of creation His grand plan for salvation. The world will never be the same.

Jerusalem Teen #2: This sign speaks the truth. JESUS THE NAZARENE. KING OF THE JEWS

*Return to the Cross. Grades 9-12 Sit Down.
Option: Choose 9-12 grade students
who perform special music with voice or instrument.*

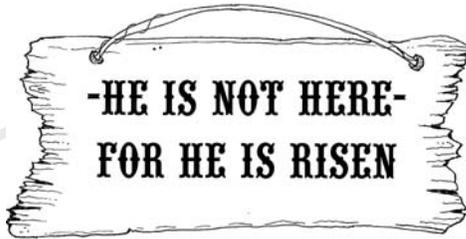


GIVE ME A SIGN!

Holy Land Guests:

Mary and Angel

Two Adults: *Mary Magdalene and an Angel. Dress in simple Holy Land/Angel garments. Carry one sign.*



Adults:

Give Me A Sign!

Participants: *Several adults. No costumes needed. Interact with the guests as indicated in the script segment.*

Divide speaking parts between available participants.

No memorization.

*Mary and Angel step out from behind the Cross.
They discuss their sign privately in whispers between them.*

#1: Who are you? You seem to have appeared from nowhere.

Angel: I have been here a long time. Sent from Heavenly Father. Watching, listening. I bring answers to give peace to your hearts.

Mary: *(Bowing...)* I am Mary from Magdala. I have seen Jesus! I was at the Garden Tomb. It was amazing.

#2: We will believe what we have seen at this Cross if we have a sign.

Angel: *(Show sign)* My message to the women at the tomb and to all the world is this: He is not here. He is risen.

Mary: ...as He said.



Angel: I waited for the women in the early morning. When they arrived at the empty tomb, I said: "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. **Come, See** the place where He was lying. **Go** quickly and **Tell** His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." (Matthew 28:5-7)

#3: I need more proof. A man rising from the dead is pretty unbelievable. How do we know for sure?

Mary: I saw Jesus in the garden. He said my name. "Mary". I knew His voice. I stand here before you as an eyewitness. What I saw with my eyes is faith for you.

#4: Their sign has the same message printed on the door of the Garden Tomb near Jerusalem to this very day: HE IS NOT HERE. HE IS RISEN. The tomb is empty. It is still empty today!

#5: The signs to Easter have been here all along. They begin at the Cross and lead to an empty tomb.

*Mary and Angel return to their spots behind the Cross.
Adults return to their seats.*

Special Music:
Audience Sings:



Conclusion: Come! See! Go! Tell!

Participants: All Holy Land Guests (8) stand in front of the Cross to conclude with four individual signs.

Boy With Lunch, Door Keeper, Rufus and Alexander,
Jerusalem Generation (2 teens), Mary Magdalene, Easter Angel.



Boy With Lunch
(Hold 'Come!' Sign)

The Angel's early Sunday morning message holds true to this very day. I saw it with my own eyes. **Come!** The people did 'Come'! They came from far and wide, they came without food. They brought their children and their sick friends. People came to hear Jesus give them hope for God's kingdom. They did come and they believed. I came to Jesus and Jesus came to me, just a boy with a free lunch.

Jesus said, "**Come** follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." He said, "**Come** to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

He loved children. He said, "Let the little children **come** to Me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Today...He is not here. He is alive! Jesus has Come! Jesus keeps calling "**Come**"!





Door Keeper
(Hold 'See!' Sign)

See! I did see Jesus. He changed my life. Me, a humble servant. I saw Jesus in the crowd of angry accusers. I saw Peter on the worst day of his friendship with Jesus. I saw proof that Jesus is my Messiah, My Lord, My Savior.

The Samaritan woman at the well saw Jesus, spoke to Jesus, was changed by Jesus. She ran to her town to say, "*Come, see a man who told me all that ever I did. Can this be the Christ?*" That Someone, Jesus, changed her life and she wants everyone to see Him too and believe.

The angel said "**See**". Experience Easter for yourself. **See** what God has done. **See** and be changed!





Rufus and Alexander
(Hold 'Go!' Sign)

Rufus: **Go!** What are you waiting for? The Easter Angel gave us the command that we should go. We must actually use our feet and get up to **go** wherever God leads. It is the Easter message.

Jesus said to a sinful woman, "**Go, and sin no more.**"

Jesus healed a possessed man and said, "**Go home to your own people and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how He has shown mercy on you.**" (Mark 5:19)

Alexander: The Easter message is too good to keep in our own homes and hearts. We must find all the places where the story of Jesus has not been found. If we **go**, God will give us the sign...and the words to say.





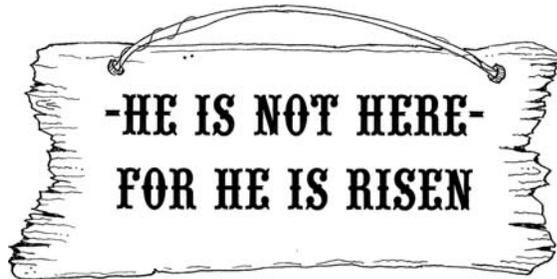
Jerusalem Generation
(Hold 'Tell' Sign)

Teen #1: **Tell!** We must Come! See! Go! And ...**Tell!** Easter Good News is too important to keep to ourselves. There is something inside us that demands we tell everyone that, yes, Jesus died, but He is Alive! He rose from the dead to prove God is God and conquers death.

Teen #2: Jesus gave us clear marching orders. If there is ever a time to listen to Jesus it is today-- Easter:

*"Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore **go** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*
(Matthew 28:18-20)





Mary and The Angel
(Hold 'He Is Not Here. He Is Risen' Sign)

Mary: I have seen Jesus with my own eyes. Jesus did not stay on the Cross. He did not stay in the tomb. Jesus is not here. He is Risen!

I didn't expect anything special the morning we went to the tomb. I saw Jesus die on a Roman Cross, but early in the morning, just as the light was coming up over the horizon, we walked to his tomb. I only expected tears, sorrow and a cold stone.

What I saw was the surprise of the ages. The tomb was open, the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus gone! The burial clothes were collapsed on the stone like a glove when the hand has been removed.

Angel: I saw you coming and knew you would be very afraid. 'Fear not' seemed to be the best way to calm you. I was blessed to be the first to say, "I know you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen from the dead as He said."



Conclusion:

Follow The Signs

Boy With Lunch: *(To the audience)* And that is 'Simply Easter'. It is a true story with real people. If you feel you have been walking away from the Lord, He will take you back. Come and see. If you feel that you are unworthy, He will give you a new beginning.

Door Keeper: Go and tell. It's not just a warm feeling in your heart. You carry a personal experience of the Risen Christ. With it comes the privilege to tell the world. Come and See --but-- Go and Tell.

Rufus: The interesting thing about all this is that no one actually witnessed the resurrection.

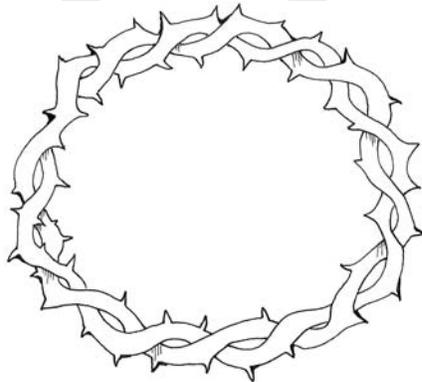
Alexander: Nobody was on hand to see the event with their own eyes.

Mary: What happened was that everyday people met the risen Christ...Jesus...and then they told others who told others who told others...until this very day when we tell you that an awesome and stupendous event really happened....

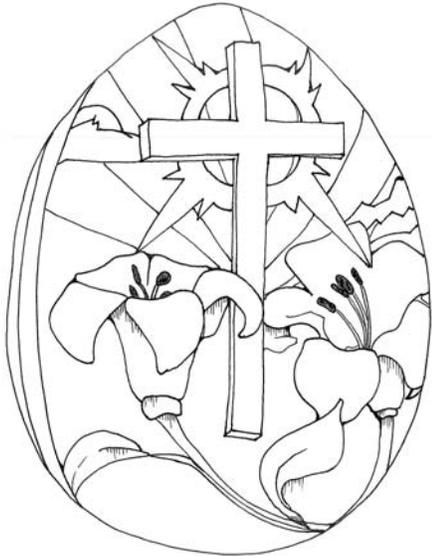
ALL HOLY LAND GUESTS IN UNISON:

HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN!

**Conclude with Audience Song and Prayer.
Dismiss to the 'Egg-Stravaganza' Party!**



Egg-Stravaganza! A Simply Easter Party!



Assign party planning
to a few grown ups
Or a Sunday School Class.

Offer delicious food, background Easter music
and casual fellowship.

Before Egg-Stravaganza

Menu: Prepare Easter snacks. One option may be to ask people to share their favorite dessert. If this is a Sunday morning event, consider serving a Continental Breakfast complete with doughnuts, orange juice, tea and coffee. A simple offering of muffins and beverages works well. Organize the menu before the event.

Seating: Choose a seating arrangement depending upon the size of the anticipated gathering. Position tables and chairs. Serve buffet style with guests moving around the room to chat. Place chairs in small circles throughout the area for casual group conversation.

Music: Fill the room with the sound of music. This can be live music performed by local church/school musicians or favorite CD performances.



Centerpieces: Pastel table coverings in a variety of spring colors. Feature a centerpiece in the middle of each guest table and on the serving tables.

Cross: Place a Cross on each table in colorful Easter grass.

Eggs: Scatter real eggs, plastic eggs and chocolate eggs in the grass.

Signs: Print messages in colorful marker on some eggs: HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN! WALK THIS WAY! THE CROSS MADE A DIFFERENCE! JESUS CAME! ~Come! See! Go! Tell!~ I BELIEVE!

Preparation On Egg-Stravaganza Day

Decorate the tables. Plug in the coffee pot and boil tea water while the program is in progress. Set out food, cream and sugar. Make your favorite punch and place on a nearby serving table.

During Egg-Stravaganza

Assign people to cut and serve buffet foods, pour beverages and fill creamers and sugar bowls. Greet guests cordially as they come through the serving line. Move about and welcome guests. Introduce people. Enjoy the program participants as they mingle.

After Egg-Stravaganza

Don't forget! Egg-Stravaganza is not over until clean up is complete. Ask everyone to help with dishes, remove tables and chairs and sweep the area clean.

*Go home knowing you have been
A Good and Faithful Servant.*

Enjoy Easter!

