

The great swap

Jesus didn't stay dead! Three days later God brought Jesus back to life again. He's still alive in heaven today, ruling as King over everything.

If we trust in Jesus, and ask him to be King of our lives, he will make the great swap with us too. He will swap his perfect goodness for our sin. And one day we will live with him in paradise for ever.

Do you want to ask Jesus to make that swap with you? Here's how you can do that...

Sorry: *Admit that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask him to forgive you, and to help you to change.*

Thank you: *Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for your sin, so that you can be forgiven. Thank God for bringing Jesus back to life again as King for ever.*

Please: *Ask God to help you to live as his friend from now on, with Jesus as King of your life. It won't be easy—there will be some things you have to stop doing. Ask God to help you to live his way.*

If you have thought about these things, and you're ready to ask Jesus to be your King, this prayer will help you.

Dear God, I have done and said and thought things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me, as my King. Thank you that my sin can be swapped for His perfect goodness. From now on, please help me to live as one of your friends, with you in charge. Amen.

What now?

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have put your trust in him, he has made the great swap with you. He has saved you from your sins and forgiven you.

When you are forgiven by God, you become his friend for ever. He loves you and will always be with you. **This is what Easter is all about.**

What next?

God will help you to live as one of his friends. Reading his book, the Bible, will help you to get to know him better, so try to read a little bit each day.

Meeting with some of God's other friends (called Christians) will help you too. You can learn more about Jesus together. See if you can join a group at a local church, or ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Tell them that you have become one of God's friends too.



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The great swap



Have you ever swapped anything?



A donut for a cup cake?
A skateboard for roller blades?
But imagine you have a **rotten apple**,
and a friend offers you an **ice cream** for it!
Sounds too good to be true? 2000 years ago
someone made an even better swap.

It's the greatest swap ever...

The first Easter

2000 years ago, in the country of Israel, three men were put to death by the Romans. Two of them were criminals—the other was a king. His name was Jesus.

A written sign had been placed above Jesus. It read: "This is the king of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging there made fun of Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself! Save us!"

But the other criminal told him off. "Don't you have any respect for God?" he said. "Remember, you are under the same sentence of death. We are being punished fairly. We are getting just what our actions call for. But this man hasn't done anything wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise."
From the Bible – Luke 23 v 38-43

The three men were being crucified—nailed to a cross and left to die. Jesus was in the middle, with a criminal on each side.

They all looked much the same. Battered, bleeding, dying. But imagine you could see inside them and look at their hearts. Crack the arrow code to discover what's inside.



Arrow Code

- A = ↑
- B = ↗
- D = ↘
- E = ↓
- G = ←
- H = ↖
- I = ↑
- K = →
- L = ↙
- N = ↖
- O = ←
- P = ↗
- R = ↘
- S = ↘
- T = ↘
- U = ↘
- V = ↘

Criminal 1:
Broke Roman law

Jesus:
NO SIN

Criminal 2:
SIN

Jesus, the perfect King

The criminals broke the Roman law—and they broke God's law too. They did what *they* wanted instead of what *God* wanted. The Bible calls this **sin**.

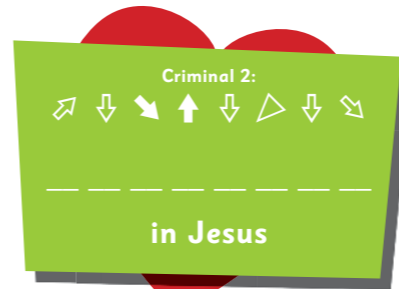
Sin is a problem because it gets in the way between us and God. Sin stops us being right with God. It means we can't be God's friends.

But Jesus was perfect. He always kept God's law. He never sinned. That's why the second criminal said: "This man hasn't done anything wrong".



But look back at what the **second criminal** said to Jesus. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He believed that Jesus was the King who was going to rule over God's kingdom. So he asked Jesus to remember him—to help him.

The **first criminal** made fun of Jesus. Even though he called Jesus the "Christ"—which means "God's chosen King"—he didn't really believe that Jesus was God's King. He just laughed at Jesus.



Why did Jesus die?

The Romans thought they were getting rid of a troublemaker—but Jesus died for a much more important reason. The Bible tells us the real reason why Jesus Christ died:

Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

2 Corinthians 5 v 21

This is the great swap:

Christ didn't have any sin.

But God made him become sin for us.

So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

This is the great swap. Jesus swapped his perfect goodness for the criminal's filthy sin. Criminal 2 still *looked* the same—but everything had changed for him. His heart was clean, and he could look forward to being with Jesus for ever. That's why Jesus said to him: "Today you will be with me in paradise".



What about you?
What do you think is in your heart?

The Bible says we **all** sin. Not one of us keeps God's law all the time. We do what *we* want instead of what *God* wants.

But the brilliant news is that Jesus offers us the great swap as well. When he died, Jesus wasn't just taking the punishment for the criminal's sin. He was taking our punishment too. That means everyone who trusts in Jesus swaps their sin for his perfect goodness.

