

# **EGGS** *and* **BUNNIES** *and* **FLOWERS** *and* **THINGS**



**BY MARY JANE PONTEN**

*Cover illustration by Carol Hope Brown*



**T**hat's what we think about  
when we think about Easter.

When it is time for Easter  
we know spring is on the way.

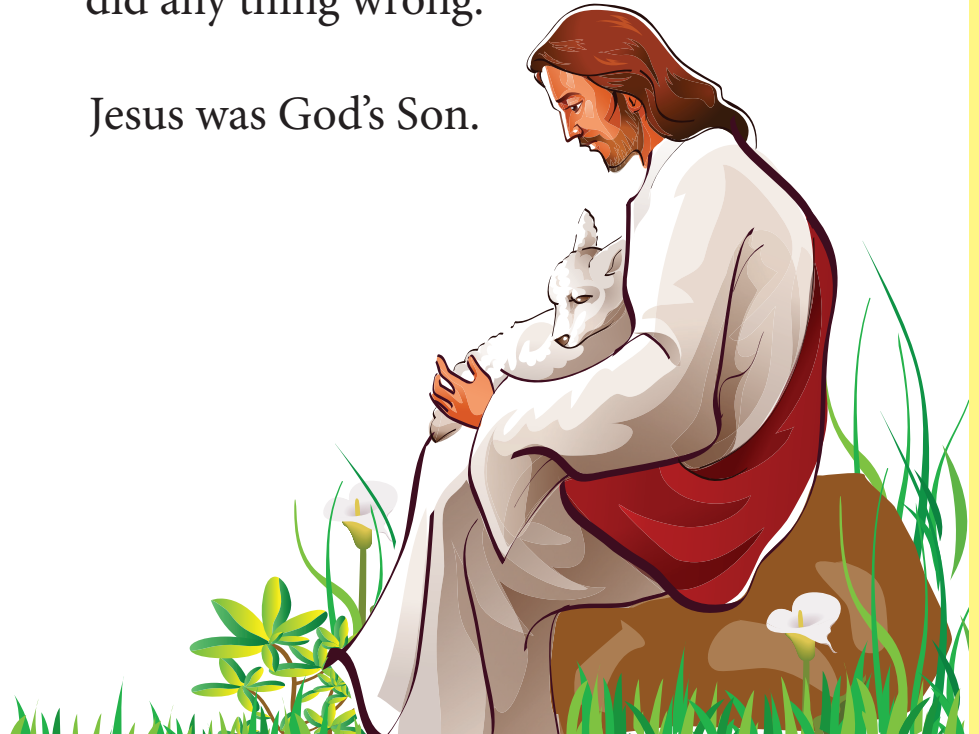
Easter is a fun time with new clothes,  
and egg hunts, and good food.

There is nothing wrong with that.  
But that's not the real Easter.

**J**ust three days before the first Easter  
was the saddest day in history.

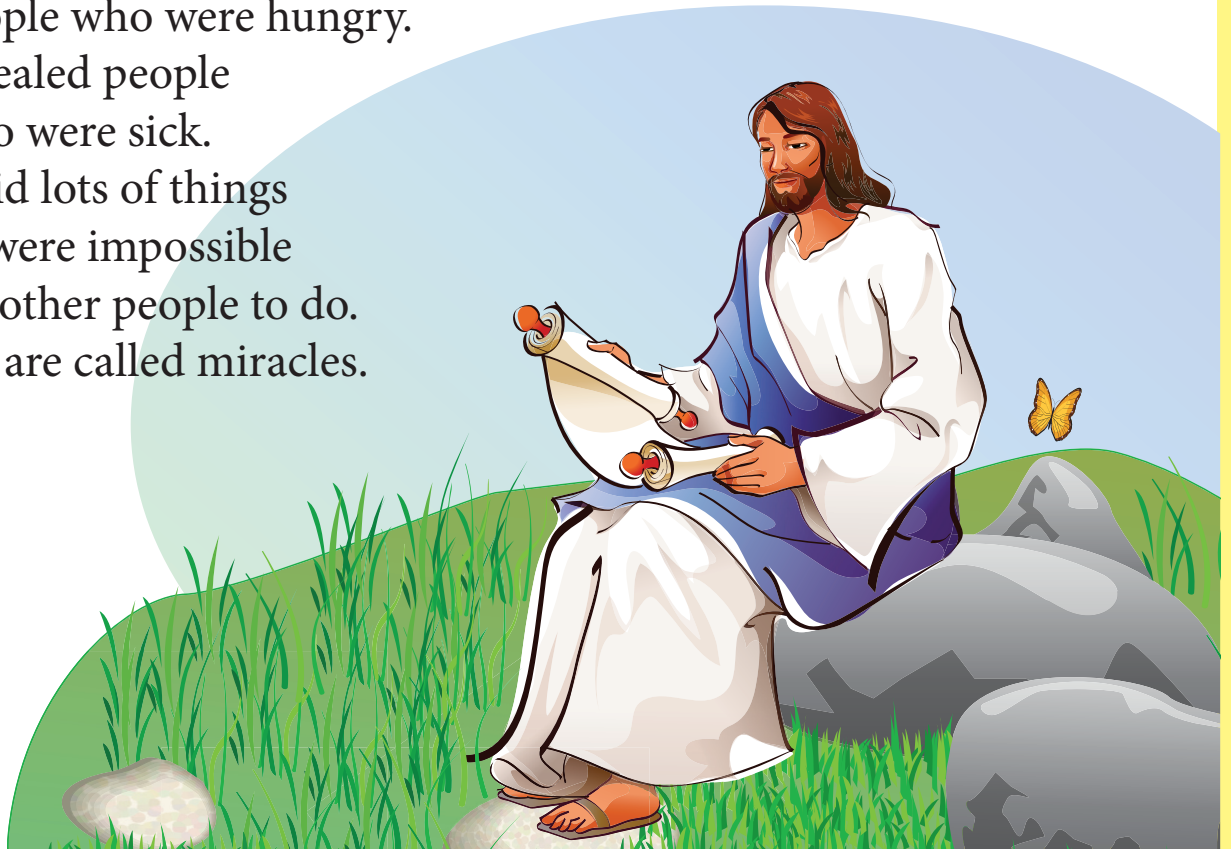
It all happened almost two thousand years ago. You see, there  
was a man named Jesus. He was a good man.  
In fact He is the only person who ever lived who never  
did any thing wrong.

Jesus was God's Son.



At this time Jesus was only 33 years old. He never traveled very far from home. He did nothing bad. What did He do?

He taught about God.  
Sometimes he fed  
people who were hungry.  
He healed people  
who were sick.  
He did lots of things  
that were impossible  
for other people to do.  
They are called miracles.



**Y**et there were some religious leaders who wanted to kill Him.  
One day they got their chance.

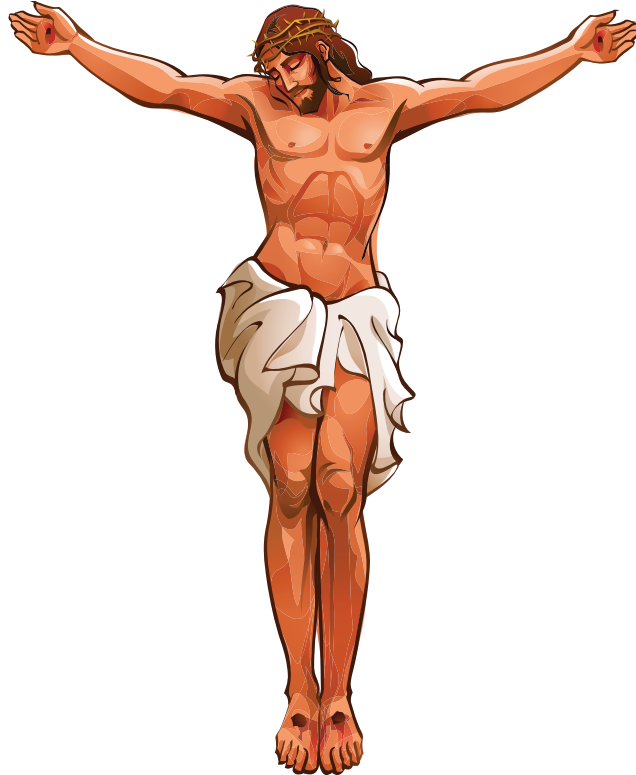
They told some men to lie about what Jesus said and did.

They said He was a bad person.

The rulers believed their lies.

The rulers said that Jesus had to die for what He had done.





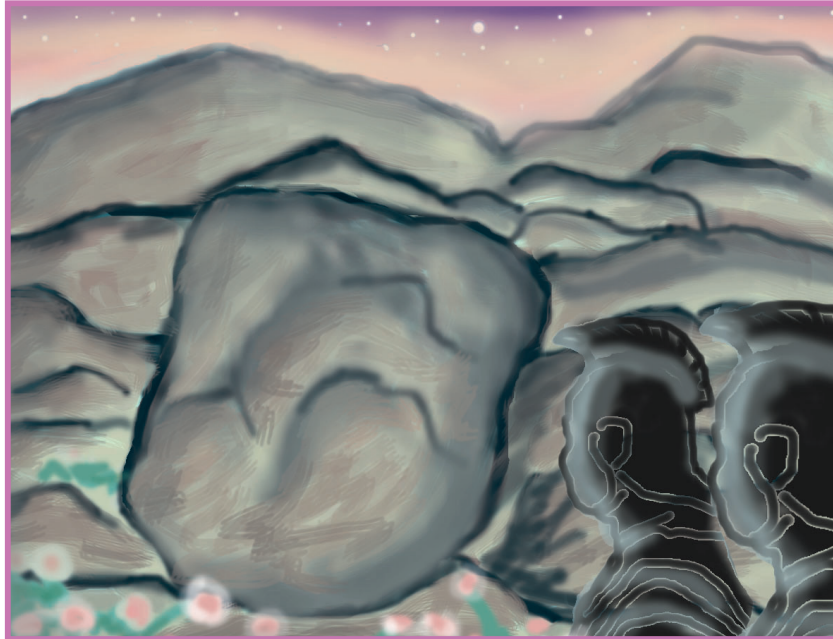
On a Friday afternoon in Jerusalem the leaders who wanted to get rid of Jesus were allowed to nail Him to a cross and leave him there until He was dead.

That is what they did to criminals back then. That hurt an awful lot. It is the most painful way there is to die.

## THAT WAS THE SADDEST DAY IN HISTORY



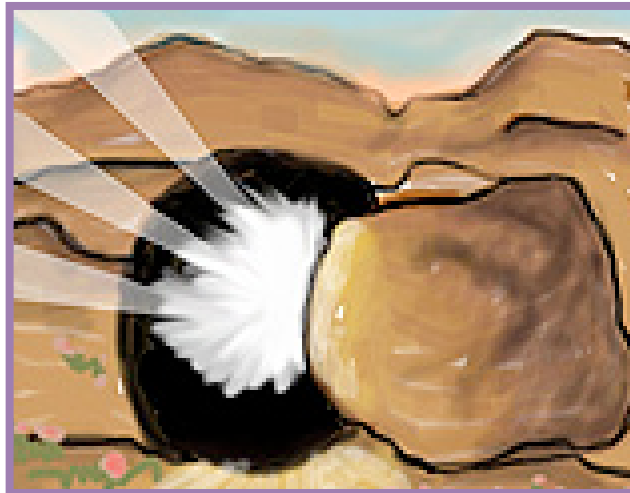
**T**hey put His body in a grave that was like a cave.  
The leaders had a big stone put in front of the grave  
so no one could steal Jesus' body.  
They made the guards stay outside to watch the grave.



**B**ut just three days later when His friends came to fix His body better - what do you think they found?

The guards had run away because they were so scared.  
The stone was rolled away. There was no dead body.

Inside the grave Jesus' friends found two angels sitting there to tell them that Jesus was alive - just like He had promised. The angels told His friends that Jesus would talk to them soon.





**H**e spent many days with them and taught them many things about God and Heaven.

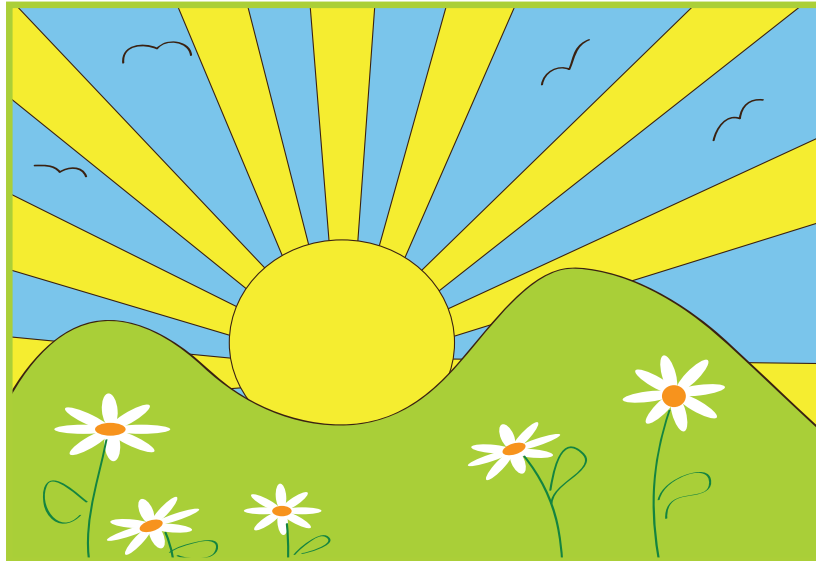




One day as Jesus was talking to them,  
He went up to Heaven right before their eyes.  
They actually saw Jesus go up to Heaven.

Jesus never died again. He is still alive today.

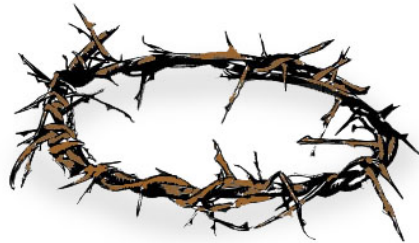
**THE DAY JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE  
WAS THE  
HAPPIEST DAY IN HISTORY.**

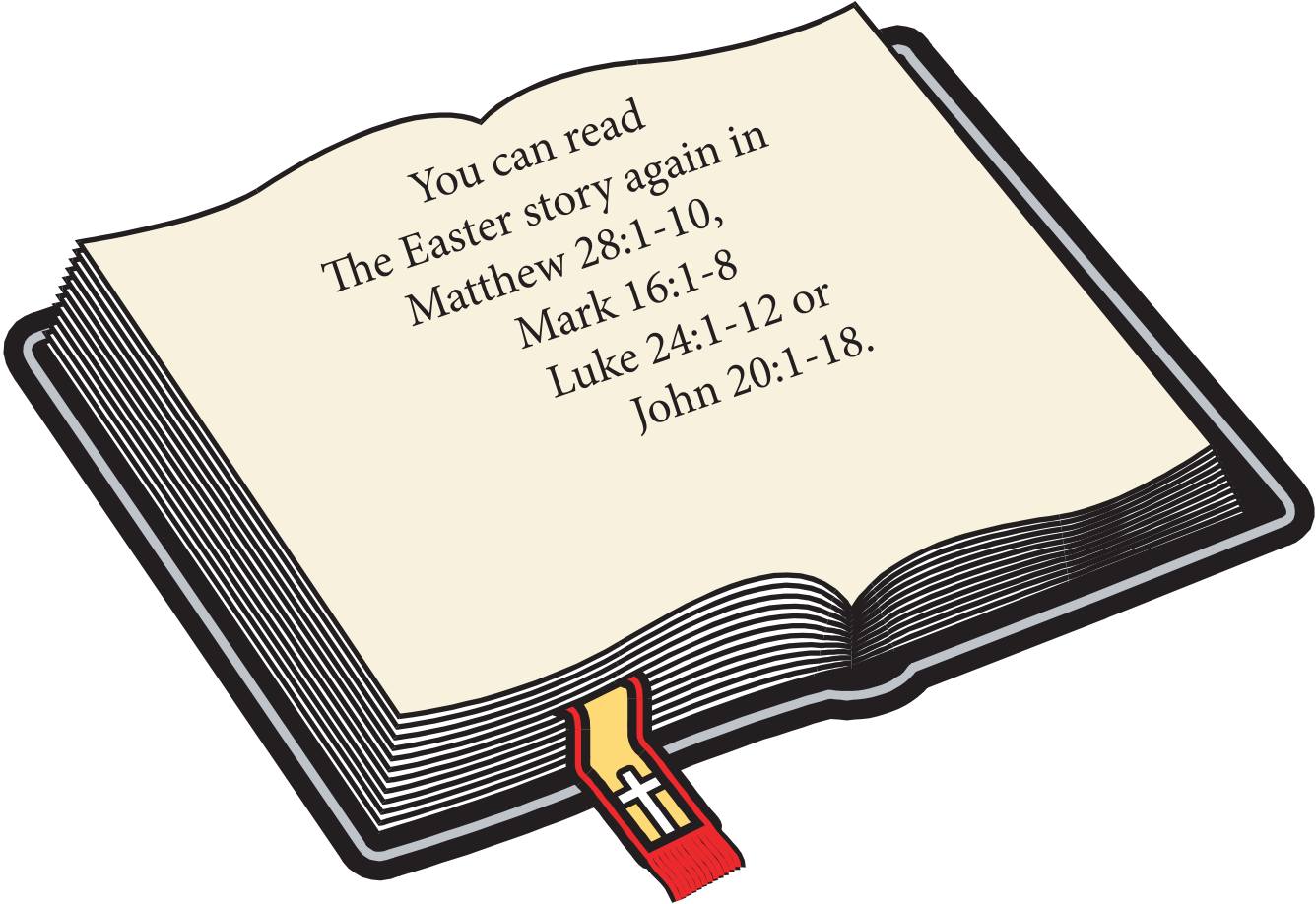


**E**ach year we celebrate the day that Jesus came back to life. We call it Easter. Now you know the true meaning of Easter.  
If Jesus is in your life you have the most special reason to celebrate Easter.

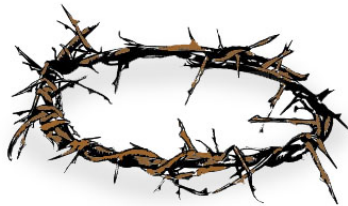
Because Jesus had never sinned He could take the punishment for the sin, the bad stuff, that you do.

**JESUS DID IT FOR US.**





You can read  
The Easter story again in  
Matthew 28:1-10,  
Mark 16:1-8  
Luke 24:1-12 or  
John 20:1-18.



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Mephibosheth Ministry  
1406 Rainier Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910  
Written by Mary Jane Ponten

Designed by Carol Hope Brown  
Cover Illustration by Carol Hope Brown  
inside illustrations partly by Carol Hope Brown