

# Growing Together

## Inspired by the Christian Faith

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?

GOD'S LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HUMAN HATRED



## Read together

this retelling of the beginning of John's Gospel...

The problem with being John's scribe, is that I just don't understand what he is saying! He has forbidden me from interrupting his thoughts, but it's so difficult, how I am I supposed to know what it means? This is how he began; 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God'... see what I mean? Before, when I was still allowed to interrupt, John explained that God spoke the world into being and that Jesus was right there with God and part of everything that has ever been made. So even though it's difficult, I kind of get that bit. But listen to this next part; 'In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.'

Now, I know John is talking about Jesus. It reminds me of that sad day when I saw Jesus die. Before then, Jesus was like light: he helped us see more clearly – we could see God more clearly. I even remember when I could spend time with him, it was as though could you feel warmed by him, the warmth of his light. Then he died and it was the darkest time I can remember. I'll never forget, a few days later, when we found out he had come back to life. It was amazing, like the light coming on again.

So I guess that's what John means. People didn't understand Jesus, so they tried to put the light out when they crucified him. But they couldn't do it.

We've stopped for a moment. It's nearly lunchtime - I'm starving. I wonder what John is going to say later. I think I would say God's love is stronger than human hatred, but you never can tell with John, perhaps he never just means one thing. Oh no – it's goats' cheese and olives for lunch again...



## Did you know



Very early on Easter day, while it is still dark, churches all over the world light a special Easter fire outside. From the fire they light a new huge candle called a Paschal candle to take into church reminding everyone of the new life we all have in Jesus. It often has pictures and symbols on you might see;

- A cross in the centre shows that it is the Christ candle. The flame burns even though Jesus died on the cross.
- Five nails or grains of incense represent Jesus' wounds.
- The year 2020 to remind us God is with us here and now.
- The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha – 'A' and Omega – 'Ω', because God is the beginning and end of all things.

There may be other pictures and symbols too.



## Courageous Advocacy



Bravely making the world better

Can you find out where Easter Eggs are being collected for children in hospital and donate an Easter egg?

## Create & make



Whilst you think about Jesus being a light that can't be put out, use a wax candle (unlit) or white wax crayon, to make a drawing. Then paint over the invisible drawing with watercolours and watch your drawing appear.

## Family Fun



Have a special Easter Egg hunt in the dark. Put battery tea lights in plastic eggs then hide them in a darkened room or outside if you are very adventurous.

## Prayer space ideas



Gather symbols of love together from around the house, for example heart shapes, a cross, an ornament of figures hugging, photos... then use them as a focus for your prayers as you pray for people you find difficult or hard to get along with. Easter is a time to remember love is stronger than hate and an opportunity live love.

## Idea for Pre-schoolers



Create a dark den by putting a blanket over the table or going under a duvet, and explore the space using a torch. Talk about what difference a little bit of light can make.

## Web Links & Extended Ideas



Find out about the Real Easter Egg, a Fairtrade Easter egg which includes the Easter story.