



What is NUA:Easter?

Scripture Union Ireland has produced this 3 part video series that provides a fresh perspective on the first Easter weekend and explores why it matters for us today. Join Sarah Campbell, Darren Bourke and Mark Murray on a very unique and entertaining journey that highlights the true meaning of Easter.

Who is it for?

Aimed at 9–14 year olds, this resource is suitable for your Primary School/1st Year Students, Parish or Church.

Sample Session Plans

Episode One

Intro & Game (Ice-breaker)

See below – [Never Judge a book by its cover](#)

Watch Episode 1

The Origins of Easter

Discussion

See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time

Found in the Digital Pack

Quiz Ep 1

Found in the digital pack

Episode Two

Intro & Game (Ice-breaker)

See below – [Heads or Tails](#)

Watch Episode 2

The Story of Good Friday

Discussion

See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time

Found in the Digital Pack

Quiz Ep 2

Found in the Digital Pack

Episode Three

Intro & Game (Ice-breaker)

See below – [2 truths and a lie](#)

Watch Episode 3

The Meaning of The Resurrection

Discussion

See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time

Found in the Digital Pack

Quiz Ep 3

Found in the digital pack

TIPS (IF APPLICABLE)

1. We recommend that you and your team watch the episode yourself before the session and familiarise yourself with it.
2. Sound – Good sound is essential, we highly recommend a good set of speakers or a sound system.
3. Have the NUA:Easter episode already downloaded on a laptop. Don't rely on wifi for streaming.
4. Often during small group discussion, participants will pose additional tough questions. It may work well to offer an anonymous 'question box' where everyone's questions can be collected and discussed later!

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NUA: Easter Episode Guide

● **Episode One: The Origins of Easter**
Duration: approx. 7 mins

Episode Summary: When we think about Easter, our minds turn to bunnies, eggs and lots of chocolate! But Easter is really a worldwide Christian festival, as important to Christians as Christmas. So what is it Christians are actually celebrating? This episode explores the origins of Easter by going back to the very beginning and discovering Jesus’ mission in coming to Earth. However, the rescue mission takes a strange turn when Jesus is arrested by Roman soldiers. Surely that wasn’t part of the plan?!

Learning Objectives

- Understand:* Recall the events leading up to the first Easter weekend.
- Communicate:* Talk about why we celebrate Easter.
- Participate:* Discussion or working together on the NUA:Easter Journal.

● **Episode Two: The Story of Good Friday**
Duration: approx. 6 mins

Episode Summary: “It’s not fair!” are words we’re all familiar with! We want fairness, justice. But possibly the most unfair thing ever to have happened took place on the very first Easter. Jesus was innocent; his friends, and even his opponents, knew that full well. And yet Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion – a terrible punishment. This episode explores the trial of Jesus for crimes he hadn’t committed. What was to become of his mission? Had his amazing rescue plan failed?

Learning Objectives

- Understand:* To examine the unjust nature of both Jesus’ trials and crucifixion.
- Communicate:* Talk about how some things in life just aren’t fair.
- Participate:* Discussion or working together on the NUA:Easter Journal.

● **Episode Three: The Meaning of The Resurrection**
Duration: approx. 6 mins

Episode Summary: Jesus is dead, and buried in a tomb. An enormous stone and Roman soldiers guard the entrance. But when some of his followers visit the tomb early one morning, something astonishing unfolds. The stone is rolled away, the soldiers gone; an earthquake, angels, and an amazing message! We don’t all like surprises, but for Christians, this surprise at the heart of Easter, is the best news the world has ever heard! This final episode explores the resurrection of Jesus and what it means for Christians today.

Learning Objectives

- Understand:* Reflect on the impact of Jesus’ Resurrection.
- Communicate:* Talk about new beginnings and life to the full.
- Participate:* Discussion or working together on the NUA:Easter Journal.

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NUA:Easter Suggested Ice-breakers

● Episode One: The Origins of Easter

Ice-breaker Game: **Never Judge a book by its cover**

Aim – to have fun and get to know each other better.

Have a few volunteers join you at the front. With some paper get them to write down 4 answers to the following questions: 1) If I could have dinner with someone famous, who? 2) If I had all the money in the world I would drive? 3) If I could live anywhere I would live? 4) If I could have any job I would be? Explain how we often don't really know that much about each other and we shouldn't be too quick to jump to conclusions, not unlike the Bible!

List: Just paper. Also Great as an online game.

● Episode Two: The Story of Good Friday

Ice-breaker Game: **Heads or Tails**

Aim – guess to win.

How to play – Everyone Stands up and you explain that you are going to flip a coin, if they think it will be heads they should put their hands on their heads, if tails hands on their backside! Get it right they stay in the game, wrong they sit down. Winner gets the coin, play multiple times. Start a conversation about chocolate and how much it has become part of our lives and events.

Tip: As an online game change heads or tails to picking the clap verses thumbs up emoji.

● Episode Three: The Meaning of The Resurrection

Ice-breaker Game: **2 truths and a lie**

Aim – to spot the truthful information amongst the lies.

How to play – Divide the group into two teams. The game is played over a number of rounds decided by the leader. Each round a member of a team will give 3 pieces of information about themselves. 2 will be true, 1 will be untrue. The opposite team will have 2 minutes to guess what the lie is. If they guess correctly in that time they get a point. The game will continue with each team taking turns and having a different person give their facts. The team with the most points and the end of the time limit will win.

List: No items needed. Suitable as an online game also.

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NUA: Easter Discussion Questions

Tip: You can facilitate discussion by splitting them into small groups or by asking them to complete the questions in the printable PDF Journal included in the digital pack.

● Episode One: [The Origins of Easter](#)

1. What's your favourite thing about Easter?
2. Why do you think people celebrate Easter?
3. What things did Jesus do while he was on earth that showed his love?
4. Peter did something surprising when Jesus was arrested, but Jesus did something even more surprising, what was it and why do you think Jesus did that?

● Episode Two: [The Story of Good Friday](#)

1. What are the things that you complain about the most?
2. Why do you think Jesus allowed himself to be taken to an unfair trial which would end in such a horrible death?
3. Jesus prayed to God as he was dying. What did he say and what do you think about these words?
4. Why do you think some people hated Jesus and some loved him?

● Episode Three: [The Meaning of The Resurrection](#)

1. What surprises do you love or fear?
2. How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they met Jesus (alive again!) face to face?
3. Darren quoted four things from the book of Revelation that won't be in heaven. What were they? (Look up Revelation 21:4)
4. What question would you ask Jesus if you saw him in person today?
5. Why do you think the Resurrection is described as a "Game Changer"?
6. What was your favourite part of NUA: Easter?

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