



The True Story of Easter

Big Idea: Jesus' choice reminds me that He loves me.

Memory Verse: "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Supplies needed: Read With Me Bible (or other Bible), paper, scissors, marker, glue stick

Songs:

[Never Be Shaken](#)

[The Greatest Commandment](#)

Video: [God's Story - Easter](#) (This video shows the entire Easter story. You can watch the whole thing, or you can divide it up and just watch until Jesus is arrested.)

Remind your kids that we're talking about Jesus' last week on earth and today we're learning about the night that Jesus prayed in a garden and was arrested.

Let's play a game. Hold up a 1 or a 2 with your choice...

Would you rather:

- 1) be able to fly or 2) be able to turn invisible
 - 1) ride a lion or 2) ride a bear
 - 1) dye your hair green or 2) grow a huuuuuge mustache
 - 1) go on a safari in Africa or 2) scuba dive in Australia
 - 1) be a butterfly or 2) be a lizard
 - 1) go to the moon or 2) dive to the deepest part of the ocean
 - 1) be able to go back in time or 2) travel into the future
- (Make up your own!)

Those were some silly choices we had to make. But a lot of times we actually have very important choices to make. Each and every day, we can choose to have a heart like Jesus or have a heart that wants to do things our own way. Today, we are going to discover that Jesus chose to love us first.

Tell me about a good choice that you made this week. Let's read about a time when Jesus made a choice.

Read "Jesus Prays" and "Jesus is Arrested" from page 374-381 of your [Read With Me Bible](#) (or Luke 22:39-53).

Ask:

What happened in the garden? What choices were made in the garden? *The disciples chose to sleep, Judas chose to betray Jesus, etc.*

What choices did Jesus make? *He chose to go to the garden, even though he knew the soldiers would come there to arrest him. He chose to pray when he was sad.*

If you had been there, would you have gone to the garden? Why or why not? What does Jesus' choice teach us?

Jesus chose to go to the garden because of his love for us. We can believe that Jesus loves us when we think about his choice to die for us.

What would have happened if Jesus chose to run away and not die on a cross for us? *Our sins wouldn't be forgiven. We couldn't live with him in heaven.*

Even though we're sad that Jesus was arrested and died on a cross, we are happy that He made the choice to do those things because He loves us so much. Now we get to make a choice. If we choose to love him and follow him, he will be with us forever and we can live with him in heaven one day.

Song:

[Call To Me](#)

Paper Chain Craft

Cut 20 strips of paper and write one word from the memory verse on each strip. Tell your kids to place the strips in the right order, then glue the strips together to make a chain signifying Jesus' arrest. Put the chain somewhere where your family will see it and remember that Jesus loved you so much that he chose to be arrested, shamed, and killed as part of his plan for us to know him..

"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Pray with your kids.

Pray each person in your family would know and follow Jesus.

Pray God would protect everyone and keep them from sickness.

Pray for people who are sick to feel better soon.

Pray for all the people working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Pray that your family would show God's love to other families.

Going Deeper discussion questions for older kids:

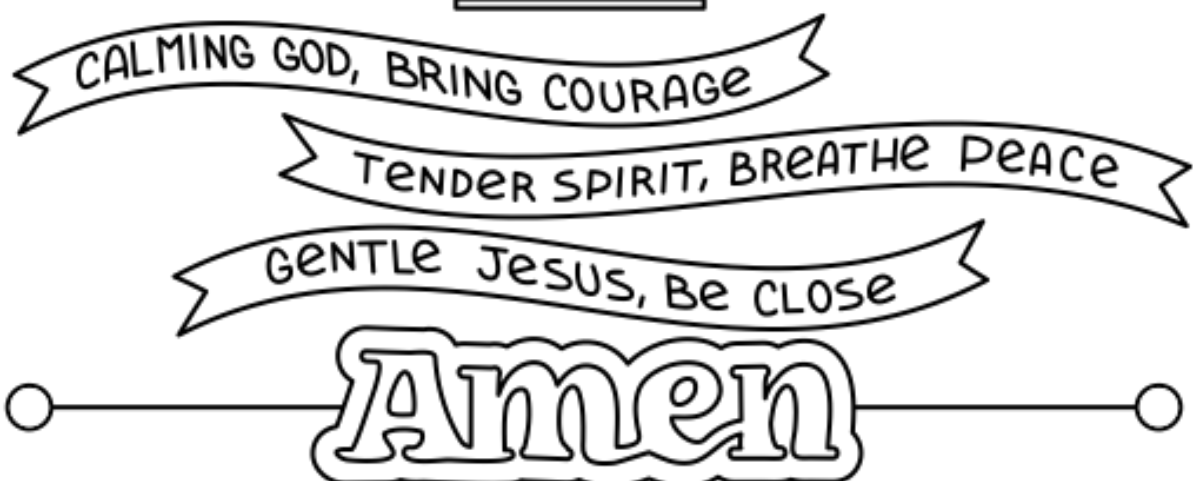
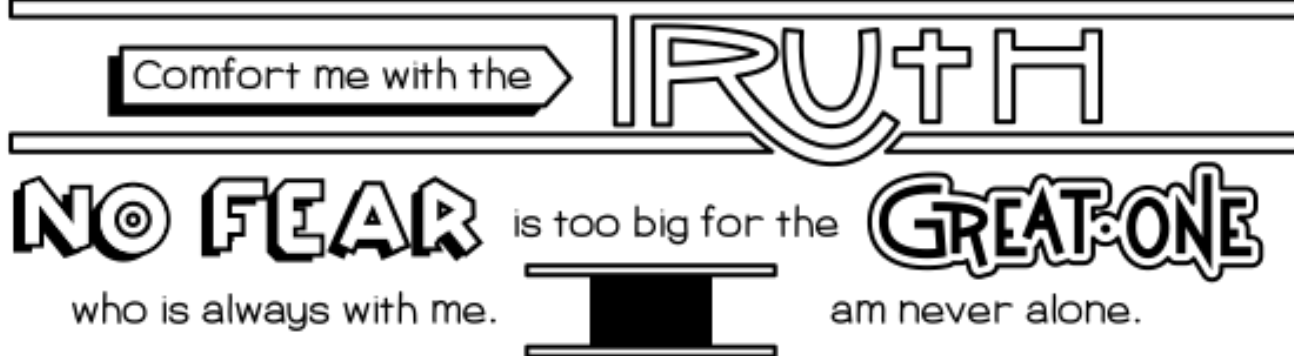
-How would you feel if someone you were close to got in trouble, but did nothing wrong?

-Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus? What do you think about the disciples response to defend Jesus?

-Read Luke 22:42 again. Jesus trusted God's plan. How can you trust God's plan, even when it doesn't seem fair?

-Which of these three do you think God wants you to be like:

1. Lying, like Judas?
2. Fighting, like the Disciples?
3. Trust in God's plan, like Jesus?



GOD OF PRESENCE & Strength

Help us feel you
here with us...

...when we are
anxious and afraid

WHEN THE future Feels

UNWIELDLY

AND

UNCERTAIN

we know **nothing** is **unknown** TO YOU



we know YOU ARE OUR ROCK

COMFORT

TROUBLE.

Give us WISDOM and COURAGE...

...to make CHANGES that will help...

**THINGS
GET
BETTER.**

Amen.