

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: What is Easter?

The Religious Holiday

Easter is a religious holiday that celebrates the resurrection (coming back to life after death) of Jesus Christ. According to the Bible and historical records, Jesus was killed by crucifixion just outside of Jerusalem around 33AD, on a Friday. Three days later, on Sunday morning, he was resurrected or came alive again by God's power. For Christians this is their most important religious holiday. This event signifies to Christians that because Jesus rose from the dead, he can give eternal life to any that trust in him. Eternal life is life with God's blessing now and after death. It is life forever with a loving God.

Read through all the following questions. Then the leader will invite someone by name to choose one question they would like to answer. When they have finished answering, they will then invite someone else to choose one question and answer it. Everyone should have a turn to answer, invite someone else, or say pass.

About eternal life.

Do you believe there is some kind of life after death?

What is your belief/idea on what happens after a person dies?

Where did you get this belief or idea?

All religions have celebrations or holy days.

What religious event/celebration other than your own, have you participated in? What does the holiday signify?

Should a person participate in other religions events/celebrations, that are not your own religion? Why or why not?

The Secular Holiday

Easter is also celebrated by Christians and non-Christians with non-religious activities. Fun events are held for children like an Easter Egg hunt. Brightly colored plastic eggs are filled with candy and hidden in a park or backyard of a home and children are sent out with baskets to find these eggs. Some homes reenact the story of an Easter Rabbit visiting their home the night before Easter Sunday. The Easter Bunny or Easter Rabbit will bring candy, money, and toys to the home during the night and hide these things in a basket somewhere in the home. When the children wake up on Sunday morning, they excitedly hunt for this Easter basket with the candy and money and toys.

What traditions for Easter take place in your culture/country?

Did your family have a celebration for the arrival of Spring or the rainy season? How is it celebrated?

For those who are interested in the Biblical Easter story, watch the following film.

[The Gospel of John | Full Movie | LUMO - YouTube](#) (Start at 2:09 End at 2:31:50. This film shows the death and resurrection of Jesus as recorded by John, one of Jesus' twelve disciples.)

Restate the main story line of the video.

Read all the following questions. Then the leader will invite someone in the group to choose one question they would like to answer. Repeat the invitation until all have had a chance to contribute.

Thomas was not in the room when Jesus appeared to the disciples after his death.

Why do you think Thomas did not believe the other disciples (his friends) when they said Jesus appeared to them?

Would you have believed Jesus was alive if you were in Thomas' shoes?

What do you accept as proof before you believe something? (How do you decide something a person tells you is true or not true?)

Do you believe Jesus came alive (resurrected) after being dead for three days? Why or why not?