

EXPERIENCE

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We love great stories.

They capture the essence of what it means to be alive. No story is simply happy or sad, and the Easter story is no exception – from hope to pain then new life, the true story behind Easter is a rollercoaster of emotions.

The story of Easter is about a man called Jesus. His story has captured the imagination of people across the world because of the truth it speaks to them. More than that, his story has changed their lives. Why?

Because Jesus' story is not just a great story, it is our story. In Jesus' life we can find hope and new life. In Jesus' life we can find freedom.

I believe in Jesus as I believe that the

Sun has risen, not only because I see it

but because by it, I see everything else

C.S. Lewis



Hope today, is often optimistic, based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in our lives or the world.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people were filled with real hope. They were celebrating the promised king who came in the name of the Lord. Their hope was embodied in a person. In Jesus they found hope as they praised the coming king.

Sadly, we live in a world where many people are living in darkness, hopelessness, dejection or in despair. However, there is hope. It's embodied in Jesus, our living hope.

The whole crowd of disciples began

joyfully to praise

God in loud voices.

In the story

Luke 19:28-38





Compassion is concern, sympathy and care for the suffering of others. It comes from a place of love, though this isn't always easy. Our response to those we disagree with, those who we see as 'the other', or those who have let us down, can be indifference rather than compassion.

Jesus models compassion to all at the Passover Supper. He has compassion upon Judas who would betray him and on Peter who would deny him.

If you are finding it hard to be compassionate, strive to forgive and to love. With love comes compassion for others.

He had loved his disciples during his
ministry on earth, and now he
loved them to the very end

In the story

John 13:1-17





Friendship seems to be so significant in an age where loneliness is the cause of so much pain; someone who knows us, accepts us, looks out for us, cares for us.

Jesus' disciples went everywhere with him, but they were more than just followers; they were friends. He shared his life with them, ate with them, laughed and cried with them.

We all need friends around us. Even in a crowd we can sometimes feel very alone. Perhaps there is someone you know who needs a friend today. A smile, a kind word, a cup of coffee together could be something that changes someone's life – maybe that someone is you!

You've no idea how much I have looked

forward to eating this meal

with you

In the story

Luke 22:14-20





Anxiety is one of the most common struggles we face today. It's also among the most misunderstood. Those who struggle often find themselves dealing with it all alone.

Jesus, as he prepared for his death on the cross, demonstrated a certain sense of anxiety and loneliness as he spoke with his Father. He understands.

Anxiety is a real issue that can affect you or someone you know. You can help an anxious person just by noticing, caring, and being available to help bear their burdens.

Father, if you are willing,

please take this cup of suffering

away from me

In the story

Luke 22:39-46





Pain illness, injury, loss, shame, despair, abandonment, injustice, abuse. It seems so unfair, so pointless. But it helps when someone really understands. Like they have been through bad stuff too.

Jesus' life ended in great pain and in humiliation. He was hung naked in public view. He was despised and rejected by the world. He was separated from his Father.

Jesus' death was unfair. But not pointless. Through His scars we can find healing. Through that healing we too can offer comfort to others who are hurting.

Surely this

man

was innocent?

In the story

Luke 23:44-49





New Life The most common symbol of Easter is probably the Egg. An egg looks like a dead stone, but the new life of a chick is waiting to burst out.

Central to the Christian understanding of Easter is that Jesus rose from the dead; from death came New Life.

Christianity's bold claim is that because of Jesus rising from the dead we can experience His New Life. To really Experience Easter, is to experience God's New Life for you.

Anyone who belongs to Christ has

become a new person. The old life is

gone; a new life has begun!

In the story

Luke 24:1-12



trypraying.

Your Story

Jesus' story is not just a great story, it is your story. In Jesus' life you can find hope and new life. In Jesus' life you can find freedom. How can you experience this?

- By believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead into New Life.
- By accepting Jesus' gift of life.
- By desiring to make Jesus the centre and Lord of your life.

You can tell Jesus that is what you want by speaking to him. Why not trypraying today?

Don't worry about anything; instead

pray about everything. Tell God what you

need, and thank him for all he has done

trypraying.co.uk



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EASTER

Jesus said:

I am the way and the truth

and the life

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