



## Christian Education

### Bulletin Insert

April, 03

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#### Good Friday, April 9

##### The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

It is said that when Jesus was a child, a beautiful big dogwood tree grew on a hill outside Jerusalem. (Dogwoods grew larger in those days) It was proud and would boast that one day it might become a tall mast for a great ship or a beam for a palace or temple. On the saddest day of its life, it was cut down and sawn in two. Its two pieces were nailed together to make the cross which Jesus carried to his crucifixion. Jesus was sorry for the tree which had once been so beautiful and every spring after that day, the tree blossomed with white flowers shaped like a cross, with a 'crown of thorns' in the centre of each one, and red stains on the petals like Jesus' blood. Just as Jesus changed the tree, so he changed the world through his death.

Perhaps you can find a dogwood tree at a garden centre and check this out!

##### How the Robin got his Red Breast (Another legend)

On the day Jesus died the sky grew dark, even though it was the middle of the day, and all the birds stopped singing. One robin was bolder than the rest and decided to see what was happening. He saw Jesus on the cross with the cruel crown of thorns making his forehead bleed. The robin flew down and pulled one of the thorns out and, in so doing, blood splashed on his breast making it red. To this day robins have red breasts to remind us of the bird which tried to help Jesus on the cross.

#### Holy Saturday, April 10

Make your own Paschal candle to burn once it gets dark. You can then enjoy lighting it at mealtimes during the Easter season. You will need a large white candle at least 3" in diameter. Make a cross on the candle with marker. You might also like to include

the letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, to show that Jesus is the beginning and the end. Α Ω Add symbols of new life (such as butterflies) if you like. When the design is on the candle in marker, carefully carve it into the wax with a pointed skewer, or maybe the stylus from a handheld computer. Get five whole cloves and stick them into the cross, one at the end of each bar and one in the centre. These are symbols of the wounds on Jesus' hands, feet and side. Finally scratch the date onto your candle.

#### Easter Sunday, April 11

**When is Easter** this year? Older children will enjoy hearing about how the date for Easter is determined. In the 4th century, church leaders decided that it would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon which followed the Spring Equinox. The Spring Equinox is the day midway between the longest and the shortest days of the year, usually March 20 or 21. Easter can therefore fall anytime between March 22 and April 25.

Make a **field trip** to a garden centre. Talk about the new life of spring - how plants sprout from seemingly dead seeds or bulbs. Then talk about how Jesus rose from the dead and has given us new life.

Try teaching little children this **counting rhyme**:

One, two, three,	Six and seven,
Jesus rose for me!	Jesus lives in heaven!
Four and five,	Eight, nine, ten,
Jesus is alive!	Let's do it all again!

When you go to church today, see who notices the first **Alleluia**. Alleluia has not been said during Lent, but it will be said many times today. Perhaps you can count how many times!

#### For Fun

How did the eggs leave the highway?

They went through the "Eggs-it".

What did the Mommy egg say to the baby egg?

You're "Egg-straspecial".