

Jesus in Easter

- Josh:** Hey Bud, you know Easter is coming. Are you doing anything special?
- Buddy:** I hope so.
- Josh:** Hmm. Hey, what are you doing with those leaves?
- Buddy:** They're not just leaves: they're palm leaves.
- Josh:** I know they're palm leaves, but what are you doing, making a cross?
- Buddy:** Yep. For Easter.
- Josh:** *(Rolling his eyes)* Very interesting.
- Buddy:** Doesn't your family go to church on Easter?
- Josh:** Sometimes. Usually we go to my grandma's house to hunt for eggs and eat all kinds of stuff.
- Buddy:** Easter has a special meaning too, besides hunting eggs and eating food.
- Josh:** What else could there be? I know about Jesus and the Easter celebrations in churches. I went to one church where the people waved palm leaves around. It was pretty cool looking.
- Buddy:** Did you know Jesus died for you?
- Josh:** Okay Mr. Priest, Pastor, or whatever. I better get going.
- Buddy:** Wait! I just want you to know why we celebrate Easter. Jesus died on the cross as an offering for our sins, so people who believe and have faith in Him will be saved.
- Josh:** Well, why would Jesus die for me on Easter? And, why would I want to be saved? Saved from what?
- Buddy:** Do you believe in God?
- Josh:** Sure, of course. I know there is a God, and I know I'll go to Heaven. You know me; I'm a good person.
- Buddy:** *(Smiling)* I know you're a good person, but are you perfect?
- Josh:** No, but who is? I don't think anybody is perfect, even my mom and dad aren't perfect.
- Buddy:** Exactly. But, to be with God in Heaven, you have to be perfect.
- Josh:** But, we just agreed that nobody's perfect. So if you have to be perfect, then nobody is going to Heaven. How dumb is that?
- Buddy:** That's why Jesus died on the cross. He is perfect, and He gave Himself to die like a sacrificial lamb, so we can be united with God through Him.
- Josh:** But, Jesus was just a man who died on a cross.
- Buddy:** He did. But then He proved He was God when He rose from the dead on the third day. He conquered death! That is why we celebrate Easter.
- Josh:** And how do you know all of that?

Buddy: You can read about it in the Bible. And, you can learn a lot about Jesus by going to Sunday school.

Josh: Hmm. I didn't know any of that. But I'm still confused about the Jesus being God thing.

Buddy: Do you want to go with me to Sunday school to learn more?

Josh: Maybe. Hey, could I go on all those trips you guys have, like rafting and camping?

Buddy: Sure. Also, if you come, you'll make a lot of friends, especially Jesus.

Josh: Huh? I thought He was up in Heaven.

Buddy: Josh, Josh, Josh. You need to read your Bible!

Josh: *(Laughing.)* What? First, you want me to go to Sunday school and now you want me to read too? That's stretching it.