

Easter Advent Calendar

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This Easter Advent Calendar is based on the Biblical account of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The verses have been copied from the Bible using www.biblegateway.com (NIV version).

Included in the Easter Advent Calendar, is a very short summary of each passage (in my own words; to be used as a guide). This may be helpful for young children.

The idea of the Easter Advent Calendar is to provide a tangible way to tell the Easter story to children with visual aids (That is: the item in each egg).

In addition to this, the Easter Advent Calendar may give opportunity for quality family time through short activity ideas.

How to use this Easter Advent Calendar:

1. Print this Easter Advent Calendar
2. Read the [Easter Advent Calendar](#) post for craft ideas of how to include the story in the countdown to Easter.
3. Working back from Easter Sunday, count 12 days to find the beginning date. You should finish the last egg (Egg 12) on Easter Sunday.
4. Collect the representation items (as detailed overleaf) and insert into the correct egg.

	Item	Story
Egg 1	Leaf	Palm Sunday
Egg 2	Tissue or paper sprayed with perfume.	Mary Anoints Jesus
Egg 3	Heart	Greatest Commandment
Egg 4	Craft chick, baby figurine or template	Meet Nicodemus
Egg 5	Thimble or cup picture	Last Supper
Egg 6	Money	Judas' Betrayal
Egg 7	Flower or praying hands picture	Jesus Prays
Egg 8	Alfoil	On Trial
Egg 9	Twig	Jesus Dies
Egg 10	Handkerchief, bandage or Band-Aid	Buried
Egg 11	Rock	Tomb
Egg 12	Empty	Risen

5. Fill each egg with a solid chocolate egg (optional) and representational item. You may cut each day's story and also include inside the egg if it can fit. Otherwise, read each day from your Easter Advent Calendar printout.
6. Starting 12 days before Easter Sunday, open one egg a day.

Helpful Links

Below are some helpful links that may assist you in telling the Easter story to children.

[Bible Questions Answered for Kids](#)

[Who were the Pharisees and Sadducees and why didn't they like Jesus?](#)

[Online Easter Story](#)

[Free Easter Colouring Pages](#)

Egg 1: Palm Celebration

Item: Leaf



Verse: Matthew 21:1-9

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Summary:

Jesus and his friends came to a place called The Mount of Olives. Jesus sent his friends to town to get a donkey. After they came back, a crowd gathered. Many people had heard about Jesus and were excited to see him. The crowd put coats on the donkey for Jesus to sit on and laid palm trees on to road for the donkey to walk on. They sang a song to Jesus:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Question:

Why were the people happy?

Answer:

They had heard a lot about Jesus and were excited to welcome Him like a King.

Activity:

Collect a pile of leaves and throw them in the air or make a leaf collage on paper.

Egg 2: Mary Anoints Jesus

Item: Tissue sprayed with perfume



Verse: John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Summary:

Jesus was staying with some friends. One of the friends, a woman named Mary, came to Jesus with a jar of very expensive perfume. She poured this perfume over Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. She did this because she loved Jesus.

One man was cross because the perfume was worth a lot of money and he thought it was a waste (but really he was being greedy and wanted the money for himself). Jesus said: "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Question:

What did Mary pour on Jesus feet?

Answer:

Perfume.

Activity:

Smell the perfume.

Find out what perfume is made of: http://www.fashion-era.com/perfume_history.htm

Egg 3: Greatest Commandment

Item: Heart (Cut-out)



Verse: Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Summary:

Mary (the lady with the perfume) and the crowd (who welcomed Jesus palm leaves) were happy to see Jesus. But not everyone was happy to see Jesus. There were a lot of people who wanted to trick Jesus by asking hard questions. Someone asked this question: Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

They asked more questions too. Jesus' answers were wise and clever and no one could trick him.

Question:

What is the greatest commandment?

Answer:

To love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And to love our neighbour as yourself.

Activity:

Colour in the heart {template}

Egg 4: Meet Nicodemus

Item: Craft Chicken (new life) or baby figurine or
Cut-out



Verse: John 3:1-10

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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Summary:

The crowd (with the palm leaves), Mary (the lady with the expensive perfume), and the important men (who wanted to trick Jesus) weren't the only ones who heard about Jesus. There was an important man name Nicodemus who heard about Jesus too. He didn't want to trick Jesus like some of the other important men, but wanted to ask Jesus a question. At night, Nicodemus came to Jesus and asked him about God's kingdom.

Jesus told Nicodemus that no one could see the kingdom of God unless they were born again.

Nicodemus was very confused. "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked Jesus.

Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going."

Nicodemus still didn't really understand God's plan but we went away and thought about what Jesus had said.

Question:

What does Jesus say the Spirit is like?

Answer:

The wind.

Activity:

Go outside and observe the wind: Listen to the wind, feel the wind, see the wind in the trees.

Egg 5: Last Supper

Item: Thimble or cup cut-out



Verse: Matthew 26:17-29

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Summary:

Jesus was having a meal with his friends called The Festival of Unleavened Bread (or Passover). Jesus took some bread and drink and said they were symbols of his body and blood but his friends didn't understand what he meant. Jesus also told his friends that he had to leave them soon and his friends were sad about this. They didn't want Jesus to leave them.

One of the men there was only pretending to be Jesus' friend. His name was Judas. Judas was going to tell the people who didn't like Jesus where Jesus was so they could capture him.

Question:

What did Jesus say the bread and drink were like?

Answer:

Symbols of Jesus' body and blood.

Activity:

Make round sandwiches. Push an upside-down cup onto a sandwich to make a circle.

Egg 6: Judas' Betrayal

Item: Money Coins

Verse: Matthew 21:1-9



¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Summary:

A lot of people knew about Jesus. Some people were his friends but some people didn't like Jesus because of what he taught. Jesus cared about what was on the inside of a person, their heart attitude, not how people looked. But the people who didn't like Jesus were proud and wanted to look good instead of caring for people.

The people who didn't like Jesus didn't want to change so they decided to capture Jesus instead. They paid Judas (the man who was pretending to be Jesus' friend at the special celebration) money so he would tell them where Jesus was.

Question:

Why didn't some people like Jesus?

Answer:

Because they didn't like what Jesus taught. They were proud and only worried about what they looked like instead of caring for people.

Activity:

Look at some coins from the World Coin Gallery <http://worldcoingallery.com/>

Egg 7: Jesus Prays

Item: Small Plastic Flower (or praying hands cut-out)



Verse: Matthew 26:38-39, 45-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Summary:

Jesus and his friends went to the garden to pray. Jesus prayed to God but his friends fell asleep because they were very tired. After Jesus had prayed, Judas (the man who pretended to be Jesus' friend) came to show the soldiers where Jesus was. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek to show the soldiers which man to capture.

Question:

What did Jesus do in the garden?

Answer:

Pray.

Activity:

Listen to the Lord's prayer sung by Charlotte Church.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU_MceRvh2U

Egg 8: On Trial

Item: Alfoil (shiny like a crown: Leader)

Verse: Matthew 27:11-20



¹¹Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas.

¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

Summary:

The people who didn't like Jesus wanted to get rid of him. They took Jesus to a leader called Pilate so he could decide what to do. The leader couldn't find anything that Jesus had done wrong. Nothing at all. But the crowd was angry and wanted Jesus to die. The leader Pilate didn't want the crowd to be angry at him too, so he said that Jesus would die, even though Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Question:

Could Pilate find anything that Jesus had done wrong?

Answer:

No.

Activity:

Make Aluminium Foil people.

1. Print Paper Dolls {template}
2. Use aluminium foil to dress dolls.
3. Fasten foil with sticky tape or glue.
4. Glue sequins or other sparkly gems for a fun look (optional)

Egg 9: Jesus' Death

Item: Small stick (twig)

Verse: John 19:28-30 (read entire Chapter for full account)



²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Matthew 25:53-54

⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

Summary:

It was a very sad day. Jesus died on a cross made of wood. He had never done anything wrong. What a sad day. Jesus didn't have to die. He could have called thousands of angels to rescue him. But He didn't. Jesus knew that by his death, people could be free. Jesus loves us that much.

Question:

Why was it a sad day? Why did Jesus die?

Answer:

Because Jesus died.
So we could be free.

Activity:

Make a cross bookmark. {template}

Egg 10: Burial

Item: Handkerchief (bandage or Band-Aid)



Verse: John 19:38-42

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Summary:

It was a sad day when Jesus died. All Jesus' friends were very sad. Remember the important man who visited Jesus at night to ask him a question (Nicodemus)? He was sad that Jesus had died too, and he wanted to help bury the body. Jesus' body was wrapped in some bandages and then put in a special cave called a tomb.

Question:

Who wanted to help bury Jesus' body?

Answer:

The important man who visited Jesus at night to ask him questions (Nicodemus).

Activity:

Drop the handkerchief from a high place and watch it float down.

Egg 11: Tomb

Item: ROCK



Verse: Matthew 27:52-66

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Summary:

Jesus was buried in special cave called a tomb. The people who didn't like Jesus remembered something Jesus said: After three days I will rise again. They were worried people might trick them and move Jesus' body away. So a very big stone was put in front of the cave. The stone was very heavy. Guards were watching the tomb too.

Question:

Why did the guards put a big rock in front of the tomb?

Answer:

So no one could steal the Jesus' body.

Activity:

Play Rock in the Spoon. Place a rock on a teaspoon and walk to a finish line without it falling off.

Egg 12: He is Risen!

Item: Empty (nothing)

Verse: Mark 16:1-7

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Verse: John 14:5-7

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Summary:

Jesus' friends were very sad because Jesus had died. They wanted to visit the tomb where Jesus' body was. When they got to the tomb, the big stone was rolled away. When Jesus' friends went inside the tomb they got a fright! There was an Angel standing there who said, "Don't be scared. Jesus isn't here! He is risen!"

When Jesus died, it was a very sad day. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose again!

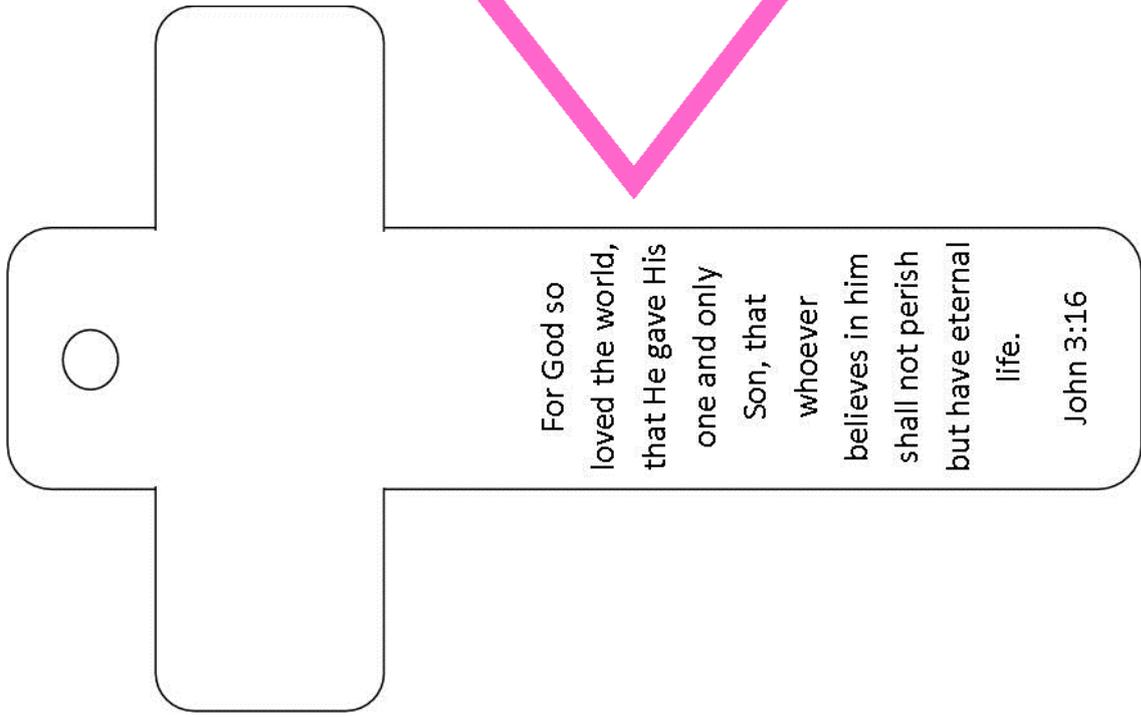
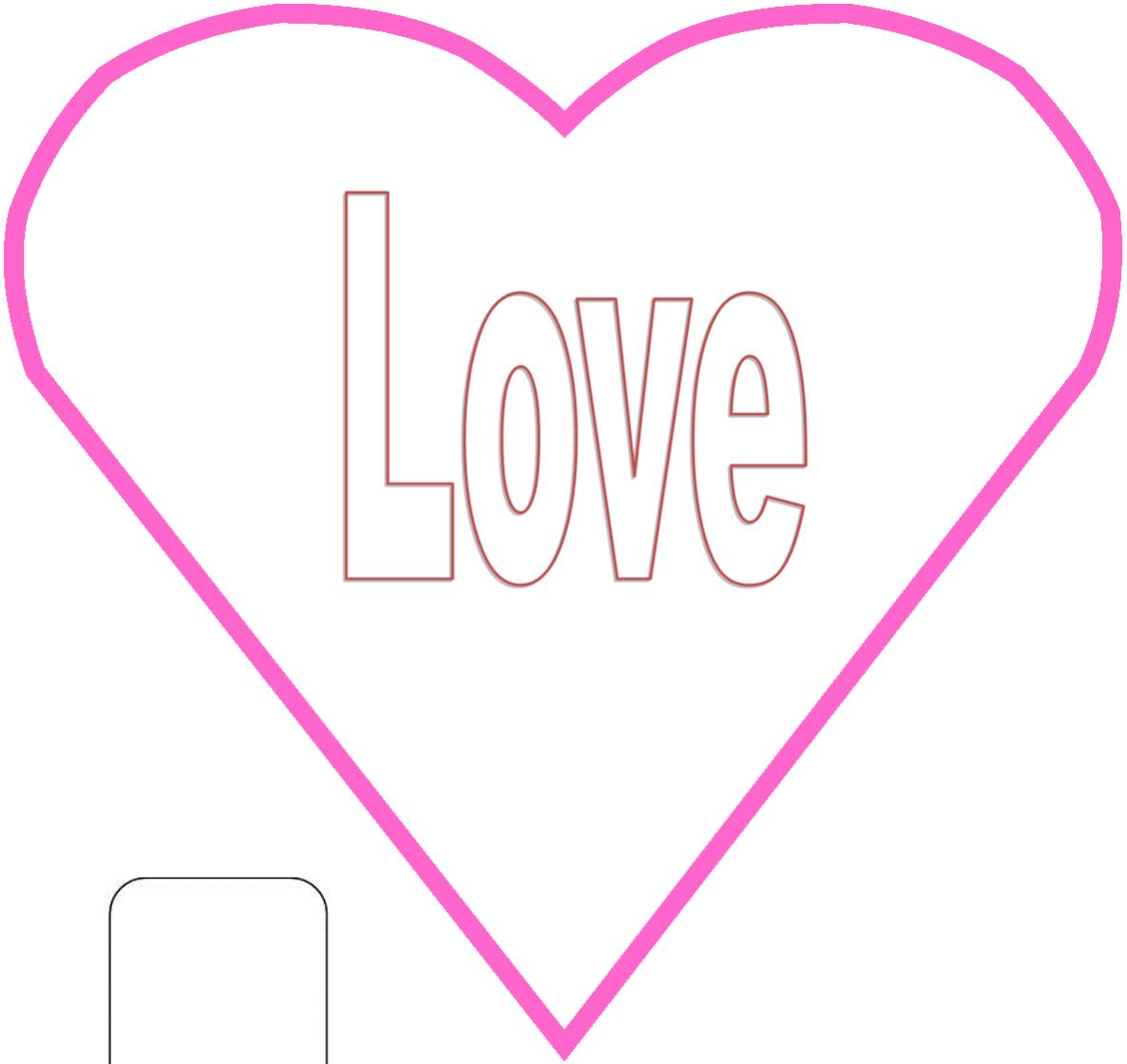
Jesus stayed with his friends for a little while and then he left for heaven. Jesus promised he would send a special helper (Holy Spirit) and return again one day. He also promised a special home in heaven for those who love him. Isn't that special?

Jesus is Risen
He is Risen indeed.

Cut-outs



Templates



For God so
loved the world,
that He gave His
one and only
Son, that
whoever
believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal
life.

John 3:16

