

You will need...

- 5 Easter eggs. Keep one with you, hide the other 4 around the Church building, in places that the children can see if they look carefully, without moving from their seat.
- A way to display 1 Peter 1:3

The story

Happy Easter!

(Hold up an Easter Egg) I wonder how many of you had chocolate eggs for breakfast?

Today is a day of great joy and celebration. And it's not because we get to eat lots of chocolate! Like Peter, who saw the empty tomb on the first Easter Sunday, we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. This day is recorded for us in the Bible to remind us of our living hope in our living Lord.

Let me share with you one verse that shows us this joy :

1 Peter 1: 3: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....*

The Resurrection means the rising of Jesus from the dead. From death to life. When Jesus came back to life, he was raised with a new body ready for the new creation in heaven. Jesus is the first person ready for heaven.

And because this happened to Jesus, if we are trusting in him, it will happen to us too. In fact, it has already started. That's what this passage means by new birth. Because Jesus died on the cross, we can enjoy new life. The day we become a Christian, whether we can remember it not, was the day our new life started. One day we will have a new body that is ready for heaven. A body that is perfect. One that won't grow old, be hurt or die. Just like Jesus's new body. This is the living hope we have. This is our forever hope that nothing can destroy. We are waiting.

Let me explain what I mean.

It's like an Easter egg hunt. Imagine that you've seen your mum, walking out the door to hide your Easter eggs. So you know what to expect. You know what's coming. You know that soon, she will let you go outside and find those eggs. It's just that, right now, for a little while, you



haven't got them yet. In fact, I've done just that. I've hidden some eggs around the room. From your seat, without moving, can you spot where they are? [As the children point to the hidden eggs you can comment and keep count] You've found them all. You know where they are. It's just that right now, for a little while, you haven't got them yet. You're waiting until it's time for the egg hunt to begin. So you can have the eggs she has bought and hidden for you. And you're so excited! You can hardly wait!

You've seen the eggs. You know they're real. You know they're ready for you. You're just waiting until you can have them. It's just that very last part you're waiting for.

In the same way, we have seen that Jesus came back to life. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. There were angels to explain it. We are sure that Jesus' new life is real. And we already have our new life. We are just waiting until we can have our new bodies, like Jesus' body.

At Easter we celebrate new life with chocolate eggs. Whose life are we celebrating? Jesus' new life after death. (pause) And ours.

Let me pray:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who in his mercy, has given us a living hope through his son Jesus Christ. We thank you Father for sending Jesus to die for us. And we praise you that Jesus didn't stay dead but rose again. Thank you for the new life you have given us. Thank you that we can look forward to being with you in heaven in our new bodies. Amen.