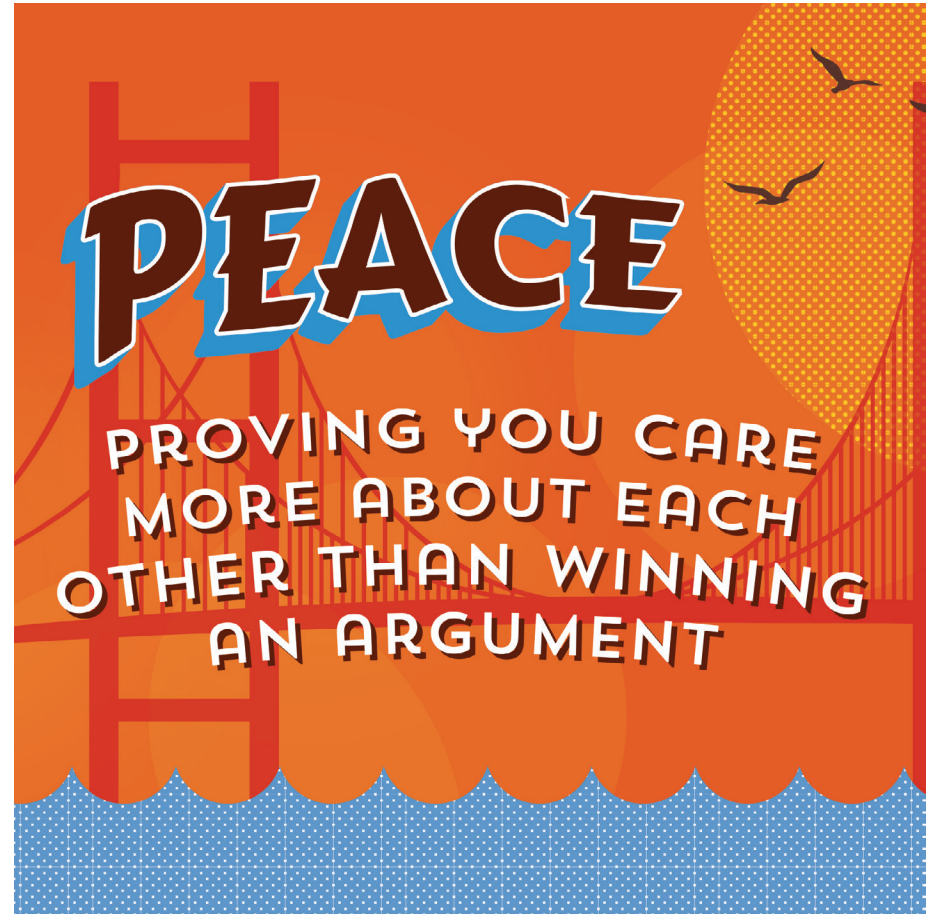


Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

WHY

does
Easter
matter?



Day 1

Go to <http://bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen> and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked: _____

2. You learned: _____

3. You'd like to know: _____

Day 2

Read John 20:1-18

As you read John 20:1-18, draw the following emojis next to the places in the story where they match the likely emotions of the disciples and Mary.



There were likely a lot of conflicting thoughts and feelings represented by all of Jesus' friends on that weekend where they saw Him crucified, buried, and then risen again. But through it all, Jesus showed He is more powerful than sin and death. Through Him, we can have peace with God and work toward peace with others.



Day 3

We often pray to ask God for help—either for ourselves or for others.

We often pray to ask God for help—either for ourselves or for others. And that's awesome—God loves for us to talk to Him about everything in our lives. But sometimes it's great to take time to just thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. God made peace with us even when we didn't deserve it, and that's something that deserves our gratitude. Fill in the blanks below to write a personal prayer, and then read it out loud in prayer to God.

“Dear God, thank You for making me and always loving me, even when I sometimes _____. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for sending Him even though it meant He would die. But how amazing that He rose again! I know when I mess up by _____, I can still have peace with You because Jesus came to be our Savior. Thank You, God, for making peace with us. In Jesus' Name, I pray, amen.”

Day 4

God made peace with us.

Have you ever seen an Easter lily? This beautiful plant is also known as a peace lily. It's fitting that the terms Easter and peace are both used, because the truth is that Easter is when God made peace with us!

Even though Easter is technically over, wish as many people a Happy Easter as you can today. It may feel a little strange to say Happy Easter a few days after it passed, but it will remind you and the people you say it to that God made peace with us!



Day 5

Why does Easter matter?

Easter matters because when we remember that God made peace with us, it changes everything. It means we don't have to earn God's favor—or anyone else's—because we couldn't earn it anyway. Jesus is the only reason we can have peace with God! We can rest in the peace He offers instead of stressing about trying to be perfect or earn His approval.

There are a lot of representations of peace. Some are from the story of Noah and the flood, like a dove, an olive branch, and a rainbow or some are from the Easter story, like a cross and some are just cultural signs of peace, like a peace symbol or holding up your first two fingers like a 'v.' Pick the one that reminds you the most of the peace that God offers, and figure out a way to creatively illustrate that symbol. Whatever you choose and however you create it, when you see it, remember that Easter matters because **God made peace with us!**

