



# MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

## | Easter Explained

## The Death and Resurrection of Jesus is a key Christian Belief

As we follow the story of Jesus life in the Bible we discover rising tension as many people want to follow him and be with him while the religious leaders are increasingly angered by his claims to be God's son, something they view as blasphemy. Moreover, Jesus' willingness to include people that were traditionally seen as 'unclean' and 'sinners' and offering them forgiveness angers the religious elite. Jesus is betrayed by one of his closest followers, leading to his arrest and crucifixion.

The final week of Jesus life are full of real raw human drama: his tears of anguish as he prays in a garden, the betrayal by one of his closest friends, the last meal with his friends when he explains the reasons for all that is happening, and the pain and injustice of his execution. The story is transformed on the first day of the next week when some women return from visiting his tomb to report that Jesus is alive. Their lives are transformed, and this incredible news is what the Christian faith is based on: despair is replaced with hope, sadness with joy, loss with new purpose, guilt with forgiveness.

The Christian faith is based on the belief that Jesus died, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven. Christians believe that through Jesus God has restored the relationship between himself and humans that was broken way back in the first book of the Bible. In Jesus Christians believe that a friendship with God is now available to all who choose to follow him. Christians throughout the centuries and all over the world will speak of their own experience of finding 'new life' because of their belief in the resurrection and in their response to follow Jesus.