

# The real meaning of Easter is a whole lot sweeter.



Easter is the time of year for chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, egg hunts, brunch, and that reluctant trip to church. But is that what Easter is really all about?

The true story behind Easter is the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. He was publicly beaten, executed by crucifixion, then buried. Then he rose from the dead three days later, just as he promised he would.

Why did Jesus undergo all this? The Bible says that he was crucified for the forgiveness of our sins. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

Our sins have separated us from God. Indeed, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God solved that problem in Jesus. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus was the Son of God who died in our place, so that we could enter heaven in the future and enter into a relationship of peace with God today. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me" (John 14:6).

Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your life, to bring you peace with God? You can call out to him right now. If you are sincere, he will hear you and come into your life. "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

This year during Easter, why not investigate the true meaning of it for yourself? Read the section called "John" in the Bible. And see the feature article called BEYOND BLIND FAITH at [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com).

## Easter Survey Results — Here's what you said:

### 1. How interested are you in the spiritual side of life?

very: 37%    somewhat: 24%    moderately: 22%    not much: 12%    not at all: 5%

### 2. Does God exist?

definitely: 45%    I think so: 22%    not sure: 18%    I don't think so: 8%    definitely not: 6%

### 3. What religion do you consider yourself to be?

Atheist: 7%    Buddhist: 3%    Christian: 53%    Hindu: >1%    Jewish: 3%    Muslim: 2%    New Age: 9%    Other: 23%

### 4. Do you believe God is actively involved in your life?

definitely: 44%    probably: 18%    not sure: 16%    probably not: 11%    definitely not: 11%

### 5. Do you believe God answers prayer?

definitely: 43%    probably: 18%    maybe: 21%    probably not: 12%    definitely not: 10%

### 6. Will you experience conscious life after death?

definitely: 33%    probably: 19%    not sure: 34%    probably not: 8%    definitely not: 6%

### 7. Do you believe Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead?

definitely: 39%    probably: 13%    not sure: 19%    probably not: 11%    definitely not: 18%