

Children's Easter Books

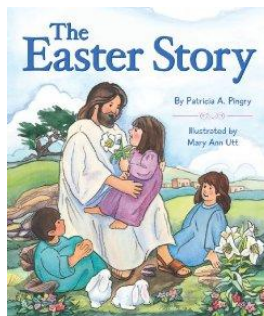
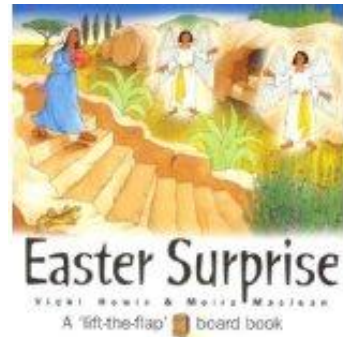
Compiled by Dr. Marian C. Fritzemeier, Ed.D. © 2013

Author, Speaker, Educator

I love spring. I think the first day of spring should be a national holiday. I love the baby animals frolicking in the fields, daffodils, tulips, and endless blossoms. But I also love spring because it's when we celebrate Easter. Because of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection three days later, I can have new life by knowing Jesus in a personal way. I talk to Him in prayer and know that He has a purpose for my life.

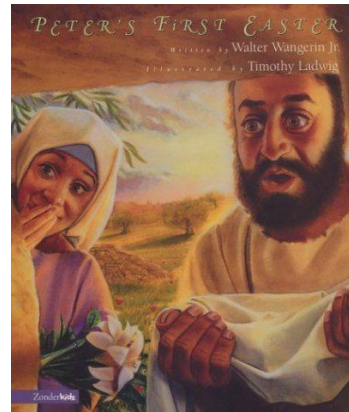
But the story of Easter is harder to explain to children especially since it centers on death. Well written books that explain Easter in a developmentally appropriate way for children are the books that I selected for my list. The first two books I purchased recently to read to my grandchildren.

Easter Surprise, A 'lift-the-flap' board book by Vicki Howie & Moira MacLean, 2006, Concordia Publishing House. I chose this simple book because it features flaps that expand the concepts. I especially like the one that shows the three crosses from a distance for younger children. For Baby through Kindergarten.



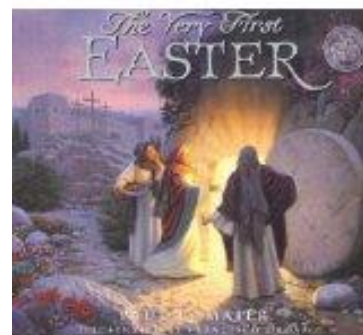
The Easter Story by Patricia A. Pingry, illustrated by Mary Ann Utt, 2006. I bought this board book for my 7 month-old newest granddaughter, Kylie Ann. She'll enjoy chewing on the book while Grams "reads" the Easter story. 200 words for toddlers.

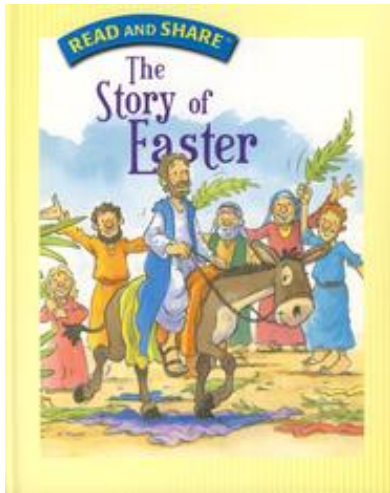
Peter's First Easter by Walter Wangerin, Jr. & Timothy Ladwig, Zondervan, 2000. I was given this book at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference from the book's publisher. He taught writing for children. The illustrations are absolutely breathtaking. Illustrated picture book about Easter for ages 4-8. Adults will enjoy this book too.



Board Book: *The Best Thing About Easter* by Christine Tangvald, illustrated by Kathy Couri, 2007, Standard Publishing. I met with Christine about my book proposal at Mount Hermon. She had a sample of her book, but unfortunately did not bring any books to sell. Anything she writes for children is worth purchasing. She knows children! Ages 2-4.

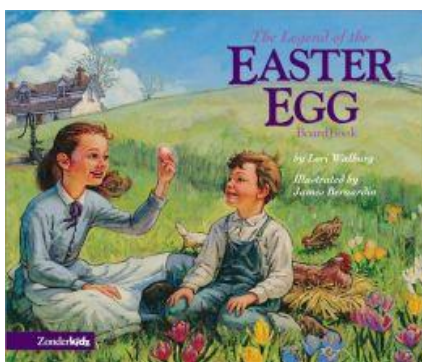
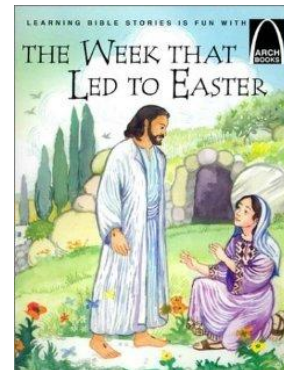
The Very First Easter by Paul L. Maier, illustrated by Francisco Ordaz, 1999, Concordia Publishing House. The book tells the complete story of Easter with absolutely beautiful illustrations. Ages 9-12. Available in board book, paperback, and hardback.





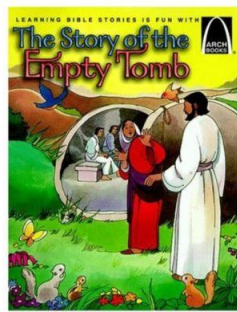
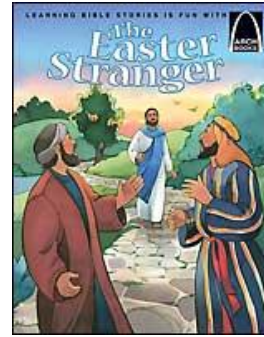
Read and Share: *The Story of Easter*, retold by Gwen Ellis, illustrated by Steve Smallman, 2007 Tommy Nelson, Nashville. Each two-page layout features a sub-title with supporting Bible verses listed. On the bottom of the page, a question or explanation provides an opportunity for interaction between the reader and the child. I like the content but the illustrations are cartoonish and stereotypical. 2-5 years.

The Week that Led to Easter by Joanne Larrison, illustrated by Jenny Williams, 2001, Arch Books. Also available in Spanish. Part of the series Learning Bible Stories is Fun with Arch Books. Covers Palm Sunday through Easter day. Ages 5 and up.



The Legend of the Easter Egg by Lori Walburg, illustrated by James Bernardin, Zonderkidz, 1999. Same authors of bestselling *Legend of the Candy Cane*. A young boy's sister is ill. He learns that eating all the Easter candy doesn't cure his hurting heart. The story of Easter helps him find hope and learn what he can do for his sister. Ages 4-7.

The Easter Stranger by Nicole E. Dreyer, illustrated by Len Ebert, 2009, Arch Books. Part of the series Learning Bible Stories is Fun with Arch Books. This book tells the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus from Luke 24:1-35. Ages 5 and up.



The Story of the Empty Tomb by Bryan Davis, illustrated by Len Ebert, 1998, Arch Books. Part of the series Learning Bible Stories is Fun with Arch Books. Recommended for ages 5 to 9.

Thomas Becomes a Believer: An Easter Story, by Pauline Youd & illustrated by Reg Sandland, Pauline Media, 2002, ages 6 and up.

