

How to Prepare for Easter

1. Make sure that heaven will be your home.

A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else!
(Psalm 84:10, New Living Translation)

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'
(Matthew 7:21-23, NLT)

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves.
(2 Corinthians 13:5, NLT)

God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
(Philippians 2:13, NLT, emphasis added)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [boss] and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
(Romans 10:9, NLT)

**Today, April 3rd, in the BCF Church, I am asking Jesus to
be the Lord (Boss) of my life. _____**

2. Confess any known sin.

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.
(Psalm 32:3-4, NLT)

If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
(1 John 1:9, NLT)

3. Make amends where needed.

If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend, and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.
(Matthew 5:23-24, The Message)

If I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much. -- Zacchaeus
(Luke 19:8, Today's English Version)

4. Give a special Easter offering.

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
(Matthew 6:21, NLT)

Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.
(Luke 16:9, NLT)

5. Invite your world.

Urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.
(Luke 14:23, NLT)

6. Be faithful when you feel God feels distant.

Why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?
(Psalm 22:1, NLT)

Suddenly, a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. The house collapsed, and all your children are dead.
(Job 1:19, NLT)

I can't be quiet! I am angry and bitter. I have to speak.
(Job 7:11, TEV)

God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'
(Hebrews 13:5, NLT)

Lord, you are continually with me. You are in control and are causing everything to work for my good. You are good and you love me. You will give me strength to get through this painful time. One day you will carry me home. I will trust you when I don't like what you're doing. Help me! In Jesus' name. Amen