

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Holidays are a time of tradition. Families come together to relive memories and create bonds by doing the same things over and over again. As you celebrated Christ’s resurrection last Sunday, you probably participated in some traditions. Coloring eggs, attending church, family meals, Easter egg hunts, chocolate bunnies, even Peeps—they’re all part of most of our Easter traditions. But if you travel outside North America during the Easter holiday, you’ll discover some traditions that might surprise you.

In Switzerland, people use flowers and painted eggs to decorate wells and fountains for Easter. This is to celebrate the gift of life (symbolized by water).

Greek children color all their Easter eggs the same color, red—a symbol of Jesus’ blood. Then the eggs are used to make Easter bread, which also represents Jesus, the “bread of life.”

In Germany, people pile up what’s left of their Christmas trees and burn them to represent the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Children in England have egg-rolling competitions. They roll eggs down big hills to see whose goes farthest or survives the most races.

In Poland and Russia, butter is formed into the shape of a lamb and served with the Easter meal.

Because rabbits have a history of destroying vegetable crops in Australia, candy and eggs are delivered by the Easter Bilby. A bilby looks kind of like a fox, and is an endangered species in Australia. So instead of chocolate bunnies, kids munch on chocolate bilbies.

Ethiopians dress in white and wear headbands made from palm trees, to symbolize the purity of Christ and to remember the palm leaves waved as He entered Jerusalem days before His death.

In the Czech Republic, men and boys “whip” women and girls with colorful ribbons on the day after Easter. Although odd, it’s not painful, and it’s believed to bring the ladies good health and beauty.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

What is the purpose of traditions?

What family traditions do you have (not necessarily tied to holidays)?

What are some traditions you have at church, school, or as a community or nation? What do they help you remember?

Traditions can hold special places in our hearts, whether they are silly or serious. Traditions bring us together and create an important bond. For Christians, Communion (or the Lord’s Supper) is a tradition like no other. Let’s take a closer look at Communion and what it means to us.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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