

Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.
 They cut branches from the palm trees at the side of the road
 and waved them in the air as the procession passed.
 "Hosanna" everybody shouted.
 "Hooray for the special King God promised to send us."

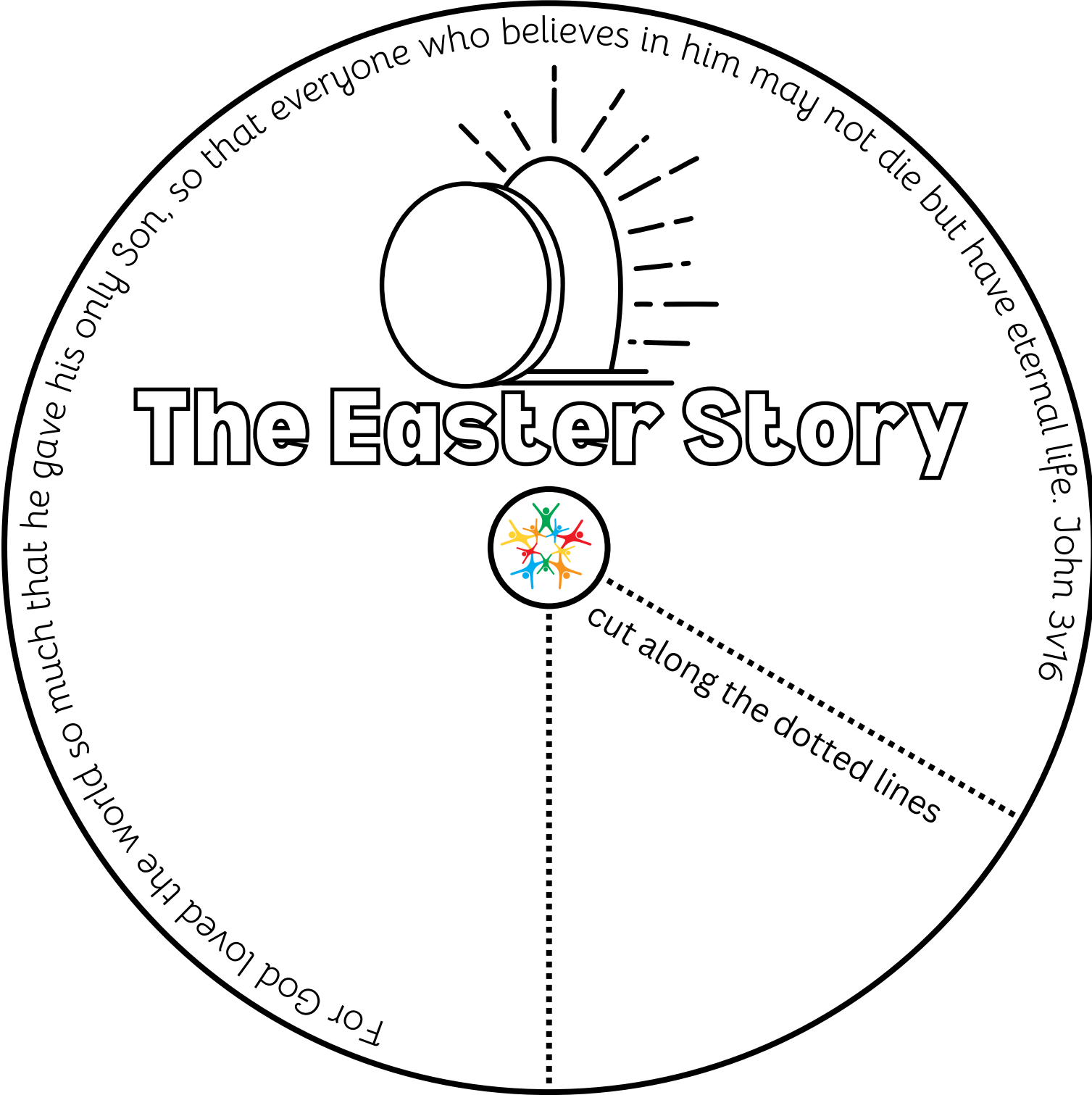
"It's Passover," Jesus told his friends "Time for our special meal."
 When the meal was ready, Jesus said,
 "This is the last Passover meal we will all eat together."
 Soon some sad things are going to happen."

Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers and his friends ran away.
 One of Jesus' friends, Peter, went to see what was happening.
 'You're a friend of Jesus, aren't you?' asked a girl.
 Peter was frightened. 'No, I'm not!' he whispered.
 Peter felt sad - he loved Jesus but he had pretended he did not know him!

The soldiers gave Jesus a big heavy cross made out of wood.
 Jesus had to carry it out of the city, to a hill nearby.
 The soldiers put Jesus on the cross and stood it up in the ground.
 Jesus talked to God. "Father," he said, "forgive these people
 for doing this to me. They don't know what they are doing."
 And then, Jesus died. It seemed like the end of everything.

Why did Jesus die and come back to life?
 God loves us so much that
 He wants us to enjoy life with Him forever.
 In God's kingdom, there will be
 no bad things, no sad things and no sicknesses
 But there can be no sin either.
 The Bible tells us that we all choose to live our own way,
 not God's way, this is what we call sin.
 When Jesus died on the cross He took on all our sin,
 so that we could be forgiven and live in God's kingdom.
 When Jesus rose again, He showed us that death is not the end,
 that we can have new life and choose to live God's way!
 Thank you Jesus for loving me.

Early one morning Mary and her friends
 went to the cave where Jesus had been buried.
 They could not believe their eyes. The heavy stone
 had been rolled away from the doorway.
 The man said Jesus isn't dead he's alive.
 They saw a man in white clothes. What's happened?
 They asked.
 "That can't be true," Peter and the others said.
 "That cave was empty.
 But Peter went to see for himself. He saw that the cave was empty!
 Jesus is alive!"



The Easter Story

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3v16



cut along the dotted lines