

# **The Easter Story**

**from the Holy Bible**

Plain English Version

## **The Easter Story** (Plain English Version)

Translated for speakers of Australian Indigenous languages

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## This is from what Mark wrote, chapters 14-16

### Chapter 14

#### ***The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus***

<sup>1-2</sup>Every year Jewish people went to Jerusalem for a special ceremony where they ate flat damper for a week. On the first day of that ceremony, they always ate a special dinner called *Passover*.

It was 2 days before that ceremony was going to start, and the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers met together to work out a way to grab Jesus and kill him. But they wanted to grab him when nobody was looking. So those leaders said to each other, “Everybody likes Jesus, so we have to wait a bit. We can’t grab him while there are lots of people here for the ceremony. They will get angry with us, and we will have a very big fight.”\*

#### ***A woman put special perfume on Jesus’s head***

<sup>3</sup>At the time, Jesus was at the town called Bethany. A man lived there that used to have a skin sickness, but then he got better. His name was Simon. Jesus went to Simon’s house, and he was eating dinner there.

A woman came into the house with some special perfume in a pretty bottle. That perfume smelled really good and it cost a lot of money. She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus’s head.\* <sup>4</sup>Some of

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\* 14:1-2 Exodus 12:1-27 \* 14:3 Luke 7:37-38

the people there said to each other, “Why did she waste that perfume?”

<sup>5</sup>Why didn’t she sell it and get a lot of money, and give that money to poor people?” And they said angry words to her too.



*A woman poured special perfume on Jesus’s head*

<sup>6</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Leave her alone. Don’t make trouble for her. She did something really good to me.

<sup>7</sup>You will always have poor people with you, and you can give them money whenever you want to. But I will not be here with you much longer. \* <sup>8</sup>I will die soon, and people will bury my body. This woman poured the perfume on me to get my body ready. She did a good thing. <sup>9</sup>Listen. People will go everywhere in the world to tell people God’s story, and they will remember this woman and they will tell people about her too, and about the good thing she did today.”

### ***Judas Iscariot turned against Jesus***

<sup>10</sup>Judas Iscariot was one of the 12 men that Jesus picked out to be his special workers. But at this time he turned against Jesus, and he went to the bosses of the Jewish

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\* 14:3 Luke 7:37-38 \* 14:7 Deuteronomy 15:11

ceremonies, and he said, “I can help you catch Jesus.”

<sup>11</sup>They heard him say that, and they were very happy. They promised to pay him money. So he waited for a good time to help them catch Jesus.

***Jesus and his followers ate the Passover dinner***

<sup>12</sup>The day came for people to kill a young sheep to cook it and eat it. That was the start of the ceremony time called Passover. They ate flat damper at that time too, and they remembered the time, long ago, when their grand-fathers were in Egypt, and God’s angel messenger passed over them, and didn’t kill any of them.

On that day, some of Jesus’s followers went up to him, and they asked him, “Where do you want us all to eat this dinner? We can go and get it ready.”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said, “All right, you 2 go over there into Jerusalem city, and after you get there you will meet a man. He will be carrying a big jug of water. Follow him, and he will go into a house. <sup>14</sup>You talk to the boss over that house. You tell him, ‘Our teacher wants you to show us the room you have for visitors. He wants to eat the



*Judas told the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies that he would help them catch Jesus*

Passover dinner there with his followers.’ <sup>15</sup>Then that boss will take you upstairs to a big room that he’s got set up and ready. You can get the dinner ready for us there.”



*2 followers of Jesus followed a man carrying a big jug of water*

<sup>16</sup>Those 2 men left him and went into Jerusalem. Everything happened just like Jesus told them. So they got the food ready for that special Passover dinner.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun went down, Jesus and his special workers went to that house to eat the Passover dinner. <sup>18</sup>While they were eating, Jesus said to them, “Listen, one of you men, that is eating with me here right now, will turn against me and help the people that want to kill me.”\*

<sup>19</sup>His 12 special workers were sad, and each of them said to him, “Were you talking about me? No, not me. I will not do that.”

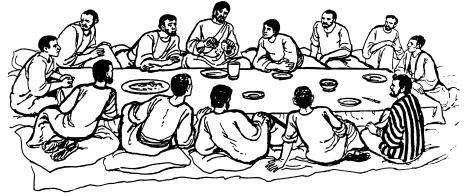
<sup>20</sup>Jesus said, “It is one of you that is eating food with me right now. <sup>21</sup>I’m God’s special man from heaven, and I have to die, just like God says in his book. But the man that helps my enemies to catch me, he will get really bad trouble from God. He will wish he was never born.”

<sup>22</sup>After that, while they were still eating their dinner, Jesus picked up some damper and thanked God for it, then

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\* 14:18 Psalm 41:9

he broke it into bits and gave it to his special workers. He said, “This damper is my body. Take a bit and eat it.”



*Jesus ate the Passover dinner  
with his special workers*

<sup>23</sup>Then he picked up the cup of wine and said thank you to God for it, and he gave it to them, and they passed it around, and each of them drank a little bit of wine. <sup>24</sup>He told them, “This wine is my blood. I will die and pour out my blood for a lot of people. It’s like this, God has agreed to save people, and I will die so he can do that. My blood will come out, and it is like I’m using my blood to sign God’s new agreement with people, to say that they are not guilty of the bad things they did.\* <sup>25</sup>Listen, I will not drink any wine again until the day that I sit down with God and all his family, and he will show everyone that he is the biggest boss. Then I will drink a new sort of wine with you.”

<sup>26</sup>After Jesus said that, they all sang a song to God, and then they went out of that house to go to the hill called Olive Trees Hill.

### ***Jesus talked straight to Peter***

<sup>27</sup>They walked along the road, and Jesus talked to his followers. He said, “All you mob will run away and leave me. A long time ago, God got one of his men to write about this in his book. He wrote,

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\* 14:24 Exodus 24:8; Jeremiah 31:31-34

‘God will knock down the man that looks after the sheep, and all his sheep will run away.’\*

He wrote those words about me. I will die, like he wrote about that man, and you will all run away. <sup>28</sup>But after that, God will make me alive again. Then I will go ahead of you to Galilee country, and I will wait for you there.”\*

<sup>29</sup>Peter said, “Maybe all the others will run away, but not me. No way.”

<sup>30</sup>But Jesus said to him, “Listen to me, Peter. Tonight you will tell people that you don’t know me. You will say that 3 times, and then a chook will yell out 2 times, just like it always does before the sun comes up.”

<sup>31</sup>But Peter talked really strong to Jesus. He said, “No. People might try to force me to say that. They might even tell me that they will kill me, but I will never say that I don’t know you.”

All the other followers said the same thing.

### ***Jesus prayed in the place called Gethsemane***

<sup>32</sup>Jesus and his followers got to the place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “I want you to sit here and wait for me. I’m going to pray to God.”

<sup>33</sup>He asked Peter, James and John to go with him, and they walked away from the others. Then Jesus started to get really sad and upset. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, “I feel really sad right now. I feel so sad, it’s like I’m dying. Stay here and keep on looking out for trouble.”



<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus walked away from them a little bit and lay down on the ground. <sup>36</sup>He said to God, “Father, you can do anything. You can take this trouble away from me. It’s too hard for me. But you do what you want to do, not what I want.”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus went back to his 3 followers and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Wake up, Simon. Can’t you stay awake with me for just one hour? <sup>38</sup>Stay awake and pray to God so that nothing will get you to go wrong. I know that you want to do the right thing, but your body is weak and wants to sleep.”

<sup>39</sup>Jesus left them again, and he prayed again. He kept on asking God the same thing. <sup>40</sup>Jesus’s 3 followers were very tired, and they just couldn’t stay awake. Then Jesus came back to them again, and they were asleep again. After they woke up, they felt shame, and they didn’t know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Jesus went away and prayed to God again. Then he came back to his 3 followers and said, “Are you still resting? You can’t sleep any more now. Look. I’m God’s special man from heaven, but those bad men will soon come and get me. <sup>42</sup>So get up, we have to go now. See, here is the man that is helping them catch me.”

### ***A mob of men grabbed Jesus***

<sup>43</sup>Just before that time, the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers and the Jewish elders, they told a big mob of men to go with Judas to grab Jesus. Those men all had long knives and fighting sticks.

Judas was one of Jesus's 12 special workers, but he changed sides, and he took that mob of men to Gethsemane to grab Jesus. They got there while Jesus was talking to his followers. <sup>44-45</sup>Judas walked up to Jesus and said, "Hello teacher," and kissed him on the cheek. He did that to show those men which man they had to grab. <sup>46</sup>So they grabbed Jesus.



*A mob of men went to grab Jesus*

<sup>47</sup>One of Jesus's followers was standing right there, and he pulled out his long knife. He cut off the ear of a man that worked for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies.

<sup>48</sup>Jesus said to the mob, "Why have you got all these long knives and fighting sticks? I'm not a criminal. No way. <sup>49</sup>I was always in God's ceremony house, and I taught the people there every day, but you didn't grab me then. But a long time ago, God said that you will grab me. It is in his book. So you will grab me now."\*

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus's followers got frightened, and they ran away and left him there.

<sup>51</sup>There was a young man there that followed along a little bit behind Jesus. He was just wearing a sheet

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\* 14:49 Luke 19:47; 21:37

wrapped around him. <sup>52</sup>That mob of men tried to grab him, but they only grabbed the sheet. He wriggled out of it and ran away naked.

### ***They took Jesus to court***

<sup>53-54</sup>That mob took Jesus to court at the house of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. All the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and the elders, and the law teachers, they all went to that court too.

That house had a yard with a wall around it. Peter followed a little bit behind the mob, and he followed that mob into the yard of that house, and he sat down with them near their fire.

<sup>55</sup>All the Jewish leaders there tried to get somebody to say, “We saw Jesus do bad things,” so that they could kill him, but nobody told a strong story against him. <sup>56</sup>Lots of people stood up and told lies about Jesus, but they didn’t agree with each other. Their stories were all mixed up.

<sup>57</sup>Some men stood up and told this lie. <sup>58</sup>They said, “We heard this man say, ‘I will knock down God’s ceremony house and build another one in 3 days. Lots of men built this one, but I will build a new one just by myself.’”\*

<sup>59</sup>But even those men had their stories mixed up. They didn’t agree with each other.

<sup>60</sup>The big boss of the Jewish ceremonies stood up in the meeting and said to Jesus, “All those people said that

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\* 14:58 John 2:19

you did bad things. You heard them. What do you say?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus didn't answer him. He just kept his mouth shut.

Then that boss said, “All right, tell us this. Are you the Christ, that special man that God promised to send to save us? Are you the son of God?”

<sup>62</sup>Jesus said, “Yes, I am. I'm God's special man from heaven. And one day, you mob will all see me sitting there in heaven on the right-hand side of God, the powerful one. And you will also see me come back here in the clouds.”\*

<sup>63-64</sup>Then that big boss of the Jewish ceremonies got so angry that he tore his clothes and said to the Jewish leaders, “Did you hear that? This man said that he is the same as God. We don't need anyone to say anything more. We heard it ourselves. So what do you reckon, did he break our law?”

They all said, “He did. He broke our law. He's got to die.”\*

<sup>65</sup>Some of the people in that meeting spat on Jesus. They tied a rag across his eyes so that he couldn't see, then they hit him with their hands and said, “Hey. You



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*The Jewish leaders blamed  
Jesus in their court*

reckon that God gives you power to know things, so tell us, who hit you?" Then the guards grabbed Jesus and hit him.

***Peter said, "I don't know Jesus"***

<sup>66-67</sup>All this time, Peter sat next to the fire in the yard of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. One of the girls that worked in that house came along and saw Peter there. She looked at him and said, "I think you were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

<sup>68</sup>But Peter said, "No. I don't know what you are talking about." Then Peter went back to the gate of that yard. Just then a chook yelled out.

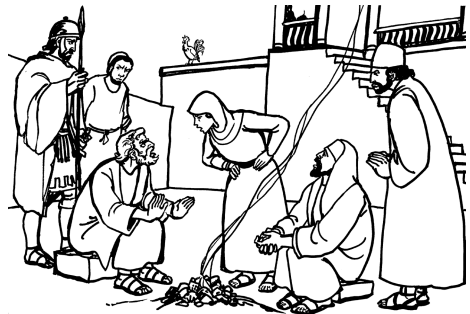
<sup>69</sup>That girl saw Peter at the gate and started to tell the people, "This man is one of Jesus's mob."

<sup>70</sup>But again Peter said, "No, I'm not."

A little bit later those people there at that gate said to Peter, "You talk like the Galilee people talk, and Jesus is from Galilee, so you have to be one of his followers."

<sup>71</sup>Peter got really wild, and he said, "I'm telling you, I don't know that man. I don't know what you are talking about. God knows that this is true, or if not, he can kill me."

<sup>72</sup>Straight away, that chook yelled out again. Then Peter remembered



*Peter said that he wasn't  
one of Jesus's mob*

the words Jesus said to him before, “Tonight you will tell people that you don’t know me. You will say that 3 times, and then a chook will yell out 2 times.” When Peter remembered these words, he was very sad, and he cried a lot.

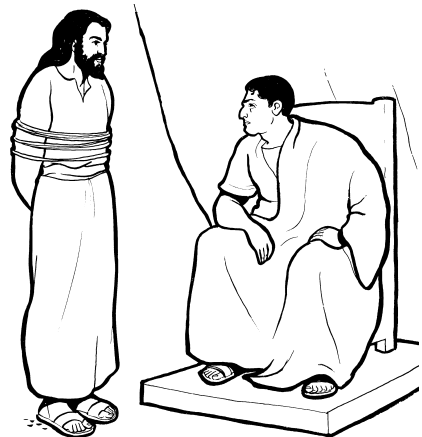
## Chapter 15

### ***The men of the Jewish Leaders Council took Jesus to the judge***

<sup>1</sup>Early in the morning, the men of the Jewish Leaders Council talked with each other about what they will do with Jesus. That council mob were the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies, and the law teachers, and the elders. They tied Jesus’s hands together, and they took him over to the big government boss. His name was Pilate. They asked him to judge Jesus. <sup>2</sup>So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the big boss over the Jewish nation?”

Jesus said, “Those are your words.”

<sup>3</sup>The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies blamed Jesus, and they told Pilate he did a lot of bad things, but Jesus didn’t say anything. <sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “They are saying lots of bad things about you. Why don’t you say something for yourself?”



*Pilate asked Jesus questions,  
but Jesus said nothing*

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus said nothing, and Pilate was really shocked.

<sup>6</sup>Every year, at the ceremony time called Passover, Pilate always did something special for the people in Jerusalem. He let one prisoner go free from the jail.

<sup>7-8</sup>At this Passover time, some of the Jerusalem people came to Pilate and asked him to let a prisoner go free, like he always did. They came up to Pilate while Jesus was still there. At the same time, there was a murderer in jail there. His name was Barabbas. Before that time, Barabbas and his mob fought against the government and killed some of the government people, so the soldiers grabbed him and put him in jail.

<sup>9-11</sup>Pilate knew that the bosses of the Jewish ceremonies were jealous of Jesus, and that was the only reason why they brought him to Pilate. They wanted Pilate to kill him. So when those Jerusalem people asked Pilate to let a prisoner go free, Pilate said, “All right, how about I let Jesus go? You reckon he says that he is your big boss. What do you reckon, will I let him go?”

But the ceremony bosses got all those people to be angry with Jesus, and those people told Pilate, “No. Not him. We want you to let Barabbas go free.”

<sup>12</sup>Pilate said, “So what do you want me to do with this man that you Jewish people call your big boss?”

<sup>13</sup>They all yelled, “Kill him. Nail him to a cross and let him die there.”

<sup>14</sup>Pilate said, “Why? What did he do that was so bad?”

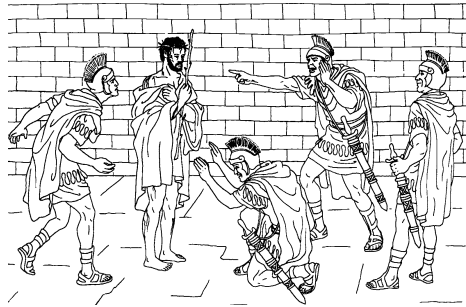
But they didn’t listen. They yelled even louder, “Kill him. Nail him to a cross.”

<sup>15</sup>Pilate didn't want that mob to get wild, so he did what they wanted. He let Barabbas go out of jail, and he told his Roman soldiers to hit Jesus a lot with whips. After they finished whipping him, Pilate told them to nail Jesus to a cross and leave him to die.

### ***The soldiers made fun of Jesus***

<sup>16</sup>The soldiers took Jesus outside into the yard of the big house where Pilate lived. They called out to the rest of the soldiers there to come out into that yard.

<sup>17</sup>They put a purple coat on Jesus. Then they made some prickly branches into a headband that looked



*The soldiers made fun of Jesus*

like a crown, like a big

boss wears, and they put it on Jesus's head. <sup>18</sup> And they made fun of him. They got down on their knees in front of Jesus and said, "Hey, you reckon that you are great. And you reckon that you are the big boss over the Jewish people. But you are not." <sup>19</sup> And they kept on hitting him on the head with a stick, and they spat on him.

<sup>20</sup> When they finished making fun of him, they took off the long purple coat and put his own clothes back on him. Then they took him out to another place to kill him.

<sup>21</sup> There was a man walking past them on the road at that time. He was coming into the city from the



bush. His name was Simon, and he was from the country called Cyrene. (He was the father of our friends Alexander and Rufus.) The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus.\* <sup>22</sup>Then they got to the place called *Golgotha* in their language. That name means *Skull Place*.

<sup>23</sup>Then the soldiers tried to give Jesus some wine to drink. That wine had some medicine called myrrh mixed in it. But Jesus wouldn't drink it.

<sup>24-26</sup>Then the soldiers nailed Jesus's hands and feet to the cross. Then they stood it up, and they left him to die like that. And they made a sign and put it above his head, to say why they killed him. It said, "The big boss over the Jews." It was 9 o'clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to that cross. After that, the soldiers gambled with each other to get his clothes.\*

<sup>27-28</sup>The soldiers also nailed 2 criminals to crosses next to Jesus. One criminal was on his left-hand side, and the other criminal was on his right-hand side. <sup>29</sup>Some other people walked past Jesus and rubbished him too. They stood there and shook their heads to shame him, and they said, "You reckon you can knock down God's ceremony house, and then build it again in 3 days, do you?\*" <sup>30</sup>All right, if you are so smart, save yourself. Get off the cross and come down."

<sup>31</sup>The bosses of the Jewish ceremonies and the law teachers joined in and laughed at Jesus. They said to

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\* 15:21 Romans 16:13 \* 15:24-26 Psalm 22:18 \* 15:29 Psalm 22:7; 109:25; Mark 14:58; John 2:19

each other, “He saved other people, but he can’t save himself. <sup>32</sup>He thinks he is the Christ, the special man that God promised to send to save us. He reckons he is the big boss over us Israel nation. No way. We will not believe him unless we see him come down off that cross.”

The men on the other crosses joined in too and rubbished Jesus.

### ***Jesus died***

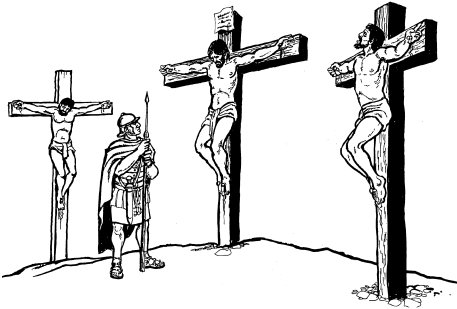
<sup>33</sup>In the middle of the day, at about 12 o’clock, all of the country got dark, like it was night time. It stayed dark for about 3 hours, until 3 o’clock in the afternoon.

<sup>34</sup>Then Jesus yelled out in his language. He said, “*Eloy, Eloy, lama sabakthani?*” That means, *My God, my God, why did you go away and leave me all by myself?*\*

<sup>35</sup>Some of the people standing around heard Jesus say that. They thought that he called out for Elijah to come to him from heaven. <sup>36</sup>One man got up quickly and got a sponge, and he filled it with sour wine, and he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus’s mouth, so he could suck a bit of it. And that man said, “All right, just leave him. Let us wait and see if Elijah will come and get him down.”\*

<sup>37</sup>Jesus yelled out again, and then he died.

<sup>38</sup>Over in Jerusalem, in God’s ceremony house, there was a big curtain that blocked off God’s special place. At the same time that Jesus died, that curtain just ripped



*The boss soldier said, "I reckon this man really was the son of God."*

right down the middle from the top to the bottom, into 2 bits.\*

<sup>39</sup>And at the cross, the boss over those Roman soldiers stood near Jesus, and he saw the way Jesus died. Then that boss soldier said, "I reckon this man really was the son of God."

### ***Some women saw everything that happened***

<sup>40-41</sup>There were some women there at the cross too. Before this time, those women went everywhere with Jesus in Galilee country. They looked after him there, and after that, they came with him to Jerusalem. While Jesus was dying, they stood looking from a long way off. They were Mary Magdalene, and Salomi, and the other Mary that was the mother of young James and Joses, and some other women with them.\*

### ***Joseph buried Jesus***

<sup>42</sup>That day that Jesus died was the day when the Jewish people got everything ready for their rest day. That rest day was going to start when it got dark. <sup>43</sup>There was a man there that was called Joseph, and he was from a place called Arimathia. Everyone said that he was a good

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\* 15:38 Exodus 26:31-33 \* 15:40-41 Luke 8:2-3

man, and he was one of the Jewish Leaders Council men too. He was waiting for the time when God will get all his family together and show everyone that he is the biggest boss. So when it was nearly night time, before that rest day started, he went to Pilate. He was a little bit frightened, but he went to Pilate anyway, and he asked him, “Can I get Jesus’s body to take care of it our way?”

<sup>44-45</sup>Pilate was shocked. He said, “Is that man dead already?”

He sent somebody to get the boss over the soldiers, and he asked that boss soldier, “Is it true? Is that man properly dead now?”

That boss soldier told Pilate, “Yes, it is true.”

Then Pilate told Joseph, “All right, you can take Jesus’s body.”

<sup>46</sup>So Joseph bought a good sheet, and he took Jesus’s body down from the cross and wrapped it in that sheet. Then he took Jesus’s body and put it in a cave to bury it. That cave was a special place to put dead bodies. It was a big hole, like a little room that somebody cut in the rock. Then Joseph rolled a big flat stone in front of that cave to block it.



*Joseph put Jesus’s body in a special cave for dead bodies*

<sup>47</sup>And those women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph, they saw the place where Joseph put Jesus's body.

## **Chapter 16**

### ***God made Jesus alive again***

<sup>1</sup>The next day was Saturday. It was their rest day. When the sun went down, that rest day was finished. Then some women went and bought some perfume to put on Jesus's body, so they could bury him the right way. They were Mary Magdalene, and Salome, and Mary the mother of James. <sup>2</sup>Early on Sunday morning, when the sun was just starting to come up, they went to that cave to find Jesus's body. <sup>3</sup>As they walked along, they said to each other, "Who will roll away that big stone to open up the cave for us? It's way too big for us."

<sup>4</sup>But when the women got there they looked up and saw that the big stone was not blocking the cave any more. Somebody already came before them and rolled that big stone away.

<sup>5</sup>Then they walked into the cave, and they saw a young man sitting there on the right-hand side, wearing really white clothes. They got a big surprise. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for the body of Jesus, the man from Nazareth that they killed on a cross. God made him alive again. He isn't here. Look, see this place just here. They put his body here, but it isn't here now." <sup>7</sup>And he said to them, "Go back

to his followers and tell them, 'You mob have to go back to Galilee country. Jesus will go there ahead of you, and when you go back there you will see him. You remember, he told you about that some time ago.' Make sure you tell that message to Peter and the other followers."\*



*A young man told the women,  
"God made Jesus alive again"*

<sup>8</sup>The women didn't know what to think. They were so frightened they were shaking. They came out of that cave and ran away. Those women were too frightened to talk to anybody. They just ran away.

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\* 16:7 Matthew 26:32; Mark 14:28

## This is from what Matthew wrote, chapter 28

<sup>9</sup>As the women ran away from that cave Jesus came up to them and called out, “Hello.” They went up to Jesus and showed him strong respect. They even got down and held on to his feet. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said, “Don’t be frightened. Go and tell my other followers to go back to Galilee country, and they will see me there.”

### ***Jesus’s followers have to tell everyone in the world about him***

<sup>16</sup>The women told Jesus’s message to his 11 special workers. Then those men remembered that Jesus told them to meet him on a mountain in Galilee, so they went there. \* <sup>17</sup>They saw Jesus there, and they felt really happy, and they showed him strong respect. But some of them were thinking, “Is this really Jesus? I don’t know.”

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “God, my father, has made me boss over everything now. I’m boss over everything up in heaven. And I’m boss over everything down here on the earth. <sup>19</sup>So go out to all the people in the world, and tell them about me. Teach those people to follow my way, and baptise them with water to show that they belong to the father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup>You have to teach them to do everything that I told you to do. And remember this, I will be with you all the time. I will be with you to help you, right up until the time when this world will finish.”

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\* 28:16 Matthew 26:32; Mark 14:28

## This is from what Luke wrote, chapter 24

### ***Jesus went up to heaven***

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus took his followers just outside the city, to the town called Bethany. When they got there, he lifted up his hands and asked God to be good to them, and to make them strong. <sup>51</sup>While he was still talking, God lifted him up and took him away from them, up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then his followers showed strong respect for Jesus. They were very happy, and they went back to Jerusalem. <sup>53</sup>Every day, they went to God's ceremony house, and they said, "Thank you God. You are really good."



*God lifted Jesus up and took him into heaven*



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## About this translation

This booklet uses the **Plain English Version** (PEV) of the Scriptures, an English translation of the Bible designed for Indigenous Australians whose first language is an Indigenous language. Its purpose is to convey the meaning of the original Scripture in English that is easy to understand and natural for them. We have, as much as possible, limited its grammar, semantic and rhetorical features to those common in Aboriginal languages, and its vocabulary to the English that is most widely used.

We have applied the principles of meaning-based translation, wherein we have sought to convey the same meaning that the original authors conveyed to the original readers. That means not just considering individual words, but also the message of the whole passage.

The following are some of the more common modifications that have been made:

- Where the grammar of the original has used the passive voice, we have used the active voice, since the grammars of most indigenous Australian languages do not have passive voice.
- Where the original text has used an abstract noun to express a concept that is fundamentally an action or a quality, we have usually used a verb or adjective to translate that concept, since abstract nouns are comparatively rare in Australian languages.
- Where the grammar of the original has used long and complicated sentences, we have conformed to the grammars of Australian languages by using shorter sentences, making other adjustments as necessary to retain the meaning carried by the grammar of the original.
- Where the original text has implicit or background information that would not be obvious to our target audience, we have made that information explicit.
- Where the original text has used a word or phrase, the literal translation of which would not be understood by our target audience, we have used an explanatory rendering to convey the same meaning, whether or not it involved more words.
- Where the original text has used figurative language that would be taken as literal by our target audience, we have stated the meaning of the figure rather than its literal form.
- Where the original text is not in chronological or logical order, we have usually adjusted the order of information.

At any one place in our translation we may have used a combination of the above.

*PEV Translation Team*