The Easter Story

This is the most important story ever told. Although it’s very sad at times, it’s also the happiest story. That’s because it’s true!

J. JOHN
Jesus was a man who travelled around his country, Israel, two thousand years ago, teaching about God. Jesus knew God because God was his loving father.

Jesus did incredible miracles, like healing sick people, calming storms and feeding thousands of people from just five loaves of bread and two fish – that is amazing!

Jesus promised people that God’s King was coming and that his kingdom was free for everybody to enter. The crowds loved Jesus, but some religious leaders didn’t like what he was teaching, especially his claim to be God.
At this time the people were ruled by the Romans who were often very nasty and forced everybody to pay lots of tax (which is money you have to pay to the government). Unsurprisingly people didn’t like the Romans and looked forward to the day when God’s King would rescue them.
Many people followed Jesus, including twelve men who were his close friends. They are known as his disciples. One spring, after teaching for three years, Jesus and his disciples went to the city of Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover.

Passover reminded the Jewish people how God cared for them a long time ago and how he had rescued them from slavery. Because it was a feast there was a special meal to remember the agreement God had made with them when he rescued them.
As Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem there was a lot of excitement.

It was also a time when people offered sacrifices to God in the Temple because, they believed that these paid the price for what they had done wrong.
Everybody, including Jesus’ disciples, hoped that he was the King they were waiting for. Jesus, however, had warned his disciples that it wasn’t going to be like that and that he was going to die and come back to life. The trouble was they didn’t understand him.
So, when Jesus came into Jerusalem he didn’t ride in as a mighty king on an impressive horse as the people expected, but instead came on a gentle donkey. People cheered but they were puzzled.