

THE ABCs OF EASTER

by Sharon Kirby-Cole



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

The ABCs of Easter

**An artistic children's program
by Sharon Kirby-Cole**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

A CHILD

B CHILD

C CHILD

D CHILD

E CHILD

F CHILD

G CHILD

H CHILD

I CHILD

J CHILD

K CHILD

L CHILD

M CHILD

N CHILD

O CHILD

P CHILD

Q CHILD

R CHILD

S CHILD

T CHILD

U CHILD

V CHILD

W CHILD

X CHILD

Y CHILD

Z CHILD

You may still present this program if your group is smaller than twenty-six by doubling or even tripling the letter parts. For example, with thirteen children, the breakdown is: 1 — A and N, 2 — B and O, 3 — C and P, 4 — D and Q, 5 — E and R, 6 — F and S, 7 — G and T, 8 — H and U, 9 — I and V, 10 — J and W, 11 — K and X, 12 — L and Y, 13 — M and Z.

With nine children, it might look like this: 1 — A, I, Y; 2 — B, R, Z; 3 — C, K, S; 4 — D, L, T; 5 — E, M, U; 6 — F, N, V; 7 — G, O, W; 8 — H, P, X; 9 — Q, J.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Synopsis

B for Barabbas and betrayal, S for Simon of Cyrene and spear ... This A to Z journey through the Easter story is surprisingly comprehensive! Children brainstorm for appropriate words starting with each letter of the alphabet in a relaxed and conversational style with short lines for easy memorization. The children may also draw and paint posters depicting each letter's word during rehearsals. Their simple, sunny creations will charm the audience while reinforcing the message. The children do not need special costumes. In effect, their posters *are* their costumes! The program ends with a simple twist on "The ABC Song."

Posters

- A (Angel) — man in white robe
- B (Barabbas) — man in biblical robe with frowning expression (may be just his face)
- C (Cross) — empty cross
- D (Donkey) — full donkey or just the face
- E (Emmaus) — two biblically dressed figures walking along a road
- F (Forgiveness) — a heart with a jagged line down the middle for brokenness and a Band-Aid over it
- G (Golgotha) — a hill with three empty crosses on top
- H (Hosanna) — a palm frond
- I (Iscaiot) — biblically dressed man with sad expression holding up silver coins
- J (Joseph of Arimathea) — biblically dressed man standing beside tomb
- K (King of the Jews) — crown
- L (Last Supper) — loaf of bread and filled wine glass
- M (Malchus) — close-up of an ear
- N (Nicodemus) — biblically dressed man and a night sky with a moon

- O (Open) — tomb with stone rolled away
- P (Pilate) — close-up of washing hands
- Q (Quickly) — close-up of two hands holding a chunk of bread and dipping them together in a bowl
- R (Robe) — a simple purple biblical robe
- S (Spear) — a sharp spear with a long blade
- T (Thorns) — a crown of thorns or a long-stemmed rose with thorns
- U (Upper Room) — Jesus and his disciples eating in the upper room — sort of a kid's version of Michelangelo's *The Last Supper*
- V (Veil) — a curtain torn in two
- W (Washed) — close-up of a foot, basin, towel, and a washing hand
- X (Xtra Special) — close-up of child's smiling face
- Y (Yellow) — a sun against a blue sky
- Z (Zapped) — lightning bolts going in all directions

14" x 22" is a good size for the poster board. Sometimes these may be purchased in packs of two. Ahead of time, make banners to fit across the top of each poster with each letter's word. You may create them on the computer or hand-letter them. Either way, ensure that the words are large enough to be legible from a distance, and make the first letter of the word larger for emphasis. For the creating of the posters, adults may give the children some guidance, particularly with terms they are unfamiliar with, but the interpretation should be the child's. Large and simple drawings are best, and an adult should encourage them in this direction. After they pencil in their drawing and an adult checks it, they may paint it with tempera paints. Color should fill up the entire poster board. Tempera colors are bright, and a child can fill in large areas quicker than laboring with a crayon or marker. When the paint is dry, the children or an adult can outline each object with a black permanent marker (such as a Sharpie) for more definition. It is an excellent idea to let the children draw and paint their posters during rehearsals. It keeps them busy when they are not actually rehearsing and gives them

ownership in the program. The posters may be displayed in the weeks after Easter so the congregation can get a closer look at the children's artwork.

Children may wear their posters with a string around their necks or they may hold them with their lines written on the back, so there is no need for memorization.

If you are doubling or tripling parts, the children should place their first posters on chairs or a church pew that is placed on the stage area for display. They may keep their last poster to hold as they sing the concluding song.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from The New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

1 *(Adult or teen NARRATOR enters with CHILDREN following.*
 2 *They sit around NARRATOR, each with poster board that*
 3 *he/she tries to keep hidden from the audience until it is his/her*
 4 *turn to share.)*

5 **NARRATOR:** *(Starts off with informal chit-chat.)* **Good morning,**
 6 **everyone! Has it been a good Easter so far?** *(May refer to*
 7 *an egg hunt, Easter breakfast, sunrise service, or something*
 8 *particular to your church's celebration of Easter.)*

9 **ALL CHILDREN:** *(Responding appropriately)* **Yes, it was great! I**
 10 **got an Easter basket. I like hunting for eggs, etc.**

11 **NARRATOR:** **Does it ever seem like Easter is a complicated**
 12 **holiday? Sometimes it's hard to understand it all. We**
 13 **have Lent and Lenten suppers, Lenten vespers and**
 14 **Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs and Easter eggs, and**
 15 *(He/she makes air quotes sign with fingers.)* **“giving up**
 16 **something” for Lent, and all kinds of stuff. Why don't we**
 17 **look at Lent and Easter in little pieces?**

18 **ALL CHILDREN:** *(Ad-lib)* **Yes. Yeah, awesome! Terrific! Oh,**
 19 **but wait, how? I don't know, do you?**

20 **ONE CHILD:** **I know — let's look at the ABCs of Lent and**
 21 **Easter.**

22 **NARRATOR:** **Good idea! That will break it up into twenty-six**
 23 **pieces!**

24 **ALL CHILDREN:** *(Ad-lib)* **OK! Let's go! What's first?**

25 **NARRATOR:** **A is first, of course. What is the A of Easter?**

26 **A CHILD:** *(Stands.)* **Ahhhh, A stands for Apple!**

27 **X CHILD:** **But apples are in the Creation story with Adam**
 28 **and Eve — not in the Easter story. In fact, I don't think**
 29 **there is fruit in the Easter story at all. Welllll, maybe**
 30 **grapes.**

31 **G CHILD:** **Hey — don't go stealing my glory!**

32 **NARRATOR:** **OK, OK, you two. Let's put that energy into**
 33 **finding an Easter A. Come on, everyone, put on your**
 34 **thinking caps and concentrate!**

35 **A CHILD:** **Well, if an apple started the first sin, then an apple**
 36 **started Easter, because without it, we wouldn't need**
 37 **Easter.**

38 **NARRATOR:** **That's very, very good — but can we find**

1 something a little closer to Easter?

2 A CHILD: (*Shows poster of an angel.*) Angel! There was an angel
3 in Jesus' tomb to tell the women that he wasn't there!

4 ALL CHILDREN: (*Ad-lib*) Wow! Awesome. Too cool. I knew
5 that. Good job!

6 NARRATOR: Excellent job. Yes, angel is terrific for an A at
7 Easter. (*A CHILD sits.*) Let's keep going with B.

8 ANY CHILD: Barabbas. I don't know what a Barabbas is, but
9 you always hear about him at Easter, so there you go.
10 Does anybody know what a Barabbas is?

11 B CHILD: (*Stands with poster of a frowning man.*) Barabbas
12 wasn't a what, he was a who. He was a very, very bad
13 man who killed and stole and did other bad, terrible
14 stuff. He was supposed to be crucified, but the crowd
15 wanted him pardoned instead of Jesus, I think.

16 NARRATOR: Yes, that's exactly right. So Barabbas is our B
17 for Easter. (*B CHILD sits.*) Now, what about our C?

18 C CHILD: (*Stands.*) Lots of C's. Christ, Crucifixion, Caiaphas,
19 cross, criminals ...

20 B CHILD: (*Jumps up.*) Wait! I thought of another B! Betrayal.
21 You have to have that, or no Easter! (*To C CHILD*) Sorry
22 for interrupting.

23 NARRATOR: While C is deciding which C word he/she wants
24 to start with, can you tell me what betrayal means, B?

25 B CHILD: Oh, well, it means like when you promise to do
26 something for a friend, and then don't do it. (*Pause*) No,
27 that's not quite right. It's like when you promise to be a
28 friend and then decide not to and go and be someone
29 else's friend.

30 NARRATOR: That's true. Now, who knows who betrayed
31 whom at Easter?

32 MANY CHILDREN: (*Chiming in*) Judas and Jesus!

33 NARRATOR: (*Laughing*) Hands, please. But, yes, you are
34 correct. Judas betrayed Jesus, for what?

35 S CHILD: You'll see when it's my turn. (*B CHILD sits.*)

36 NARRATOR: OK, back to C.

37 C CHILD: (*Stands and shows a poster of the empty cross.*) Well, of
38 course Christ is the most important of all those C

1 words. Another C word, the cross, remains a powerful
2 symbol of Christianity to this day.

3 NARRATOR: It sure does. (*May point out a cross in your*
4 *sanctuary. C CHILD sits.>) D?*

5 D CHILD: (*Stands and displays poster of a donkey.>) Donkey.*
6 Jesus asked his disciples to find a donkey so he could
7 ride into Jerusalem on it at his Triumphal Entry. “Go
8 into that village over there,’ he told them. ‘As you enter
9 it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one
10 has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here” (*Luke 19:30,*
11 *NLT*). D also stands for denied. Peter denied Jesus three
12 times before the rooster crowed.

13 NARRATOR: So we have two creatures — a donkey and a
14 rooster — to go with our D. (*D CHILD nods and sits.>) E?*

15 E CHILD: (*Standing*) E is for Easter! (*Displaying poster of two*
16 *figures on a road*) It’s also for the Emmaus road. After
17 Jesus’ resurrection he appeared to Cleopas there, and
18 Cleopas didn’t even recognize Jesus at first! Eternity is
19 another great E word. Because of Easter, we can live
20 forever in heaven!

21 NARRATOR: E for Excellent job. (*E CHILD sits.>) F?*

22 F CHILD: (*Stands with poster of a broken heart with a Band-Aid*
23 *over the middle.>) Easter is all about forgiveness. It’s the*
24 *most important part! Jesus forgave our sins, and he also*
25 *asked God to forgive those who mistreated him at his*
26 *crucifixion, saying, “Father, forgive them, for they*
27 *know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).*

28 NARRATOR: We can learn so much from his example. (*F*
29 *CHILD sits.>) G?*

30 G CHILD: (*Stands.>) Uh, well, God, of course, and Geth-Geth ...*
31 *Geth something. (Displays poster of a hill with three crosses*
32 *on it.) It’s the hill where Jesus died, but it’s a big word*
33 *and I don’t know how to say it.*

34 NARRATOR: Gethsemane. Everybody? (*ALL repeat symbols*
35 *after NARRATOR.>) Geth-se-man-e. Gethsemane. (*All*
36 *children repeat word.>) Good job! G, Gethsemane is the*
37 *garden where Jesus went to pray just before his arrest,*
38 *but your picture still fits with “G.” Does anyone**

- 1 remember the name of the hill where he died?
- 2 **SEVERAL CHILDREN:** (*Ad-lib*) Gol — Golga — Gol ... well,
3 something like that.
- 4 **NARRATOR:** Good try. Yes, it's another word that's hard to
5 say. (*ALL repeat syllables after NARRATOR.*) Gol-go-tha.
6 (*Again, all CHILDREN repeat word.*) And it's another G
7 word that's very important for Easter. G, you really got
8 a double-whammy. Two tricky G words! Thanks for
9 trying so hard. (*G CHILD sits.*) H?
- 10 **H CHILD:** (*Stands with poster of a palm branch.*) Hosanna! After
11 Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that donkey, people
12 welcomed him by singing praises and waving tree
13 branches.
- 14 **NARRATOR:** Hurrah! That's another way to say, "Hosanna!"
- 15 **H CHILD:** OK, *that* I can understand.
- 16 **ALL CHILDREN:** (*Whooping it up*) Hooray! Hosanna! Woo-hoo!
- 17 **NARRATOR:** Great enthusiasm, guys! (*H CHILD sits.*) OK, let's
18 give I a chance.
- 19 **I CHILD:** (*Stands with poster of a man with a sad expression.*) Is —
20 Is — car ... ?
- 21 **NARRATOR:** That's a hard one. Iscariot. It's the last name of
22 Judas, who betrayed Jesus, and now we all know what
23 "betrayal" means, thanks to B! (*I CHILD sits.*) J?
- 24 **J CHILD:** (*Stands.*) Well, obviously there's Jesus and Judas,
25 but since they've been mentioned before, I'm going with
26 Joseph of Arimathea. (*Shows poster of a biblical man*
27 *standing beside the tomb.*)
- 28 **NARRATOR:** What was Joseph of Arimathea's role in the
29 Easter story, J?
- 30 **J CHILD:** He was a wealthy man who gave his tomb to Jesus.
- 31 **NARRATOR:** Yes, that was money well spent. (*J CHILD sits.*)
32 K?
- 33 **K CHILD:** (*Stands with poster of a crown.*) King. The Bible says,
34 "Above his head they placed the written charge against
35 him: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'" (*Matthew*
36 *27:37*).
- 37 **NARRATOR:** He is also called King of Kings and Lord of
38 Lords (*Revelation 19:16*), and "Lord of Lords" leads us

- 1 right into L. (*K CHILD sits.*)
- 2 **L CHILD:** (*Stands.*) Well, Lent, of course. (*Reveals poster with a*
3 *loaf of bread and a glass of wine.*) Also Last Supper. Jesus
4 and his followers had bread and wine at the Last
5 Supper. Jesus wanted to share the Passover meal with
6 them so they would remember him. We still do that
7 today, when we have Communion in our service.
- 8 **NARRATOR:** We sure do, L. (*L CHILD sits.*) M?
- 9 **M CHILD:** (*Stands.*) M is for the Marys in the Easter story,
10 and also for morning, when they discovered the empty
11 tomb. (*Revealing poster with ear.*) But I'm going to say
12 Malchus. When Jesus was arrested, Peter cut off the ear
13 of one of the soldiers, but Jesus put it back on and
14 healed him!
- 15 **NARRATOR:** Another M word — miraculous! (*M CHILD sits.*)
16 N?
- 17 **N CHILD:** (*Stands.*) Well, I could say nails, for when they
18 nailed him to the cross, but I want to introduce
19 someone here. (*Shows poster of a man at night, with a moon*
20 *in the sky.*) Nicodemus. He was a respected member of
21 the Jewish government who visited Jesus secretly at
22 night to ask him spiritual questions. He also helped
23 Joseph of Arimathea prepare Jesus' body for the tomb.
- 24 **NARRATOR:** He was there in the “nick” of time. (*N CHILD*
25 *sits.*) How about you, O?
- 26 **O CHILD:** (*Stands with a poster of a tomb with the stone rolled*
27 *away.*) Open. When the women arrived at the tomb on
28 the morning of the third day, it was open.
- 29 **NARRATOR:** With a stone that big and heavy, it really was a
30 miracle that it was rolled away. (*O CHILD sits.*) OK, what
31 starts with P?
- 32 **P CHILD:** (*Stands with a poster of a man washing his hands.*)
33 Pilate. He was the Roman ruler who was in charge at
34 the time of Jesus' crucifixion.
- 35 **ANY CHILD:** That where my Mom goes for exercise on
36 Mondays while I'm at school.
- 37 **NARRATOR:** No dear, not quite. Pilate was the Roman
38 governor of Judea, and your Mom goes to Pilates

- 1 exercise class. But they really sound a lot alike, don't
2 they?
- 3 ALL CHILDREN: (*Ad-lib*) Hmmmm, Pilate, pilates, you say
4 Pilate, I say pilates, etc.
- 5 P CHILD: P also stands for paradise. Jesus told one of the
6 criminals he was crucified with, "Today you will be
7 with me in paradise" (*Luke 23:43*).
- 8 NARRATOR: Yes, paradise is another name for heaven. (*P*
9 *CHILD sits.*) Q?
- 10 Q CHILD: (*Stands with a poster of two hands dipping bread in a*
11 *bowl.*) Quickly. Jesus looked right at Judas as they
12 dipped bread together during the Last Supper and said,
13 "What you are about to do, do quickly" (*John 13:27*). He
14 knew Judas would betray him. Also, quiet. Jesus went
15 to the garden that G talked about for a quiet time to
16 talk to God before all the horrible, awful things
17 happened to him.
- 18 NARRATOR: Quickly and quietly. I'll remember those Q
19 words. (*Q CHILD sits.*) R?
- 20 R CHILD: (*Stands with a poster of a purple robe.*) Robe. The
21 soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. Purple stood for
22 royalty. They acted like he was a king and mocked him.
23 Then they put his own clothes back on. After Jesus was
24 crucified, the soldiers took his clothes and divvied them
25 up so that all four of them would have Jesus' clothing —
26 all but one item. This garment was seamless, woven in
27 one piece from top to bottom. They rolled dice for that
28 one.
- 29 NARRATOR: I'm not sure I understand why they were so
30 mean to Jesus. It doesn't seem fair, but it was part of
31 God's plan to save us, so it had to happen. (*R CHILD sits.*)
32 Do you have something to share, S?
- 33 S CHILD: (*Stands.*) Do I ever! Lots of S words. Spear; soldiers;
34 a sponge soaked in vinegar for when Jesus said, "I
35 thirst;" spices, like the women took to the tomb to
36 anoint Jesus' body; Simon of Cyrene, who carried the
37 cross for Jesus; silver, because Judas betrayed Jesus
38 for thirty pieces of silver —

- 1 T CHILD: (*Stands.*) Hey, that's my line!
- 2 S CHILD: Oh — T for thirty?
- 3 I CHILD: I think I covered that in my I word — Iscariot.
- 4 S and T CHILD: (*Ad-lib*) Yes, that's right, sure, etc. (*T CHILD*
- 5 *sits.*)
- 6 NARRATOR: Even without silver, you've still got soldiers,
- 7 sponge, spices, and Simon of Cyrene. Wow. That's a lot
- 8 of S words.
- 9 S CHILD: (*Displays poster of a spear.*) Here's another one.
- 10 Spear. The soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear.
- 11 NARRATOR: How that must have hurt him! (*S CHILD sits.*) All
- 12 right, T. What do you have for us, now that you aren't
- 13 using "thirty?"
- 14 T CHILD: (*Stands.*) OK, I was gonna say tomb, but I guess I'll
- 15 have to say something else that caused Jesus pain:
- 16 thorns. (*Shows a poster of a crown of thorns or a rose with big*
- 17 *thorns.*) It really makes me sad that Jesus' only crown on
- 18 earth was made of thorns. I'll bet it really hurt, too. It
- 19 does when I poke my finger on a rose. Jesus was really
- 20 brave, wasn't he? T is also for Thomas. When Jesus
- 21 appeared to the disciples after he rose from the dead,
- 22 Thomas didn't believe it was really Jesus until he
- 23 touched his nail-scarred hands.
- 24 NARRATOR: Yes, Jesus was really brave, but he suffered
- 25 because he really loved all of us. And Thomas was a
- 26 doubter, but in the end, he believed. (*T CHILD sits.*) U?
- 27 U CHILD: (*Stands and displays a poster of Jesus and his disciples*
- 28 *eating in the upper room.*) Upper room. That's where Jesus
- 29 and his disciples went for their Last Supper. Also up!
- 30 Jesus came up from the grave — at least that's what we
- 31 always sing in church.
- 32 ALL CHILDREN: (*Singing*) Up from the grave he arose!
- 33 NARRATOR: U, yes, that's what we sing, but we know that
- 34 Jesus was laid to rest in a rock tomb, not buried in the
- 35 ground. But you were very clever to think of that. U is
- 36 a hard letter. (*U CHILD sits.*) V?
- 37 V CHILD: (*Stands with a poster of a curtain torn in two.*) Veil.
- 38 Matthew 27:51 states that when Jesus was crucified,



Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

ABCS OF EASTER

by Sharon A. Kirby-Cole.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com