ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?

WRITTEN BY ALISON BREWIS
ILLUSTRATED BY JENNY BRAKE
Two excited children are wriggling in the car.

They're driving down to Granny's, it's really really far!
They're waiting to see Granny and eat an Easter lunch, but most of all they're waiting for some chocolate eggs to munch!
“Are we nearly there YET? When will we arrive?”

“We’re TIRED and we’re BORED from the long, long drive!”
“Just a little LONGER, and it will all be great. I’ll tell the Easter story, so LISTEN while you wait...”
Jesus’ disciples had followed him about. They saw him calm a mighty storm with just a single shout.
He fed 5000 people with just some fish and bread.

"INCREDIBLE! Amazing!"

That's what the people said.
"Are we NEARLY there yet? When will you be King?"

"Show them you’re the BOSS, in charge of everything!"
“Just a little longer, the time has NEARLY come. Soon the world will see, I’m KING of everyone.”
Jesus on a donkey was riding into town.
The crowd was waving gladly,
and laying branches down.
They shouted,

"JESUS SAVE US!"

And,

"JESUS IS THE KING!"

And Jesus’ disciples all turned and said to him...
“Are we NEARLY there yet? Today MUST be the day. They want to make you KING, let’s do it STRAIGHT AWAY!”
“Now the waiting’s over, the time has now ARRIVED. I’ll show them I’m the KING, but I think you’ll be SURPRISED!”
Just a few days later, some soldiers came along, and Jesus’ disciples thought the plan was going wrong.
Jesus was arrested, and on a cross he died.

His friends were sad and worried, they ran away and cried.
“Are we nearly there yet? We thought he was the boss! We thought we’d see him on a THRONE, not DYING on a cross!”
“Just a little longer, HANG ON a little more. We don’t know why we’re WAITING, or what we’re waiting for!”
Now Jesus died on Friday, but when Sunday came around,

the tomb was broken open, an earthquake shook the ground.
“I told you I was GOD’S KING. I said you’d be surprised! It looked like I was finished, but NOW I am alive!”
“Are we nearly there yet? Well, NOW we understand. Dying to forgive us was EXACTLY what you’d planned. We thought we’d cry forever, but it was worth the wait. Now Jesus is the REAL KING, it’s time to celebrate!”
TAKING IT FURTHER

If you’d like to read the stories about Jesus that are mentioned in this poem, then you can look them up in the Bible.

You can find Jesus calming the storm in Luke 8:22-25.


Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey in John 12:12-15.

John 19:16-30 tells you about Jesus’ death.

You can find Jesus’ resurrection in John 20:1-18.
TALKING...

You can discuss the themes raised in the story with your children to reinforce their learning and to help them think about what happened to Jesus at Easter. Here are some ideas...

Talk about the story (or read it again!) when you’re on a long journey. How did the children in the story feel at the beginning of the book? Do you think that’s what Jesus’ friends felt like too? How did everyone feel at the end of the story?

Talk about things that don’t turn out as you expect – an unexpected birthday present or a book or film with a
surprising ending. Why were those things surprising? Were they better (or worse!) than you expected? What did Jesus’ friends expect Jesus to do? How did Jesus surprise the disciples?

Talk about the kings and queens that we read about in stories or watch on TV. How are these kings and queens similar to Jesus? How is Jesus a better king than these kings and queens?

Discuss why Christians see Easter day as a huge celebration. What happened to Jesus at Easter? Why is this good news worth celebrating? Don’t forget to celebrate yourselves!
PLAYING...

If you're feeling creative, why not continue to explore the Easter story through play? While you play you can remind your child of Jesus’ friends and their long wait.

Play an imaginary long journey game. Pack a bag and dress for a journey before ‘hiking’ around the house. As you travel around the house ask, “Are we nearly there yet?” You could have a surprise snack when you reach the mountain peak/top of the stairs!

Bake something with a delicious surprise to enjoy together - cakes, cookies or doughnuts with a hidden jammy centre.

Enjoy breaking apart a piñata together. Emphasize that although you have to be patient and wait for the treats to fall, you do get a delicious surprise in the end.
For Nicholas, Ana and Isabelle

Are We Nearly There Yet?

Text and Illustrations © 2019 Alison Brewis and Jenny Brake.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

Published by 10Publishing, a division of 10ofThose Limited.

ISBN 978-1-912373-55-0

Typeset by Diane Warnes.

10ofThose Limited, Unit C Tomlinson Road, Leyland, PR25 2DY

Email: info@10ofthose.com Website: www.10ofthose.com