

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Religious Studies – Celebrating Easter Part 1

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "sacrifice" means the offering of something to a deity, as in propitiation; something so offered; to surrender for the sake of something else. The word propitiation comes from the word propitiate which means to appease or conciliate. A sacrifice is therefore intended to appease a deity.

In the Old Testament, lambs and other animals were used as sacrifices when persons committed sin. The priest usually offered sacrifices on behalf of the people. Sacrifices were offered year after year for sin.

The New Testament records the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was referred to as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) After Jesus' death animal sacrifices were no longer needed.

Jesus sacrificed His life so that mankind everywhere could have eternal life. Because of Jesus death, anyone who believes in Him "shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This sacrifice appeased God fully. Individuals now have the freedom to approach God because of the death of Jesus (Hebrews 10:22). Through Jesus' death the lives of individuals can be transformed.

Instruction: Explain what you think it means to sacrifice, give examples.

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