

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THE RELIGIOUS ORIGINS OF EASTER AND READ THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students may study the religious origins of Easter in the classroom without offending the Constitution.

The Supreme Court held in Stone v. Graham that:

“the Bible may constitutionally be used in an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like.” 31

A federal appeals court has defined “the term ‘study’ to include more than mere classroom instruction; public performance may be a legitimate part of secular study.”32

Therefore, school officials may constitutionally present Easter passages from the Bible, such as Matthew 1:18-2:22 and Luke 2:1-20, with a variety of teaching methods.

In addition, the Supreme Court has noted, “[I]t might well be said that one’s education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization.”33

The Supreme Court has explained that the “study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education,” is constitutional under the First Amendment.34

[Source : Alliance Defending Freedom](http://www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/content/docs/issues/school/Memo-Christmas.pdf)