

Easter - Jesus dies but comes back to life



SpT2J

Mark 15:21-37, 16:1-8

Aim: to know that Jesus died to save the world but has power over death and is alive today



No other weekend in all of history compares to the Easter weekend. From utter despair in the face of Jesus's death on the cross to glorious resurrection life. Good Friday seems a very strange title, considering Christ's followers mark the day to remember the death of their Saviour, and the saddest day of all time. Jesus's final words: 'It is finished', may sound like words of defeat, yet they were a cry of victory. Finally, the power of death had lost its sting as Jesus paid the penalty for all the sins of the world as he gave his sinless life in our place. 'It is finished' meant he had completed his mission on earth, perfectly! And so, the next part of God's master plan was determined. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the day when Christ rose from the dead. Because of Christ's death and resurrection we have hope. God offers redemption of sin, salvation of our souls, forgiveness, freedom, restoration and everlasting life. This really is the best news ever!



Sing 'If you're happy and you know it

In our stories today there are things that are amazingly happy and other things that are terribly sad. When you hear something very sad give me a thumbs down. When you hear something really happy, give me a thumbs up. Let's practice. Happy, sad. Great. You are ready to take part in the story!



Produce a wooden cross. *Who knows what this is made of? In our first story there's a very big wooden cross. Stand the cross up so it can be seen by everyone as you read the story.* Encourage the children to give you thumbs up and down through the story. Read Jesus Dies (p 205).

Count 3 days exaggeratedly slowly as you count them on your fingers: *Friday, Saturday, Sunday. The next part of the story happened on Sunday. Its much happier!*

Read Easter Sunday, (p 206-207) *That's totally A-MA-ZING! Jesus died so that we can be friends with God again. Then, Jesus came alive again and now we can be his friend, always!* (Use the Makaton sign for always - <https://youtu.be/oK3KWpiolEs>.)



*I wonder how Jesus friends felt when Jesus died on the cross
I wonder what it was like when Jesus wasn't around after he died
I wonder how Jesus's friends felt when they realised he really had come back to life*



Use Luke and John's accounts of the story (p 208 and 209) and discuss the different versions of the story

Read Forgiveness by Cloe and Greg Duggan.

Take a look at our [Holy Week @ Home resources](#) for extra ideas



- Draw round each child's hand on a piece of paper. Draw a smile in the middle. Encourage everyone to re-tell today's story using the upside sad hand when things are sad and the smiley hand when things are happy!



- Make an empty tomb like the one in the picture. Follow this link for instructions of a craft to make with grown ups that helps show the true meaning of Easter. <http://godlyladies.com/easter-cross-craft-children/>



- Provide a quiet area for reflection. Things you might include: cushions for sitting. Quiet music, a lantern with fake candle, a cross and items from today's stories. Easter story books, etc.
- Make an Easter garden (see our [Holy Week @ Home resources](#) for ideas)



Teach the children Makaton for Jesus (Middle finger points to each palm, in turn)

<https://youtu.be/NUeyy2iZk4A>

and love (Cross both arms over the chest)

<https://youtu.be/hnhJTzOr-yY>

Today's signs remind me about our stories. Jesus died on the cross because he loves everyone so much. Please sign with me as we pray.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for dying for us on the cross because

You love us so much.

Lord Jesus, we're so happy that you are alive again.

Amen (Roll arms upwards as you say amen together).



- Jesus love is very wonderful
- I'm Yours
- The Lions Roar



Watch an animation of the Easter story:

https://youtu.be/J_E-3BqqeiU

Encourage families to see how many times they can use the Makaton signs for 'Jesus' and 'love' this week

If you didn't make an Easter garden during the session then gift each family a kit to make their own at home (see our [Holy Week @ Home resources](#) for ideas)