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# The Easter Story



April 2020

We are in strange times at the moment, wondering how we are going to cope with this new problem of covid-19. All the activities we would usually be able to do to celebrate the most important date in the Christian calendar, **Easter Day**, have been stopped. But we can still celebrate at home with our family. Here is a shortened version of the Easter Story with activities. To get ready to hear the first part of what happened at the start of that momentous week:

### Make your own "Hosannah!" branch waver

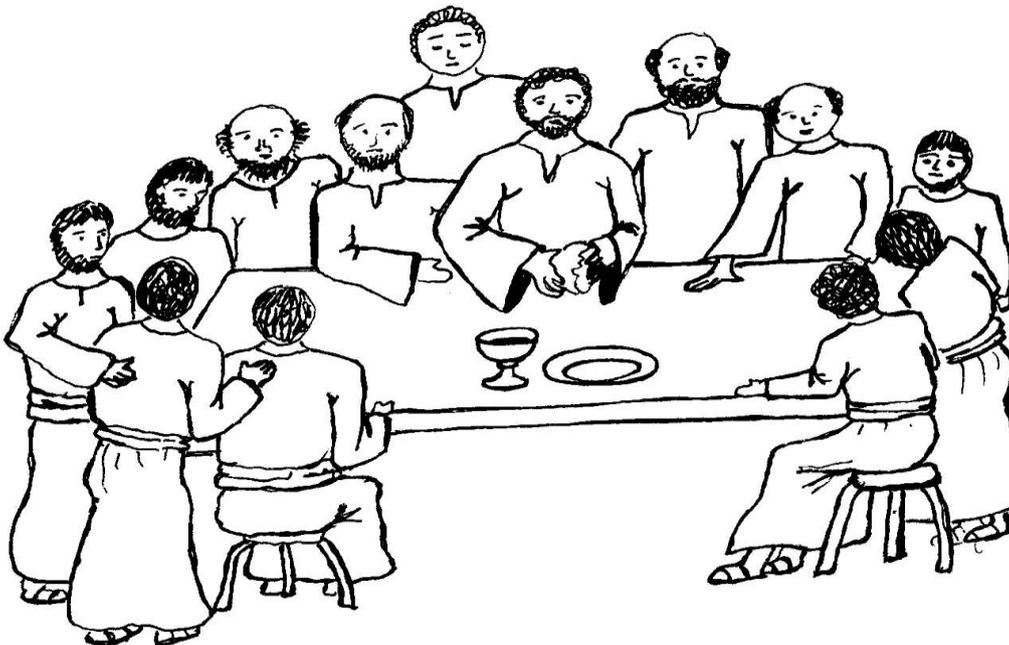
Draw round your hand several times on green paper and cut them out. Then stick them, overlapping, onto a craft stick or a roll of paper.



Have your palm waver ready as you read or listen.

On the Sunday, the day we remember as Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowd was excited. Many had heard of Jesus' teaching and miracles. They longed for a leader who would help them drive the hated Romans from their land. They cheered and praised God shouting "Hosannah! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" They waved palm branches like flags.

During the week Jesus talked to and healed many people. On the Thursday he arranged to have a very special meal with his friends. At the end they shared bread and wine and Jesus asked them all to remember him whenever they met together. He knew this would be the last meal he would share with them all.

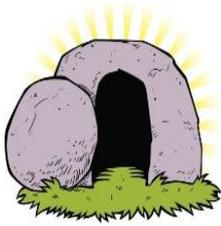


Count the number of people around the table. Which one is Jesus? You could colour the picture.

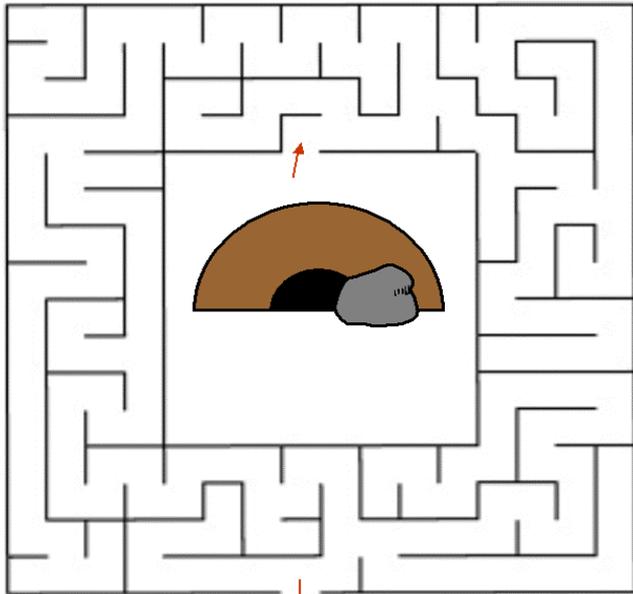
But there were some jealous men who don't like it that many people listened to Jesus and not them. That night, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested and taken away to trial. The trial lasted through the night until on Friday morning Jesus was condemned to death. He was beaten by the soldiers, a crown of thorns put on his head to make fun of him.

Then he was taken to the place where he was crucified on a wooden cross. He died at midday on Friday and his body taken to a cave tomb for burial. A huge stone was rolled over the entrance to block it.





Throughout Saturday, all Jesus' friends hid away in the city, afraid of what might happen to them because they were his followers. But then, early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to check on the tomb and found it empty! She was very sad at first, thinking someone had removed the body of Jesus, but then a familiar voice said her name. Mary was overjoyed to see Jesus standing there. He had risen from the dead and was alive again. This is the message of EASTER.



### Easter Maze

Help Jesus to find his way out of the tomb so that he can tell his disciples that He is Alive!

Here is a simple Easter Morning craft to make using two paper plates and coloured paper. To celebrate the message of Easter – Christ overcame death on the cross.



Many of us will receive lovely chocolate eggs for Easter, representing the new life of Jesus who broke out of the tomb just as a bird breaks out of an egg.

Some might also have a chocolate rabbit. Rabbits were another ancient symbol of new life. Our picture shows how we could think of the **Easter Rabbit** in a new way. Read the captions and then you could colour him in and perhaps cut the panel out and hang it in your home. Could you use your eyes & ears etc like this Easter Rabbit?

We hope you all are able to enjoy a 'stay-at-home' Easter this year.

Has big ears that are quick to listen (James 1:19)

Is white as snow because Jesus takes all sin away (Isaiah 1:18)

Has big eyes to look carefully and choose what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

Has no voice for complaining or arguing (Phil 2:13)

Is gentle, kind-hearted and forgiving (Ephesians 4:32)

Reveals hidden things to little children (Matthew 11:25)

Has quick feet to go tell others Jesus' teachings (Matthew 28: 18-20)

