



# Holy Week @ Home

This year Holy week is going to be different for all of us, so these resources are designed to help you reflect and celebrate at home. Starting with Palm Sunday we are going to explore the events of Holy Week through the creation of an Easter garden. Every day there are suggestions for things to do and think about, and ideas on how you can create your own Easter garden.

- Day One *Pathways - Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem*
- Day Two *Special places - Jesus in the temple*
- Day Three *Water - Jesus washes the disciples feet*
- Day Four *Grains and fruit - Jesus shares the last supper with his disciples*
- Day Five *Rocks and stones - the Garden of Gethsemane*
- Day Six *Wood and thorns - Jesus on the cross*
- Day Seven *New life - Jesus is alive!*

## Read

Most of the Bible stories we are using this week can be found in more than one of the gospels. Capable readers might want to read the different accounts and think about why each gospel writer includes different details and emphasis.

There are lots of narrated versions of the story that you can read as well.

## Say

Each day there will be a short prayer or liturgy to say together.

## Do

Ideas for, and links to, crafts and activities that help you to explore each day's themes .

## Wonder

Wondering together is a great way of reflecting on what you have read/heard without the pressure of right or wrong answers.

Each day there will be wondering questions for you all to consider. Make sure you give time for people to think. Light a candle if this helps people to focus.

## Garden

This section will include ideas on how to add to your garden each day using simple items you might find in your home. Be as creative as you can using what is available. Why not send a picture of your completed garden to your church as part of your Easter day worship, or as an Easter card to remind loved ones you are thinking of them.

# Holy Week @ Home - Day One: Pathways

## Read

*Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11,*

*Luke 19:28-38, John 12:12-16*

It may well have been the children of the city who noticed it first. A ragged procession snaking down from the hill village of Bethany. Curiosity brought many to stare at the unusual sight; this was no wedding party, nor a group of pilgrims headed for Jerusalem. This was different and as the crowd grew, a sudden excitement seemed to grip everybody. Out of the silence grew at first a murmur and then a single shout. "Praise God!", called one. "Welcome to the king!" cried another. The crowd took up the chants which rang out in the spring air. soon all were cheering and clapping, attracting ever more people. Some rushed into the fields uprooting the flowering shrubs that grew alongside the crops, while others broke branches off the trees that lined the track, and waved them as flags of welcome. Cloaks and greenery were strewn on the processional way as the man on the donkey and his friends passed. Slowly the following crowd flowed into the city, convinced that something special was about to happen. Only much later did some realise that they had seen Zechariah's ancient prophecy about God's big rescue plan fulfilled, "See your king comes, gentle and riding on a donkey."

See also *The Great Parade - Lion Storyteller Bible*

## Wonder

- I wonder what the donkey thought as he carried Jesus to Jerusalem
- I wonder what the people thought Jesus was going to do
- I wonder whether Jesus knew what was going to happen in Jerusalem

## Say

Lord Jesus

As we remember you riding into Jerusalem on a donkey we thank you for all the animals you have created

*(ask everyone to name their favourite)*

As we celebrate, like the people on the road, the big truth that you are God's rescue plan, help us also to celebrate the little things in our daily lives

*(shout or sing like the people on the road)*

As we think about the difficult path you were taking towards the cross, we ask that you will help us to have courage when things feel difficult

*(have a moment's silence to think about the difficult things)*

Son of God, be with us we pray

# Holy Week @ Home - Day One: Pathways

## Do

- Hosanna Rock by Praise Team is a catchy and simple song. See [youtube video](#)
- Do *We're all going on a Jesus Hunt* - Interactive rhyme based on The Bear Hunt poem - together. (See next page)
- Make palm leaves out of paper. There are loads of instructions online. Don't worry if you haven't got green paper, it was a hot country so many of the accessible leaves would have been dry and brown
- People laid their cloaks on the road so that Jesus could proceed like royalty or a celebrity on the red carpet. Play a game putting small items of clothing on the floor and seeing if you can get across the room without touching the floor
- Have a go at making a donkey or a donkey mask. There are [some great ideas here](#)

## Garden

Use a flat surface with edges like a tray or a plate as a base for your garden. Cover your base to create the landscape of your garden. You can use soil and moss or paper and fabric.



Create a pathway through your garden. You could use pebbles or decorate paving slabs cut out of a cereal packet.

If you have a toy donkey or you have made one, this can walk the path as the story is being told

*scrunched up brown paper bag*



*side plate*

# We're going on a Jesus hunt

We're going on a Jesus hunt.

We want to see God's son.

What a beautiful day. We're not scared

Uh-oh! Dusty path.

We can't go over it. We can't go round it

Oh No! We've got to go along it.

*Stumble trip, stumble trip, stumble trip, stumble trip*

We're going on a Jesus hunt.

We want to see God's son.

What a beautiful day. We're not scared.

Uh-oh! Donkey poo.

We can't go over it. We can't go round it.

Oh No! We've got to go through it.

*Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch!*

We're going on a Jesus hunt.

We want to see God's son.

What a beautiful day. We're not scared.

Uh-oh! Big crowd

We can't go over it. We can't go round it.

Oh No! We've got to go through it.

*Excuse me Sir, excuse me Mam! Excuse me Sir, excuse me Mam!*

We're going on a Jesus hunt.

We want to see God's son.

What a beautiful day. We're not scared.

Uh-oh! Palm branches.

We can't go over them. We can't go round them

Oh No! We've got to go through them

*Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy!*

We're going on a Jesus hunt.

We want to see God's son.

What a beautiful day. We're not scared.

Uh-oh! Jesus has gone on his way,

He's heading to Jerusalem, there's no more to see,

It's getting late, we have to head home for tea

Quick! Back through the palm branches

*Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy! Swishy swashy!*

Back through the big crowd

*Excuse me Sir, excuse me Mam! Excuse me Sir, excuse me Mam!*

Back through the donkey poo

*Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch! Squelch squerch!*

Back along the dusty path

*Stumble trip, stumble trip, stumble trip*

Back home from our Jesus hunt.

We saw the people praise God's son.

I wonder what will happen next

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Two: Special Places

## Read

*Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:12-18; Luke 19:45-48*

The crowds that followed Jesus' triumphal procession pushed their way through the city gates and followed into the precincts of the Temple. King Herod had ordered a complete refurbishment of the old building and saw it as a potential memorial to his power and authority. Jesus and his friends were familiar visitors to this place of worship, but had always been uncomfortable that one part of it was used as a market place. What was meant to be a sacred space where the ordinary people could worship the Creator God was a busy bazaar where money changers and those who sold animals for the ritual sacrifices noisily vied for customers. The time had come to make a stand; Jesus pushed down the barriers that held the goats and flipped open the cages of the doves setting them free; he overturned the tables of the money changers whose coins spilt everywhere. All around was noise and chaos as the merchants protested and scabbled to collect their possessions. Above it all Jesus voice could be heard as he urged them out of the Temple. calling after them *"My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers."*

## Wonder

- I wonder which bit of the story is your favourite
- I wonder how the people who were there felt as they watched what was happening
- I wonder what a house of prayer looks like

## Say

Jesus, you feel happiness when we do things that bring justice and goodness to your world.

Jesus, you feel sad when people are upset or lonely, worried or scared.

Jesus, you feel angry when you see people doing things that bring harm, or make life harder for others.

Jesus, everyday, all the time, you feel love for each and everyone of us. This never changes. Help us to remember that, and to share that love with all those around us.

Amen

*(Younger members of the family might like to do the facial expressions as you pray)*

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Two: Special Places

## Do

- Google images of *The Angry Christ* and talk about how different artists have tried to make sense of what happens in this story. How do the pictures make you feel? Is this an image of Jesus that you are comfortable with? If not, why not?
- See how many coins you can stack on top of each other before they fall over. When they fall imagine what it must have been like in the temple. If you don't have many coins use blocks or dominoes.
- Do the [Active Prayer from the Diocesan web pages](#)
- Jesus was not cross that people were being noisy in the temple, but he was cross that they were focusing on making money rather than worshipping God. Our worship can be noisy and active ,and quiet and still. Practice silence and stillness by playing *StopStart*“ Everybody has to run around making a lot of noise until you shout 'Stop' when everyone must stand as still as a statue and make no noise. When you say 'Start' they can run around and make noise again. Depending on ages and capabilities try extending the times of stillness and silence.
- Jesus was also cross that the money lenders were over-charging people to offer sacrifices in the temple. Make impressions of different coins by putting them under some paper and colouring on top with pencils or crayons. Talk about how we can use our money for good.
- Ask a dramatic member of your family to pretend to be the donkey keeper and tell the story so far from their perspective. You can use the script below for ideas.

## Garden

Create a special place in your garden, where if you were small enough you would like to sit and think about God, pray and worship him. You might want to create an altar like in church, or you could make a collection of items that are special to you and help you connect with God.

*shiny photo frame and beads*



*olive wood heart*



*sheep to remind me of the good shepherd*

# Donkey Keeper's story

[comes on sweeping before he notices the audience] Oh, hello, mind your feet now, there's a lot of muck comes out of that there stable [indicating behind]. People don't realise you know just how much muck donkeys make, ah but I bet you haven't come to talk about muck. You've probably come to find out about that Jesus bloke, and what he were doing on my donkey haven't you. You're the third today, I'm starting to feel like a bit of a celebrity!

I had no idea how much fuss there were going to be. I mean you don't expect it round here, not much happens as we're right on the edge of the city, no if you want to see exciting you have to head right into Jerusalem by the temple, that's where it's more busy like. I knew of Jesus, of course, everybody around these parts has heard of him, especially after he did that thing bringing Lazarus back to life. He's been sat on those hills many a day, telling anyone that wants to hear all about how God loves them and the like, and I'd heard he made people see and stuff, but bringing someone back to life, that's a proper deal ain't it. But I'd heard he was sound, and I knew he came from a good family, being Joseph's lad an' all. So when his friends came and said he needed the donkey, I didn't think twice, even though it were a bit young to be going out in crowds.

So they took it off, like and I didna' think owt more about it, until I heard the noise. There were people singing and shouting and the like. I ran to the road, just over there, and I almost can't get a see cos there were so many people gathering. They were all looking up towards the edge there as if to see something heading towards the city. That's when I saw him, little Todros, trotting down the hill, like he was God's gift [laughs to self and pauses for effect] Todros, you know, it mean's God's gift... just my little joke... anyway, where was I? yes, there was Todros trotting down the hill and he's only carrying Jesus on his back. And what's more the crowd is going wild. They were throwing their coats and cloaks into the street to create like a carpet for them, and waving palm leaves and singing like.. [mimes branch waving] Hosanna, hosanna, Praise to the Son of David [stops looking a bit embarrassed] hmm, yes, they were all pretty excited and it were a sight to see.

I said to my Mr(s), it were like they all thought he were the answer to all their problems. Like he was gonna change the world or summat. Eh, and maybe he will, you never know. I heard there were all sorts of ructions when he arrived at the Temple. Told them to stop exploiting people in his father's house! Well you can imagine how them Pharisee types took that, can't you - saying that God was his Dad, that's like proper blaspheming that it.

Alls I know is that there is summat about him. He was sat on our donkey and all these people were waving and shouting and he looked pleased, but, well I can't really explain it, he didn't look proud like or embarassed. He just looked like it was how it was supposed to be, and how each and every person there was special. [shaking head] See I can't explain it, but when he got to me and patted Todros and said 'Thank's for God's gift' before riding on, well it just kind of all made sense somehow.

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Three: Water

## Read

*John 13:1-20*

Passover was a wonderful festival that God designed to remind his people each year of their escape from Egypt, though it had happened many years before. Travellers would flock to the city of Jerusalem to be there for Passover, but wherever you were every household ate a very special meal.

Jesus had asked Peter and John to prepare for their celebration feast and all of their friends were there waiting for the party to start. It was an exciting time with memories of the procession into Jerusalem and closing down the market in the Temple still filling their minds. All was ready but one thing had been forgotten; when visitors arrived at a house they were always offered the chance to wash the dust and dirt off their feet. Jesus was their guest of honour, but he shocked them all by rolling up his sleeves and fetching a bowl of water. He did not pass the bowl to somebody else, but knelt down and began to wash dirty feet. Peter, as usual, made a fuss about this, but Jesus spoke gently to him and he allowed the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, to clean his grubby feet. As he finished Jesus told them that this was the way he wanted his friends to be—serving each other with love.

## Wonder

- I wonder what it felt like having Jesus wash your feet
- I wonder whose feet I would find it difficult to wash

## Say

*Encourage everyone to say 'Lord, hear our prayer' together at the end of each sentence*

For the leaders of the world, that they may put aside their differences and seek the peace of Christ, we pray,  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, that she may become a servant offering hope, life, and compassion to all who seek God's love, we pray,  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who receive daily bread in welfare lines, food banks, and at this table, that they may forgive our daily trespasses, we pray,  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, gather your people around your table, that we who celebrate this sacrament may understand what Christ does for us and follow in his way, we pray,  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That we may long for the day when all may feast at the table of our Lord, no one will be an outsider, and all will be loved, we pray,  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Adapted from [Reformedworship.org](http://Reformedworship.org)

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Three: Water

## Do

- Jesus said—'So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done for you'. Take turns washing each other's feet. If you can have some quiet worship music (many church choirs sing '[Ubi Caritas](#)') on in the background to help everyone stay focused but don't worry if it gets giggly. It's an odd and intimate thing to do, that is why Jesus chose it as a symbol of how we are to serve each other with humility. You could use some of the words from the [Maundy Thursday liturgy](#).
- To symbolize walking the Jesus way—the way of love, service and humility— make footprints. You can step in a tray of paint with your bare feet and walk along a stretch of rolled out wallpaper. If you don't have much room, then paint the soles of the feet with a brush and make one imprint on a sheet of paper. You might want to do both of these before the foot washing! If you don't have paint then draw round each other's feet as you stand on pieces of paper or card. You can then decorate each others' footshapes including words of encouragement for each other.
- Draw faces on your feet and get them to tell the story to each other.

## Garden

Make a water feature in your garden to represent the water that Jesus used to wash the disciples feet. It can remind us that Jesus described himself as the water of life, because being friends with him is as important to our well-being as having clean water to drink everyday.



lip-balm  
lid

sweet wrapper  
foil

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Four: Grains and Fruit

## Read

*Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26;*

*Luke 22:14-38; John 13:21-38*

The Passover meal reminded God's people how they had been freed from slavery in Egypt and led back to the land where Abraham had settled. They ate lamb meat and flatbreads with bitter herbs, a meal that recalled the very first Passover. As they sat around eating Jesus spoke to them; although they did not understand all of it, they felt that what he was saying was very special. He warned them that they might not be safe and Peter was told that he was going to let Jesus down. Judas, one of the twelve, slipped out as Jesus spoke, but as he was always coming and going nobody took a great deal of notice.

Then Jesus took one of the flatbreads and after speaking words of thanksgiving to God, he broke it, sharing it out to his companions, telling them that this represented his body, broken for them. He took a cup of wine, again he gave thanks and passed it round saying that this was a picture of his shed blood, and they were to remind each other of this every time that they met. Only much later did the *penny drop* and as they recalled their meal they began to realise what it was all about.

## Wonder

- I wonder how Peter felt at the beginning, the middle and the end of their Passover meal
- I wonder what the disciples thought Jesus meant, not knowing what was going to happen next

## Say

The tradition in the Passover meal is for the youngest member of the family to ask questions that enable the retelling of the story.

Encourage the youngest family member who is able to ask the following questions to enable everyone to pray.

- What are we thankful for today?
- What are we worrying about today?
- Who do we want God to care for today?
- What are we hoping for for tomorrow?

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Four: Grains and Fruit

## Do

- Share a simple meal together sitting on the floor or lying down like Jesus and his disciples probably did. As you do so you can read the Bible story and or talk about what it must have felt like to be there.
- [Godventure have some great materials on their website](#)
- Jesus and his friends ate flatbread because the Passover tradition was to eat 'unleavened bread' - bread without yeast—because the people escaping from Egypt didn't have time to wait for the dough to rise. Try [making some flatbread](#) to have as part of your shared meal.
- In these days where food has been a bit harder to get hold of, perhaps we have become more appreciative of how it is grown and produced and made available for us to buy. Why not have a go at growing some of your own food.

## Garden

If you have some cress seeds or something like that, then make a space in your garden to grow them on some damp kitchen roll or cotton wool. If not then put something in your garden to represent the bread Jesus said represented his body, and the wine that he said was a symbol for his blood.



# Holy Week @ Home - Day Five: Rocks and stones

## Read

**Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52;  
Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11**

Gardens are places of peace and quiet, and so, after their Passover meal, Jesus led his disciples through the quiet streets of the city and out to a place called Gethsemane. He asked his friend to pray for him, and went and found a quiet place to talk to God alone. He knew what was likely to happen and he was not looking forward to it all. It took all his courage to stay obedient to God's rescue plan and he cried out to him asking him to give him the strength and be close to him. When he got back to where his friends were he saw that were asleep, he was sad that they had fallen asleep instead of praying, but gently he roused them. Not a moment too soon, because the darkness was lit by flaming torches and the quiet disturbed by the sound of marching feet. All of Jesus friends were on their feet, wondering just what was going on. Then Judas stepped into the circle of light and greeted Jesus by name. All must be well, but no; Temple guards rushed forward and arrested Jesus. As they surrounded him the disciples ran off. Jesus was their prisoner led to the High Priest's house for a secret trial. In the darkness Peter followed, but he was too afraid to tell people that he was a friend of Jesus.

## Wonder

- I wonder what Jesus was most frightened of
- I wonder what the guards thought of what they had been told to do
- I wonder how Judas felt as he watched Jesus being taken away

## Say

Encourage everyone to think about each sentence and respond with the words that Jesus said in the garden '*Not what I want, but what you want*' if they are able to. Perhaps you can think of some more statements to add to the prayer.

When I don't want to share what I have

When I can't be bothered to help someone else

When I am jealous of what others have

When I get cross that I am not getting my own way

When I can't forgive someone for hurting my feelings

Lord, help me to be as obedient as you were in the Garden of Gethsemane, even when it feels really hard.

Amen

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Five: Rocks and stones

## Do

- Play *Rock; Paper; Scissors* Think about how you are making the choices to ensure that you win. Sometimes it feels very random. Jesus was with God before time began and knew that at some stage they were going to have to do something drastic to save people from themselves. He had the power to walk away. He had the power to make the soldiers disappear, but he chose the hard path to the cross.
- Imagine you are in the garden with the disciples. What can you see? What can you hear? What are you feeling? You could use Meso Mouse's story below to help you start your imagining.
- Jesus knew that it was important to do what God wanted. Talk about the things that are the most important to you and why. Thank God for all these things.
- Look at the [YFC resources](#) for young people who might be struggling with anxiety and doubts in these difficult days.
- Make a picture to cheer up someone you think might be lonely, sad or worried. Think of a safe way that you might get it to them.

## Garden

Place something in your garden to represent the hard place that Jesus found himself in. This could be a rock, or a pile of stones. Or it could be a picture that represents his human doubts and fears.



## Meso Mouse and the stranger in the garden

Meso Mouse scuttled towards the shelter of the rocks at the top of the orchard. He had been scavenging for olives, but now he could hear footsteps coming towards him, which meant danger. Once he was safely hidden in a crack between two stones, he peered out. The footsteps had stopped, and he could see that the human had stopped. Oh good, thought Meso, maybe he is going to have a picnic, and I can feast on the crumbs. Then he noticed the man wasn't carrying anything, and now the sun had gone down. It was probably a bit late for picnics.

Suddenly, the man sank to his knees, as if he had been struck, but Meso couldn't see anyone else. It sounded like he was hurt though, his breath was coming in great gulps and he was moaning from deep within his chest.

Meso crept closer. He was only a mouse, but maybe there was something he could do. The man was talking. Meso's nose twitched, his mum had always said that his nosiness would get him into trouble one day, but he couldn't help himself. The man was leaning on a rock, He could see sweat trickling down the man's face, and his lips moving. Meso heard the words 'father' and 'cup' but it didn't make sense. He tiptoed forward, concentrating on making sure his feet didn't touch any of the dried leaves that might make a noise

"Hello." Meso froze. The man had spotted him, but his voice sounded kind, so he risked looking up. "It's alright, I'm not going to hurt you". The face came really close and Meso could see in his eyes that what he said was true. The man spoke again, "What are you doing out and about so late? Hey, how about some of this?" He rummaged around in his white gown and pulled a crumbling piece of flatbread from his pocket. He placed it on the rock's flat surface, between himself and Meso.

Meso could hear his mum's voice, "don't accept food from strangers" but it smelled so good, and he was so hungry. He dashed across the rock, grabbed the bread and withdrew again to a safe distance. The man chuckled gently. "Don't blame you, better to be safe than sorry" he sighed deeply. "But safe isn't a choice for me I'm afraid."

Meso tried to look sympathetic but his mouth was now very full of that delicious bread. "and yes, I am afraid". Meso wasn't sure how anyone who looked as kind and yet powerful as this man could be afraid, so he continued to chew slowly tilting his head to show he was listening. "Afraid, of what they are going to do, yes, but perhaps more afraid that none of them will understand why this has to happen" Meso swallowed, and took another bite. "I nearly chickened out then, just before you turned up, was asking my father in heaven to come up with a different rescue plan, but I knew it was no use" Again Meso tried to look as if he knew what on earth this man was talking about. "Someone's got to pay the price, and that someone is me. So..."

The man started to haul himself to his feet and dust off his gown. "Here goes. Take care now little one,." And with that, the man headed off back down the hill.

Meso watched the kind man go. He hoped that whatever the man was facing, it wasn't as bad as he thought. When he could see him no more, Meso turned towards home. So much to think about. Still couldn't work out where the cup fitted in, but the father in heaven thing was intriguing. Maybe he would ask Mum when he got home, although he might not mention the bread bit!

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Six: Wood and thorns

## Read

Matthew 27:11-66; Mark 15;  
Luke 23; John 18:23-19:42

Jesus was shuffled around the city of Jerusalem under armed guard for a number of different trials. But it made little difference, even when the Roman governor offered to set him free. The crowd that had welcomed him just a few days earlier now shouted for his execution. He was jeered and beaten, and the soldiers even made him a mock crown out of thorned branches to wear. With a show of reluctance the governor agreed that The King of the Jews could be killed. The Roman's had a very unpleasant way of executing criminals, crucifixion. Even though Jesus had never ever committed any crime but had tried to show people how they might be friends with God, they killed him alongside two men who were indeed guilty of committing crimes. Jesus' mum, Mary, was there along with his very best friend John and they watched in horror as the day wore on. As Jesus died even the sun hid as the world turned dark. It was a terrible day.

Later two men, Joseph and Nicodemus, arranged for the body of Jesus to be buried in a cave like tomb. The religious leaders who had hounded Jesus to death were so worried about what might happen that they arranged for guards to be on duty to prevent the body from being stolen.

See also *A Dreadful Day* in the Lion Storyteller Bible

## Wonder

- I wonder why the people in the crowd changed their minds about Jesus
- I wonder which bit of the story is the saddest
- I wonder what the religious leaders were frightened of

## Say

*As everyone holds the crosses that they have made (see 'Do'), say (and do) the following prayer*

*Wave it like a branch*—Thank you for this wonderful planet: for the sea, sky, plants and animals. Creator God help us look after your creation.

*Hold it like a sword* - We pray for all those who are caught up in conflict and war. Jesus, Prince of Peace, help us to be peace bringers too.

*Curl fingers around the centre or hug it to your chest*— We pray for all those that are lonely, worried or unwell. Holy Spirit, Jesus called you the comforter, help us to bring comfort to those around us too.

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Six: Wood and thorns

## Do

- Make palm crosses from [palm leaves](#) or strips of green paper. There are lots of different sets of instructions on the internet, but [this Youtube video](#) seems the simplest to follow.
- Make some chocolate crown of thorns (nests) either by using a [recipe like this](#) or by melting chocolate (see this [youtube video](#)). Whilst it might feel a little bit odd making something delicious out of an instrument of torture, the purpose is to see the transformation tomorrow when the eggs are put into the nest as a symbol of new life. Jesus took all that pain and shame so that we can have a fresh start and an eternal friendship with him.
- Use the 'Augmented reality' digital resources by Missional Generation to explore the story in a completely new way: Facebook - search Missional Generation; Twitter - @missionalgen; Instagram - @missionalgeneration.

## Garden

Make some crosses and put them in your garden. You often see images of three crosses because the Bible tells us of a conversation that Jesus had with two thieves that were crucified either side of him. The reality is that there were probably lots of crosses on the hillside because this was a common form of execution that the Romans used.



*Cotton buds  
tied together  
with red thread*



# Holy Week @ Home - Day Seven: New Life

## Read

Matthew 28: 1-10; Mark 16:1-14;  
Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-23

Jesus was killed on the Friday, and as Saturday was the Jewish sabbath when no work was done, a group of women set out early on the Sunday morning to make sure that the burial was done properly. As they walked they worried about how they might move the big stone that sealed the grave, but, as they came closer they had a real shock. The stone was rolled away and the soldiers had run off.

There in the early morning light they saw two figures dressed in white, angels, who told them the startling news that Jesus was alive. Mary rushed off to tell Peter and John who ran to the tomb unable to believe what they had been told. Sure enough, the tomb was empty, there was no body there, just the bandages that had wrapped him. They simply could not get their heads around what had happened, and it was not until Jesus himself came to see them later that day that they really understood.

Death had been defeated and the sins of humanity dealt with forever, no more need of sacrifices, Jesus had done all that was needed for anyone who wanted to be part of his own family for ever.

See also *A Happy Day* in the Lion Storyteller Bible and *The Easter Angels* by Bob Hartman

## Wonder

- I wonder what the disciples were thinking and feeling before Jesus came to see them
- I wonder how we can show others that Jesus is alive today

## Say

Loving God,

we gather on morning of your Resurrection. We have been mourning and weeping believing that you have been taken from us. Instead, you meet us in the garden of new life. Here, in this sacred place, we discover that you are alive, that sin and death cannot defeat you. Now our tears of sorrow turn to tears of joy as we experience your presence among us. Today, we begin to understand that joy comes from grief. You call us to go into the world to share this good news, and because we are not left alone, we can pray your prayer. (*Pray the Lord's Prayer.*)

(Taken from the [sunrise liturgy by ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com))

# Holy Week @ Home - Day Seven: New life

## Do

- Make small eggs to go in your Crown of Thorns nest from marzipan or fondant icing as a symbol of new life.
- Chocolate eggs are a symbol of Easter and the new life Jesus brought; in some places they have egg rolling competitions. Have a contest to see who can push their model car the furthest in one go. Roll different sized balls at a target and see who can get the closest, or even knock it down.
- Peter and John raced to where Jesus had been buried, see who can be the fastest to pick up seven different objects one at a time and carry them back without dropping or damaging anything.
- Use the 'Augmented reality' digital resources by Missional Generation to explore the story in a completely new way: Find the links via - Facebook - search Missional Generation; Twitter - @missionalgen; Instagram - @missionalgeneration.
- If you had any chocolate Easter Eggs see who can make the most interesting model out of the discarded packaging.

## Garden

Put an empty tomb in your garden to celebrate that Jesus conquered death, and is alive.

Yoghurt pots work well or an old plant pot.

If you have some, why not cover your garden in flowers as a symbol of joy that Jesus is alive.

*Wooden napkin  
ring with  
stones*



*Plastic  
snack pot  
with lid*