

Children's Church at Home 4 April 2021

John 20: 1-18 The empty tomb

Craft: lolly sticks or twigs, string, maybe some scraps of ribbon, pens, plants or leaves and maybe flowers, soil, a little piece of fabric or kitchen roll, stones. Or Lego. Or modelling clay. Or something else!

First: What do you do when you have something to celebrate? (a birthday, Christmas, a wedding ...)

It's just been the end of term. Was it very busy? Or fun and relaxed? Jesus had a very busy week after Palm Sunday, and it wasn't a load of fun. Not at all.

The Story: Maundy Thursday. It's a very important day for the Jewish people, the Passover, when they remember how they escaped from slavery many years ago. And Jesus and his friends are celebrating as well, having a special meal together. But first, Jesus gets a bowl of water and a towel and insists on washing his friends' dirty stinky feet! Yuk super yukky, don't you think?

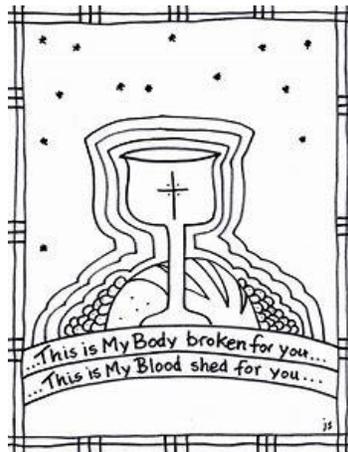
And Jesus tells them, 'you're going to have to look after each other, and sometimes that will mean doing some pretty yukky things for other people.' (Almost sounds as though he's planning to go away, doesn't it?)

You could watch this video: <https://youtu.be/bv5ajWNrnt4>

Or read [John 13: 1-17 ERV - Jesus Washes His Followers' Feet - It - Bible Gateway](#)



Then it's supper time, and Jesus thanks God for their bread and wine and says, 'this is my body, given for you' and this is my blood, shed for you'. a bit strange, don't you think? Does it remind you of anything? Here's the story in a video <https://youtu.be/SigoALSS1R8>



Afterwards, Jesus goes out to the garden to pray. Some soldiers come and arrest him. The people who were grumpy before have stirred up trouble for Jesus, and things go from bad to worse. The crowd who welcomed him on Palm Sunday have changed their minds.

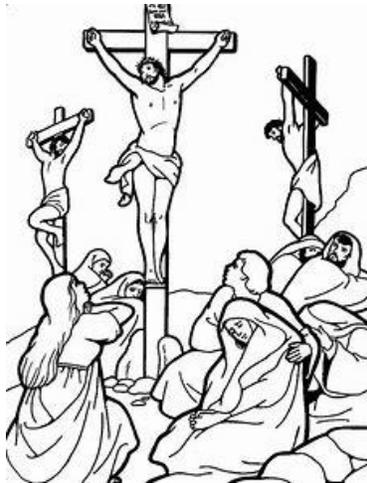
Good Friday. Now they want to get rid of him. He gets beaten up and then condemned to death. The soldiers nail him onto a cross and leave him to die. Poor, poor Jesus.

[John 18: 1-14 ERV - Jesus Is Arrested - When Jesus finished - Bible Gateway](#)

[John 19:16-28 ERV - So Pilate handed Jesus over to them to - Bible Gateway](#)

Watch the whole story here: <https://youtu.be/HL8R158Ujp4>

Jesus' friends and family are devastated. How could this happen? Jesus is the most wonderful person they have ever met and look what's happened to him! A kind man offers his own burial place for Jesus. Everyone goes away, desperately sad and frightened. The next day is the Sabbath, and they have to stay at home.



Easter Sunday. The following day, very sadly, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb to see to Jesus' body. But what does she find? The stone which blocked the entrance has been rolled away. Oh no! What more can go wrong? She runs to tell Simon Peter and another friend, and they rush back with her. There are the cloths that Jesus' body was wrapped in, but no sign of him. Mary peers in. Oh! There are angels there! 'why are you crying?' They ask. 'someone has taken my lord away and I don't know where he is' she replies. Then she turns round and sees a man standing there. 'Please, sir, she says, 'they've taken my lord away and I don't know where he is. Tell me and I'll get him.' the man says 'Mary' and suddenly she realises who it is.



It's Jesus! How incredibly excited she must have felt! More exciting than the most exciting excitement you've ever felt! She thought he was dead, and here he is! 'go and tell the others, he says. And off she goes.

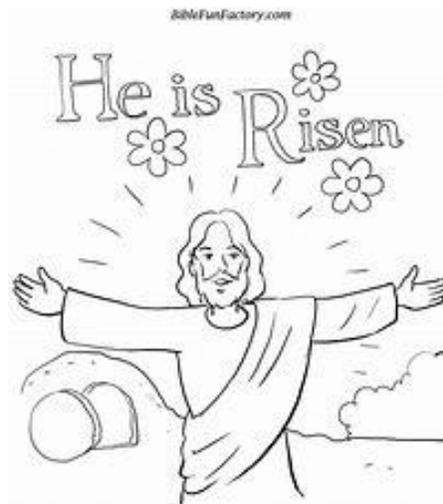
Quiz: On Maundy Thursday, what did Jesus do for his friends? What did he tell them to do? What did he do at supper time? After supper he went to the garden. What did he do there? Who came along and what did they do? On Good Friday, what happened to Jesus?

On Easter Sunday, why did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb? Who did she see there? What did the man tell her to do? How did she feel?

Think: Just when it seems that this is the end, Mary and the others find that it's only the beginning. The beginning of a new life with God. Jesus has died when nothing was his fault. He stepped forward and volunteered to take the punishment for all the bad things people had done. And he still does. Every time we make a mistake, we can say sorry to God, and start afresh, knowing that God has forgiven us.

Craft: Make an Easter garden. Or if you're in Church, there will be some Easter crafts for you to do.

Activity: It has to be an Easter egg hunt.



Prayer: Dear God, Mary Magdalene was so excited when she saw that your son Jesus wasn't dead after all. Teach us to trust you even when we are really worried or sad. You understand, you're there for us. And you will help us to feel better before long. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.