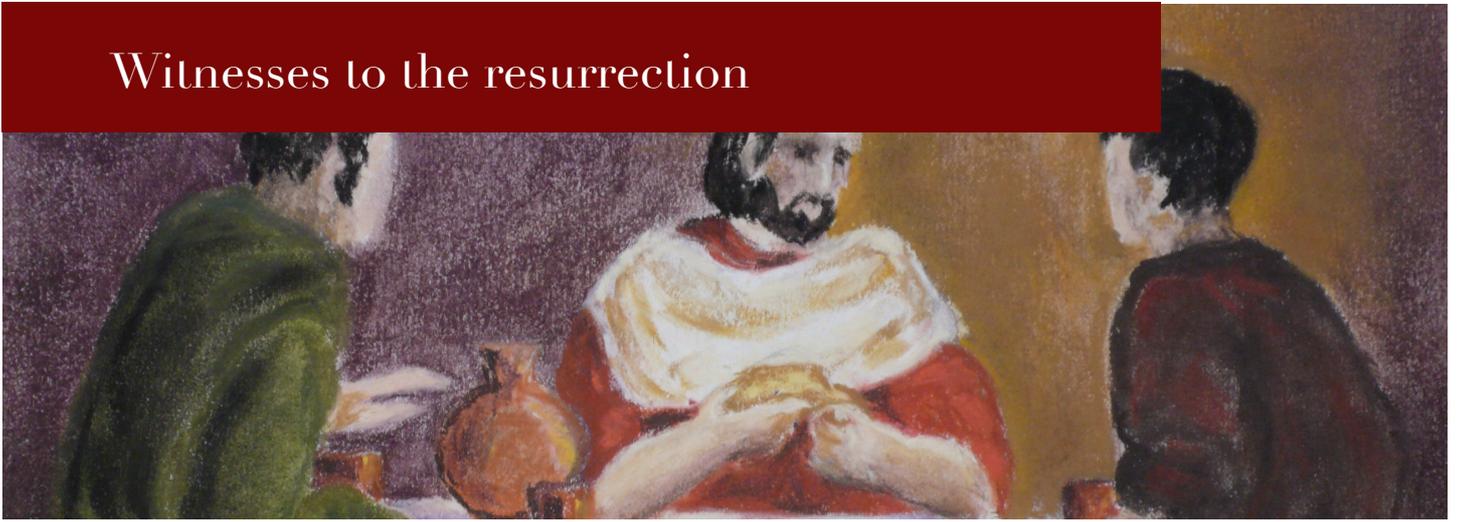


Witnesses to the resurrection



Y1&2 Easter Pause Day: Witnesses

Overall aim:

- To understand the Easter story
- To know that there were many witnesses who saw Jesus alive after his death

Outline of the day:

The start of the day is a whole class activity and will be an opportunity to recap on the Easter story of the death and resurrection of Jesus or to introduce the story to those for whom it may be unfamiliar. The technique used for telling the story uses the teacher as the story teller and all the children as the actors in the story. Following the story there is an opportunity for reflection through a paper tearing exercise and decorating while listening to the song that the children will learn later. The 3 other activities of the day ie the cooking, origami and Hot Cross Bun prayer plates can be organised in groups and then the whole class can be brought back together again for the song.

Please be aware that you may find that there is far too much material, so please select what you need and not worry about items that cannot be fitted in.

Preparations beforehand:

- The Teacher will need to read 'The Easter Story Circle' in advance to be confident when to pause and to change the groups
- Practise making the cross and prepare enough A4 sheets for the class
- Materials to illustrate the cross and possibly a laminator and wool to hang them as a display
- Ingredients for Hot Cross buns and a means to prepare and bake them so that each child can take one home. (A trial run at home might be a good idea!)
- A4 paper for origami book and a practice run
- Paper plates for the Hot Cross Bun prayers with ribbon, wool and glue if necessary and materials for illustrations
- A copy of 'Sunday's Cool Volume 1' Out of the Ark music and CD

Overview of the Day:

Session Aim	Activity
<p>1 To recap on the Easter story or to introduce the story for those for whom it is unfamiliar.</p>	<p>The Easter Story circle - Whole class sit in circle and the teacher numbers each child 1,2,3,4 so that each child is part of one of the 4 groups. When you call group 4 for example all those numbered 4 will go into the middle of the circle. Explain that as each group is called up they will be miming actions to the story that you are reading. It is best not to call the groups sequentially as they will then anticipate their next turn. The script has enough sections for the children to have 2 turns at mime and you will need to allow plenty of time for the miming response to the words.</p> <p>Read script The Easter Story Circle</p>
<p>2 To reflect on the Easter story by tearing paper to make a cross.</p>	<p>Look at the cross (see instructions below) using A4 paper and careful tearing.</p> <p>This activity is easier than it sounds! Go through slowly and clearly step-by-step, giving plenty of time for your actions to be copied and having help available where necessary.</p> <p>When you have all made a cross play ‘When I think about the cross’ from ‘Sunday’s Cool Volume 1’ Out of the Ark music while the children think about the story and colour/decorate their cross. It may be possible to laminate the crosses and then to punch a hole in the top and hang them in the classroom or to make bookmarks.</p>
<p>3 To reflect on the Easter story by making and eating (!) Hot Cross buns.</p> <p>To reflect on the Easter story through song</p>	<p>Hot cross buns have a clear cross on the top to remind us about the Easter story.</p> <p>Make Hot Cross Buns and as you make them discuss with the children what they can remember about the cross from the story. Perhaps suggest that when the children take them home with them that they share them with their family and tell their families as much of the story as they can remember (see separate recipe sheet).</p> <p>Learn the song ‘When I think about the cross when I think of Jesus...’</p>

	Session Aim	Activity
4	<p>To understand that there were many people who ‘witnessed’ or saw Jesus alive again after he had died</p> <p>(You may not have time for this activity but it could always be used as a follow up, or as an RE lesson at some point.)</p>	<p>Make an ‘origami’ book of witnesses (see separate Publisher doc. y1y2-manypeople_origami) Once you have made one you will see that it is much easier than it appears at first! Instructions (with photographs) are in the support material below.</p> <p>There is room for drawing and writing to form the reflection.</p>
5	<p>To reflect on the Easter story and the activities</p>	<p>Hot Cross Bun Prayers</p> <p>Use a paper plate for each child and divide it into 4 sections with a cross in the middle just like the Hot Cross Bun. You could use ribbon or wool for this cross and glue it in place.</p> <p>Each section is for a different prayer:</p> <p>Section 1 Thank you God...</p> <p>Section 2 Please God.....</p> <p>Section 3 Sorry God.....</p> <p>Section 4 I wonder God....</p> <p>Encourage the children to think about the day and what they have thought about the story they have acted in. Remind them of the activities and why they have done them. The children can then draw themselves or others in each section with things they want to say Thank you, Sorry, Please and I wonder about....</p> <p>Here are some ideas of the sort of thing they might say/draw:</p> <p>Thank you God, for hot cross buns.</p> <p>Thank you Jesus, for forgiving the sins of the man on the cross next to you.</p> <p>Thank you God, that people met Jesus alive again.</p>

	Session Aim	Activity
5 Cont		<p>Please God, help people who are sad.</p> <p>Please God, help people to believe that Jesus came back to life again.</p> <p>Please God, help us to share good things with other people.</p> <p>Sorry God, that sometimes we do unkind things to other people.</p> <p>Sorry God, that sometimes we tell lies.</p> <p>Sorry God, that we ignore you sometimes.</p> <p>I wonder God, if this story is true.</p> <p>I wonder God, if Jesus is still alive.</p>
6	To enjoy singing the Easter song	‘When I think about the cross’

The Easter Story Circle - ‘Many people met Jesus alive again’

NB: *During the acting of this, the ‘actors’ choose to mime anything they hear being described.*

It had been a very confusing few days for me. **(Select first group to come into the centre of the circle)** My friends and I have been following our friend Jesus for the past 3 years. We have followed him all over the country and we have watched him do amazing things. I have seen blind people stumbling around, tripping over stones and bumping into trees then suddenly Jesus has made them better and they can see and walk and jump without any problem. **(Change groups)** I have heard brilliant stories about people building houses. In one story Jesus told us about a person who worked very hard to build a house. He sawed up pieces of wood, he nailed them in place, he painted the house and even planted a garden full of trees and flowers but he built it on the sand and of course the whole thing collapsed because it did not have a good foundation. I have seen people whose lives were not very good and who did lots of wicked things like telling lies **(pause for actions)** and stealing other people’s belongings **(pause for actions)** being told by Jesus that he forgave them for the wrong things they had done **(pause for reflective actions)**. I thought it was only God who could forgive sins. **(Pause..... Change groups)**

And now this week Jesus has been arrested by the vicious Roman soldiers who have punched him in the stomach and jabbed their spears into his back and kicked his legs.

They have taken him to stand in front of King Herod who laughed at him and made fun of him because Jesus said that he was a King. Then the soldiers made fun of Jesus even more and pretended to treat him like a king by mocking him and putting a horrible crown made of sharp thorns that stuck into his head. **(Pause....Change groups)**

I watched as the soldiers made Jesus carry a huge piece of wood on his back which was very heavy. He could hardly walk and he stumbled up the hill to the place where they crucified him. Jesus was hanging on an enormous cross with his arms stretched out wide. The sun was beating down on him and he was so thirsty but he hung there with his head down. **(Try to encourage the children in the centre to remain still with their arms out wide while you tell the next part of the story)** On each side of Jesus there were two other crosses and two other people hanging on them. Both these men had been found guilty of killing other people but Jesus had done nothing wrong at all. One of the murderers started saying horrid things about Jesus and Jesus just listened. I couldn't believe what happened next. The other murderer shouted out that Jesus had done nothing wrong and then he turned his head to Jesus as he asked Jesus to forgive him **(pause)**. I thought it was only God who could forgive sins. **(Pause.....Change groups)**

I was sitting at a distance with tears running down my face watching all this take place and then I looked up into Jesus' face and I could tell that he was in great pain but he was looking down at his mother near by and he had tears in his eyes. He spoke to his friend John but slowly because he was in so much pain and he asked John to take care of his mother Mary and to look after her. I will never forget what happened next because the sky went very black and I could hardly see my hand in front of my face. Nobody knew what was happening because it was like the middle of the night in the middle of the day and people were trying to feel their way around with their hands stretched out in front of them. **(Pause....Change groups)**

The sky began to brighten again but when I looked up at Jesus still there on the cross I saw that he had died. My friends and I asked the soldiers on guard if we could take Jesus body and bury it according to our customs. We very gently lifted Jesus body down and we carried the heavy weight to a special tomb. We took long pieces of cloth and wrapped them around his body. We were all crying so much that it was quite hard to see what we were doing. When we had finished we went outside and with the help of the others I pushed and heaved and rolled the enormous stone over the entrance of the tomb. Then the Roman guards shoved us out of the way as they had been told to stand guard beside the tomb in case anyone tried to steal Jesus' body. **(Change groups)**

My friends and I all walked away very sadly and went home to bed because we were exhausted by what had happened. The next day was our special day of rest and nobody did any work so we sat in our houses too frightened to go any where or do anything. But on the following day there was a loud banging on my door and in burst Mary one of Jesus' other friends. Mary was puffing and panting and she could hardly speak. Eventually she explained that she had walked sadly to the tomb to take spices to put on the dead body but when she got there the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty. She bent down to go inside and saw all the special cloths lying neatly folded. Mary was laughing and crying and jumping up and down with excitement all at the same time. She told me that she had then run out into the garden where she had met Jesus and talked with him and that he was alive and well and he had told her to go and tell everyone. **(Pause..... change groups for last time).**

Over the next few days lots of our friends met Jesus. One day 2 of the disciples were walking along a road and a man they did not recognise joined them and as he walked with them and talked with them and ate food with them they realised that it was Jesus. Another day some of Jesus' disciples were sitting together in a house and suddenly they saw Jesus there with them. They jumped up in amazement because they thought he was a ghost. But then he told them all to sit down again and he talked with them and he ate with them and ghosts don't do that. And then there was the time when Thomas met Jesus. Thomas stamped his foot and said that he refused to believe the others when they told him that Jesus was alive. Stamping his foot again he said that he would never believe unless he could see and touch the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands. A short while later when Jesus appeared again he invited Thomas to look at the nail marks and to touch his hands but all that Thomas could do was to kneel down in front of Jesus. **(PauseFinal group sit down)**

Day after day for 40 days after he had died and then come back to life again Jesus spoke to lots and lots of people. He shared meals with them and he helped them and encouraged them and at the end of that time he went back to heaven where he had come from.

Some questions to think about at the end of the story:

I wonder why the 2 people on the crosses next to Jesus were so different in what they thought about Jesus?

I wonder why the sky turned black when Jesus died?

I wonder why Thomas said that he would not believe the other witnesses?

I wonder why Mary was so excited when she met Jesus after he had come back to life again?

I wonder why Jesus did not go straight back to heaven after he had come back to life?

You might like to ask the children if they have any 'I wonder questions'...

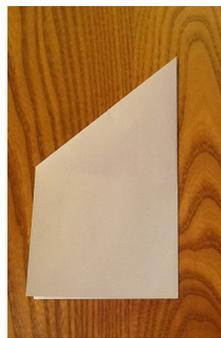
Look at the cross: paper tearing activity

Use A4 paper in Portrait orientation

1. Fold top left-hand corner over to meet the right-hand edge of the paper



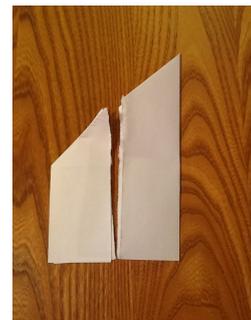
2. Fold top point of the triangle across to bottom-left point (the paper should now look a bit like a house)



3. Fold in half lengthways



4. Fold in half lengthways again



5. From the middle of the square end, tear carefully in half



6. There will be several bits of paper but open out the largest piece to see the cross!

Recipe for Hot Cross Buns

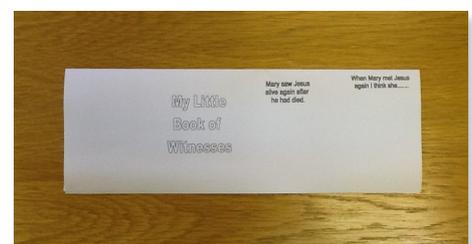
There are plenty of recipes available but here is an example for approx 12 buns

You will need:

1. 400g strong plain flour
 2. 1 teaspoon salt
 3. 1 packet of dried yeast
 4. ½ pint warm water
 5. ½ teaspoon mixed spice
 6. 50g sugar
 7. 50g margarine
 8. 1 egg
 9. 50g currants
 10. 50g sultanas
 11. 100g shortcrust pastry
- Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly and divide into 12 equal parts. Give one part to each child who will knead it for about 5 minutes. Put the dough into a greased bag in a warm place to rise for about an hour.
 - Remove the dough and shape it into 12 round buns
 - Roll the pastry into strips and place across the dough so that each bun has a cross.
 - Bake for 15-20 minutes at Gas mark 7/220 degrees C. If you have room in the oven put a roasting pan of water on the bottom of the oven so that the buns bake in a steamy atmosphere.
 - When the buns are still hot, glaze them with a tablespoon of sugar mixed with 4 tablespoons of water.

Origami witnesses booklet:

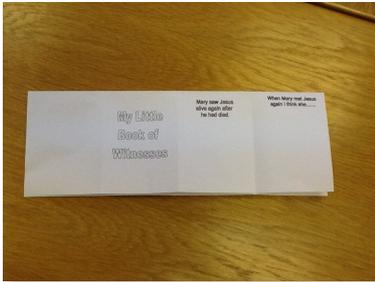
1. Place the Origami document in landscape orientation and carefully fold it in half lengthways with the printed side visible and corners meeting as exactly as possible.



2. Unfold the paper, and refold it in half the opposite (portrait) way.



3. Continue to fold the paper in half so that you have 8 equal sections.



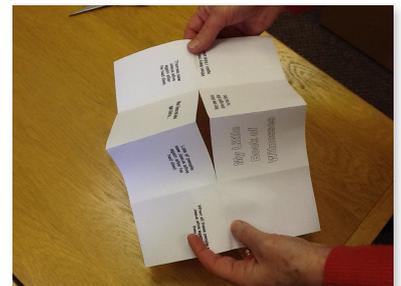
4. Unfold completely. Refold along the longest fold making it very 'sharp' and neat.



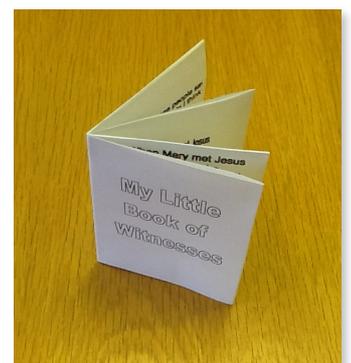
5. Unfold again, and do the same the other way around along the middle fold.



6. Leave the page folded and carefully cut from the middle of the fold to the next fold line. This makes a hole in the middle of the paper.



7. Open the page again, fold it along the longest fold and gently push the two sides of the paper together. It *should* fall into a little book!



Other useful resources for Easter available at Guildford Education Centre Resources:

The Lion Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman and Krisztina Kallai Nagy
ISBN 978-0-745-4980-2

The Easter Swallows by Vicki Howie Illustrated Paola Bertolini Grudina
ISBN 978-1-85345-416-5

My First Story of Easter by Tim Dowley Illustrated by Roger Langton
ISBN 978-1-85985-666-6

The Mini Easter Book ISBN 0 7324 0765 6