



# Nailed!

Rain in the Desert

THE CHURCH  
SCHOOLS OF  
CAMBRIDGE

# Ethos



## Guiding Principles

Evolving out of conversations with children, *Rain in the Desert* promotes a different approach to RE and Collective Worship. Using reflections based on a bible passage, the exhibition gives children of all faiths and none the space and time to consider their own understanding of their place and beliefs.

## How to implement this in the classroom:

### Approach

- \* Speak quietly and slowly, the children will quieten down to listen.
- \* Move slowly and deliberately explaining your actions providing a focus for the children

### Preparation

- \* Make the children comfortable by clearly indicating starting and finishing points
- \* Provide a focal point of interesting objects with a coloured cloth to mark the church season
- \* Use resources that engage all five senses
- \* Give yourself permission to enjoy the experience with the children

### Responses

- \* Allow children the time and the space to respond in their own way
- \* Ask open questions with no expectation of a particular (or even seemingly relevant response)
- \* Avoid imposing your own understanding of a story or activity
- \* Allow children to explore topics which may stir your own emotions and questions, do not feel you have to be able to provide the answers.
- \* Set aside extra time for children to finish responses (perhaps at a break time)
- \* Do not expect responses to be 'display worthy' and avoid marking work produced from a spiritual perspective for something else (e.g. spelling).

# Collective Worship

**Theme:** Changes and Transformation      **CW Focus:** Hopes and dreams

## Opening:

*If possible, close blinds or curtains, and put electric lights on.*

*Hold up a candle*

This is just a lump of wax, but when we light the wick it changes into something beautiful.

To us a candle seems quite an ordinary thing but ...

*Turn off the lights*

... imagine the darkest night, in the days before electricity and gas. Candles would be the only light that people had.

*Light the candle*

In those days, candles were really precious. Without candles, winter nights would have seemed impossibly long – imagine 16 hours of total darkness!

When the candles were lit, people who would have been sitting in the dark, or just going to bed, could carry on working and playing in the evening. Something as simple as a candle could make a huge change in how you lived.

Christians believe that Easter is a time of changes, when sorrow is turned to joy, death transformed to new life, and earth is joined to heaven.

## Stimulus:

Things often change in our lives.

We move house, we go to new schools, new babies are born in our families, and sometimes people die and are no longer with us.

We change – we grow up. We can do new things, think new ideas and learn new skills.

Have you ever dreamed about what you might do one day?

Have you ever thought about what you are now, and what you might become?

**Resources:** candle, 'The Tale of Three Trees' (script included in Teacher Pack), contemplative music, modelling material (e.g. clay, plasticine, play-dough, Model Magic), candle snuffer. *The Tale of Three Trees* Retold by Angela Elwell Hunt, Illustrations by Tim Jonke; ISBN0745946496 Read by Gretchen Steinman on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjlOVijlM3U>

Would you like to turn to the person next to you and share one of your hopes or dreams?

Here's a story about hopes and dreams, and how things can work out in unexpected ways.

*Tell 'The Tale of Three Trees' story, using the book included in the Teacher Pack.*

## Response:

I wonder how the third tree felt when she was lying in the lumberyard all those years?

I wonder if the trees carried on dreaming and didn't give up?

I wonder how we can recognise when our hopes and dreams become reality?

I wonder if our hopes and dreams can ever just be for ourselves?

Listen to the music.

Think about your hopes and dreams. Think about what effect they might have on other people

Now use the modelling materials on your tables to respond to what we have thought about. Each lump can be changed into something new. What will it become? Would you like it to represent what you hope to become?

*After a few minutes, invite the children to come and place their responses near the candle.*

## Closing:

*Ask one child to snuff out the candle.*

As we snuff out the candle, we may think of our thoughts, our ideas, our conversations, perhaps our prayers spreading out, ready to go with us.

Let us go on with hearts filled with hopes and dreams.



# Who do they think Jesus is?

## John: Jesus is my friend and leader

### *Story:*

#### *Picture 1 of John*

This is John. He was one of Jesus' closest friends.

#### *Picture 2 of fishermen*

He was with Jesus from the beginning back in Galilee. He was working as a fisherman with his father Zebedee and his brother James. One day John and James were sitting by their boat mending the nets when Jesus called them.

#### *Picture 3 of Jesus*

John knew straight away that this was someone he had to follow and James felt the same way too.

#### *Picture 4 of James and John*

Jesus liked to give people nicknames. Simon became Peter 'The Rock'. James and John weren't so lucky – Jesus called them 'sons of thunder'. Jesus knew that they could get cross and argue. That was the thing with Jesus. He saw people as they were – you couldn't pretend with him.

#### *Picture 5 of the transfiguration*

John was one of Jesus' closest friends, and there was a time when he thought that it made him more important than other people. Only John, James and Peter got to go up the mountain and see him with Moses and Elijah.

#### *Picture 6 the last supper*

At their last meal together Jesus was talking about the kingdom of God. John and James asked Jesus if they could have the best jobs in his kingdom. Jesus said something that they didn't understand at the time: 'whoever wishes to be first among you must be the servant of all, for the son of man came not to be served but to serve. He came to give his life as a ransom for many'.

#### *Picture 7 of Jesus on the cross*

Now John was starting to understand what Jesus meant. He was talking about this – giving his life for everyone. John realized that he didn't have to worry about whether he was important or not.

#### *Picture 8 of Mary and John beside the cross*

He needed to learn how to serve other people and love as Jesus loved. Just before he died Jesus asked John to love Mary as his mother, and Mary to love John as her son.



# Who do they think Jesus is?

## ***Wondering questions:***

- I wonder when you have been cross and argued with people?
- I wonder if you have ever felt you would like to be the important one?
- I wonder how it is to feel that you aren't important at all?
- I wonder what it means to serve other people?

## ***Response activities:***

*I wonder if you would like to look at yourself in the mirror then think about what you are really like inside? What would be a good nickname for you? You could make yourself a label to wear or put away.*

*Resources: mirrors, labels, pens*

**I wonder if you would like to think about how we can together, then add a link?**

*Resources: linking toy (linking people from Espo if possible:*

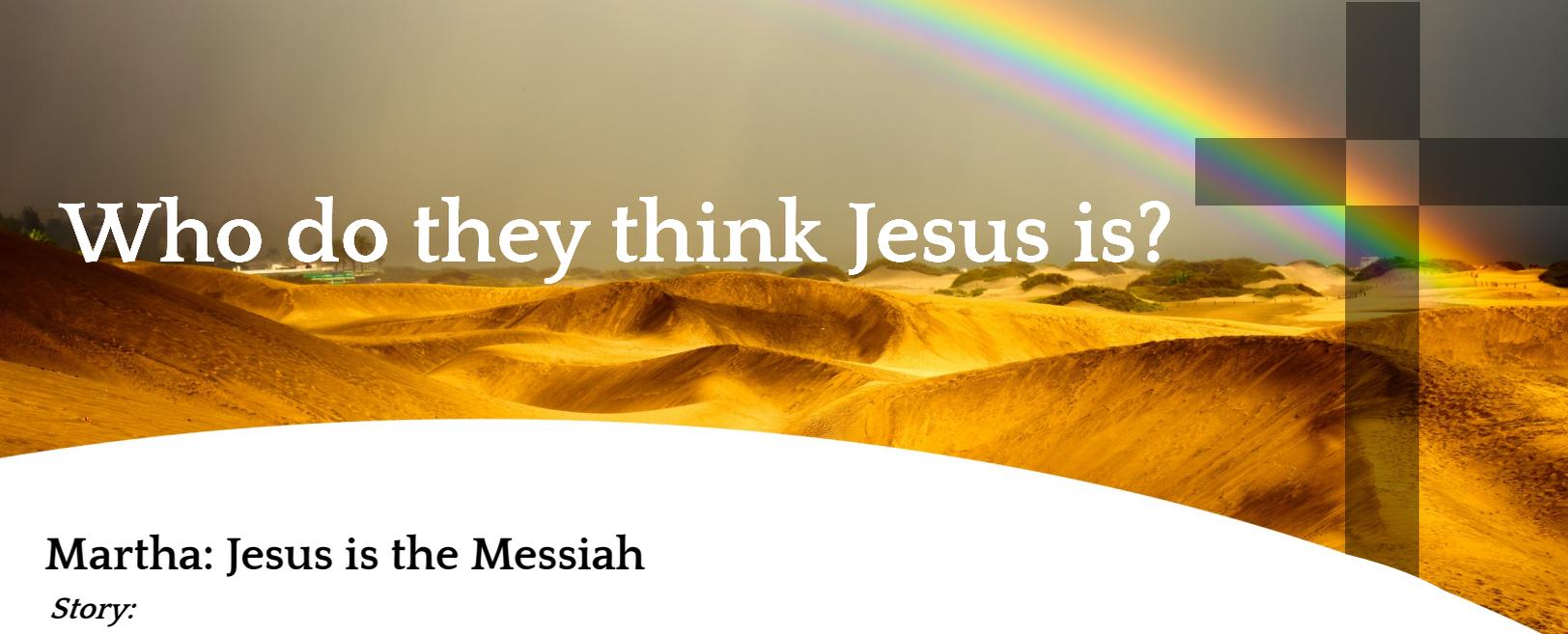
[https://www.espocatalogue.org/WebConnectEPO/MainServlet?storeId=webconnect&catalogId=webconnect&langId=en\\_GB&action=ProductDisplay&screenlabel=index&productId=42256&route=EL-10.EL-2670](https://www.espocatalogue.org/WebConnectEPO/MainServlet?storeId=webconnect&catalogId=webconnect&langId=en_GB&action=ProductDisplay&screenlabel=index&productId=42256&route=EL-10.EL-2670))

## ***Creative response:***

**I wonder what how you can show what this story has meant to you, or what it has made you think about?**

*Resources: selection of art and craft materials to choose from*

We will send you a Powerpoint of the pictures to go with the story



# Who do they think Jesus is?

## Martha: Jesus is the Messiah

### *Story:*

#### *Picture 1 of Mary and Martha*

This is Martha – carrying the teapot. Can you see?

When Jesus came to her house she was left to do all the work.

Can you see her sister Mary? She just wanted to sit and listen to Jesus. Martha pointed out that Mary wasn't helping, but Jesus told her not to worry about so many things: "Just one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the right thing."

#### *Picture 2 of Martha and Jesus*

Another time Jesus came back to visit Martha and Mary, but things were different then. It was Martha's turn to hang on to every word Jesus spoke.

#### *Picture 3 of Lazarus*

Their brother Lazarus had been very ill, so Martha sent a message to Jesus asking him to come and help. Martha knew that if Jesus was there, Lazarus would be well again. But Jesus didn't come straight away, and Lazarus died.

#### *Picture 4 of tomb*

They put him in a tomb and rolled the stone over the door.

#### *Picture 5 of Martha and Jesus*

Four days later Jesus arrived. Martha ran out to meet him, and she said: "If you had been here, my brother would still be alive."

#### *Picture 6 of Jesus*

Jesus replied: "I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this?"

#### *Picture 7 of Jesus as the Messiah*

Martha thought about Jesus' question, and deep in her heart she knew who he was:

"Yes, Lord! I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

#### *Picture 8 of stone rolled away*

Jesus went with Martha and Mary to Lazarus' tomb. He ordered the stone to be taken away, and he called to Lazarus to come out.

#### *Picture 9 of the raising of Lazarus*

Here Lazarus is, alive again after four days. Can you see the expression on Martha's face?



# Who do they think Jesus is?

## *Picture 9 of Mary anointing Jesus*

Jesus visited Martha's home in Bethany for a final time just before the Passover. Again, whilst Martha was serving the food, Mary knelt beside Jesus. She poured expensive perfume over his feet, and wiped them with her hair. Jesus said that she was helping to prepare him for his burial.

## *Picture 10 of an icon of the Risen Christ on the cross*

Now Martha has come Jerusalem. She is in a place that is beyond words. As she looks at the cross her face is full of expectation. Her gaze rests on Jesus - the Son of God, the resurrection and the life. She knows this is not an ending, but a new beginning.

### ***Wondering questions:***

- I wonder how Martha felt when Mary was sitting and listening to Jesus?
- I wonder if you get impatient, or do you find it easy to let things go?
- I wonder how Martha felt when she was waiting for Jesus to come?
- I wonder if you have ever had to wait for anything?

### ***Response activities:***

**I wonder if you would like to plant some cress seeds, and see how long it takes them to burst into life?**

*Resources: cress seeds, cotton wool, plastic cups, watering can or spray*

**I wonder if there is anything you would like to make a new beginning with? You could write it down on a piece of paper, roll the paper and up and tie it with a ribbon, then 'plant' it in the box.**

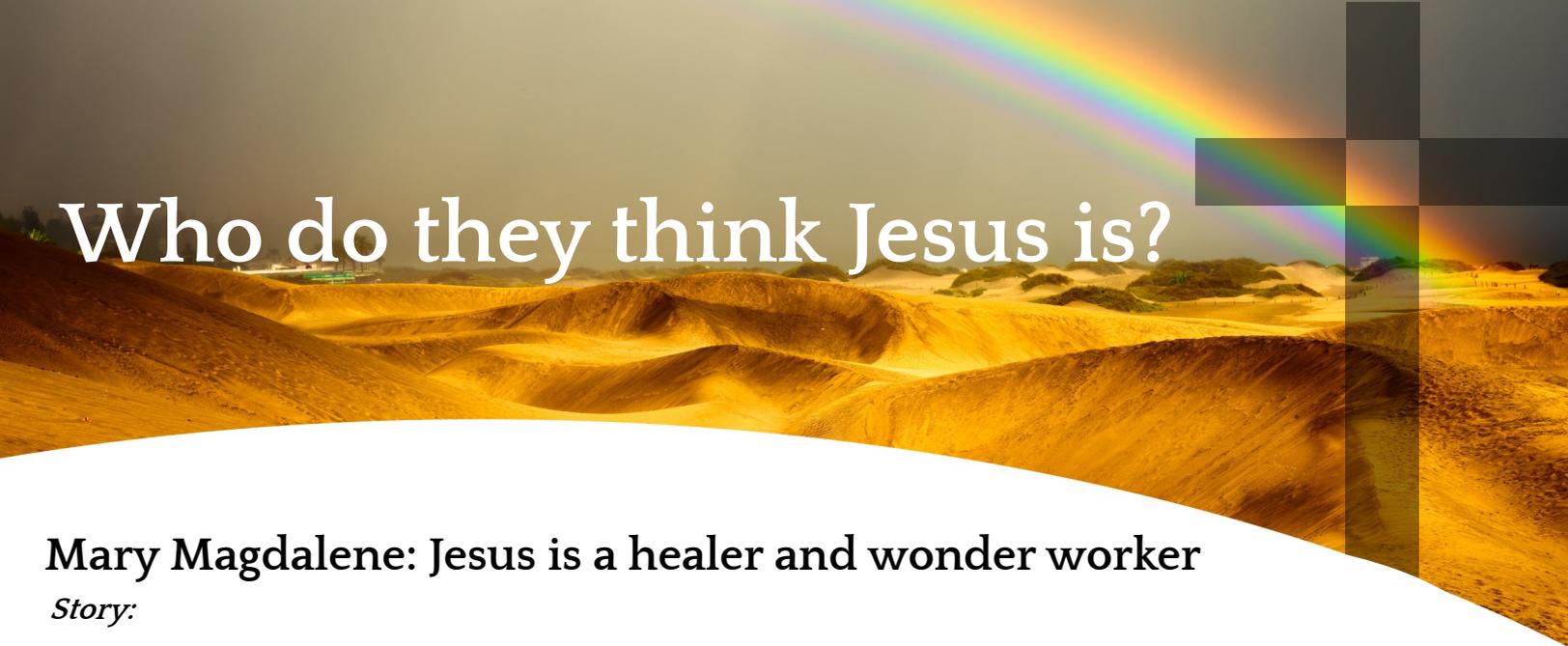
*Resources: pieces of paper, ribbon, pens, box covered with brown cloth.*

### ***Creative response:***

**I wonder what how you can show what this story has meant to you, or what it has made you think about?**

*Resources: selection of art and craft materials to choose from*

We will send you a Powerpoint of the pictures to go with the story.



# Who do they think Jesus is?

## Mary Magdalene: Jesus is a healer and wonder worker

### *Story:*

#### *Picture 1 of Mary Magdalene*

This is Mary Magdalene. Jesus came to her home village, Magdala, and he healed her. As Jesus touched her, her whole body buzzed with energy, and she simply had to experience more. She followed him saw everything that he said and did.

It was wonderful.

#### *Picture 2 of Jesus walking*

As they walked from village to village around Galilee, Mary saw so many marvellous sights, and heard so many amazing words.

After meeting Jesus, ...

#### *Picture 3 of Jesus healing*

the blind could see, and the lame could walk.

#### *Picture 4 of the feeding of the five thousand*

and the hungry were fed, ...

#### *Picture 5 of Jesus calming the storm*

and stormy seas were calmed.

#### *Picture 6 of Jesus with outcasts*

Even the outcasts were made welcome.

#### *Picture 7 of upside down world*

He turned everything upside down and back to front. He said that he meek would inherit the earth.

#### *Picture 8 of Jesus and tax collector*

He visited tax collectors ...

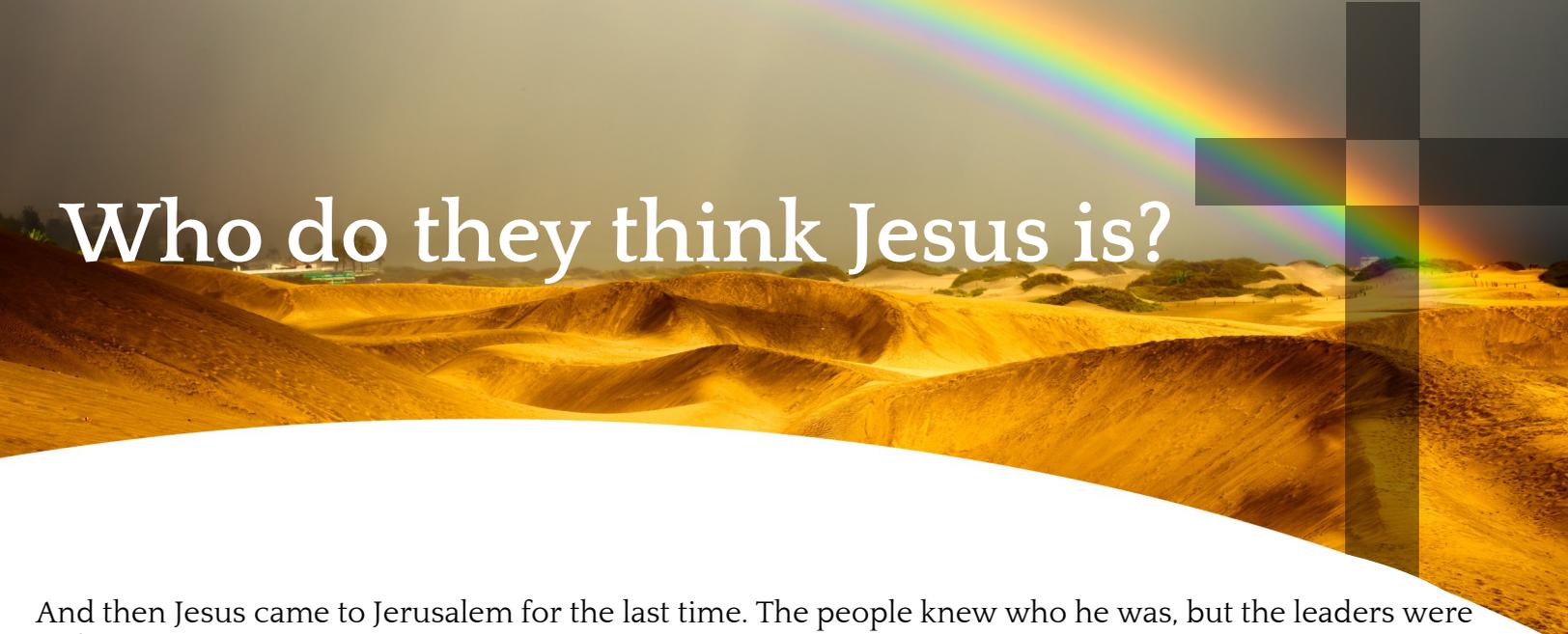
#### *Picture 9 of Samaritan woman at well*

and accepted water from a Samaritan woman.

#### *Picture 10 of Jesus and the children*

He even said that you had to become like a little child to enter God's kingdom.

#### *Picture 11 of Jesus on donkey and palms*



# Who do they think Jesus is?

And then Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last time. The people knew who he was, but the leaders were jealous.

*Picture 12 of Jewish leaders plotting against Jesus*

They closed their eyes to all the wonderful things. They were frightened that everything would get out of control – out of their control.

*Picture 13 of Mary following the cross*

Mary followed Jesus every step of the way. When they seized him, then mocked and tortured him ... when they forced him to walk through the streets carrying his cross.

*Picture 14 of Jesus on the cross*

But he was still out of their control. He still had the power: “Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.

*Picture 15 of Mary by the cross*

And now, here is Mary at the foot of the cross. All the others have gone, but she just can’t leave. Here she is, praying for another miracle. She knows this can’t be the end.

## ***Wondering Questions:***

- I wonder which part of this story you liked best?
- I wonder what was the most important part of this story?
- I wonder how it felt to be healed by Jesus?
- I wonder if you have ever hoped or prayed for something?

## ***Response activities:***

**I wonder if you would like to put a piece of bandage round your wrist and think about or pray for someone who is ill?**

*Resources: tubular bandage cut into small pieces like wristbands*

**I wonder if you would like to stick a plaster on the world and think about places in the world that need healing?**

*Resources: globe or world map, pieces of sticking plaster*

## ***Creative response:***

**I wonder what how you can show what this story has meant to you, or what it has made you think about?**

*Resources: selection of art and craft materials to choose from*

We will send you a Powerpoint of the pictures to go with the story



# The Tale of Three Trees

A Traditional Folktale retold by Angela Elwell Hunt,  
Illustrations by Tim Jonke

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds above him. "I want to hold treasure," he said. "I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I will be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be a strong sailing ship," he said. "I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful king. I will be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down in the valley below where busy men and busy women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave this mountaintop at all," she said. "I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they will raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!"

Years passed, the rains came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me," With a swoop of his axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest," thought the first tree. "I shall hold wonderful treasure!"

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters," thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship fit for kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought him to a carpenter's shop, but the busy carpenter was not thinking about treasure chests. Instead his work-worn hands fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals.

The once-beautiful tree was not covered in gold or filled with treasure. He was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled with the woodcutter took him to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ships were being made that day. Instead the once-strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat.

Too small and too weak to sail the ocean or even a river, he was taken to a little lake. Every day he brought in loads of dead, smelly fish.



# The Tale of Three Trees

A Traditional Folktalk retold by Angela Elwell Hunt,  
Illustrations by Tim Jonke

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

“What happened?” the once-tall tree wondered. “All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountaintop and point to God.

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night the golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox.

“I wish I could make a cradle for him,” her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight she on the smooth and sturdy wood. “This manger is beautiful,” she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and crashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. He knew he did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, “Peace.” The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew that he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through and angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man’s hands to her.

She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God’s love had changed everything.

It had made the first tree beautiful.

It had made the second tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.



# Response Symbols

*During one of the response activities the children will have collected some symbols associated with the story to bring back to school in little bags. The symbols and their meanings, as well as the labels the children will have read as they collected them, are outlined below.*

**Fur** (donkey)

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

**Leaf** (palm branches)

The people waved palm branches and called out "Hosanna!"

**Crown** (Jesus the king)

They welcomed Jesus as a king.

**Dove** ( Prince of Peace)

Jesus came not as a soldier but in peace.

**Candle** (Jesus the light)

Simeon said that Jesus would be a light to save the world.

**Sword** (Mary's pierced soul)

Simeon told Mary that she would feel like a sword was piercing her soul.

**House** (God's Holy Temple)

Jesus said 'Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?'

**Cross** (sacrifice)

Jesus was sacrificed in the name of love.

**Towelling** (Jesus the servant)

Jesus acted as a servant and washed the disciples' feet.

**Bread and wine** (Last Supper)

Jesus shared the bread and wine and said they were his body and his blood.



# Response Symbols

**Petal** (praying in the garden of Gethsemane)

Peter fell asleep whilst Jesus was praying in the garden.

**Feather** (Peter's denial)

Before the cock crowed Peter had denied Jesus three times.

**Heart** (love and forgiveness)

Peter knew he was forgiven and wanted to love as Jesus loved

**Chain** (the dispossessed)

Jesus was there for people who were poor, sick, side-lined and shut out

**Praying hands** (prayer not commerce)

Jesus said my house is for prayer not making money.

**Crown of thorns and purple cloth** (Jesus' passion)

They gave him a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and the sign said: 'This is Jesus, the king of the Jews'

**Glass shimmer stone** (Kingdom of heaven)

One of the thieves said 'Remember me Jesus, when you come into your kingdom'.

**Stone** (earthquake and tomb)

When Jesus died, the sky went dark and there was an earthquake. Jesus was laid in a tomb and a stone was rolled over the entrance.

**Egg** (new life)

On the third day Jesus rose again from the tomb.