

An Easter Adventure



Resources that children and families can use at home during Holy Week and Easter to support the Christianity section of the RE curriculum in school.



Searching Through Holy Week Story Trail

For each day of Holy Week there are pieces of the Easter story to read and symbols to 'find' and collect. These could be actual objects discovered in the home or garden, symbols drawn on card or paper and cut out, drawn on an iPad, or pictures found in a google search.

The symbols can be collected and placed in a physical or virtual story bag, then used to re-tell the Easter story.

Palm Sunday

The Bible says that on the Sunday Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people waved palm branches and threw their coats on the road. They shouted, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!' They welcomed Jesus as their king. *Can you find a leaf to remember the palm branches?*

Monday

When Jesus went to the temple to pray, he saw the merchants and moneychangers. Jesus became angry about people buying and selling things in such a holy place, so he threw them out. He said: 'My Father's House should be a place of prayer not a den of thieves'. *Can you find a candle to symbolise prayer?*

Tuesday

Each day that week, Jesus came to the temple. He taught the people who gathered round him. He said that the poor woman who gave a small coin gave more than the rich man who gave a whole bag of coins, because the woman gave everything she had. *Can you find a coin?*

Wednesday

As the crowds gathering around Jesus grew bigger, the temple guards became worried. They wanted to find a way to arrest Jesus.

Each night Jesus and his friends left Jerusalem and went to stay near the Mount of Olives. One evening a woman brought Jesus a special present of perfume. She poured it over him, and Jesus said thank you for helping him to prepare. *Can you find some perfume or a flower petal?*

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday morning the temple guards were ready, but they couldn't find Jesus anywhere.

That evening Jesus and his friends hurried through the dark streets to the upper room. Jesus washed his friends' feet. He wanted to show them how to help other people. He was a king, but he was also a servant. *Can you find a piece of soap or towel?*

Jesus had his last meal with his friends. He said thank you to God and shared the bread and wine with them. He said that whenever they remembered him with bread and wine, he would be with them. Judas hurried away into the darkness of the city. *Can you find some bread?*



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Maundy Thursday Night

Late that night Jesus went with his friends to the garden of Gethsemane to pray, but his friends fell asleep. The temple soldiers came with Judas through the darkness and took Jesus away with them into the night.

Can you find some dark cloth?

The whole night was one of confusion. Jesus was questioned but he said nothing. He showed them peace. Eventually Jesus was handed over to the Roman soldiers. They dressed him in a scarlet robe and put a crown of thorns on his head. They mocked him, pretending to bow down before him, calling him the King of the Jews. *Can you find some red cloth or make a crown out of bendy twigs?*

Good Friday

On Friday the soldiers took Jesus outside the city walls and put him on a cross. God loves the world so much that he sent his only Son to die for his people. *Can you find two sticks and some string to make a cross?*

They took Jesus down from the cross and buried him in a cave, then rolled a great stone over the opening, sealing it shut like a locked door. *Can you find a stone?*

Holy Saturday

Saturday was so quiet it was as if the whole world was holding its breath. Everything was waiting. What would happen next? *Can you find or make a question mark out of something you have found?*

Easter Day

On the Sunday morning it was the women who had the courage to come to the tomb, bringing spices. They wanted to remember and be close to Jesus, even if it was sad. *Can you find some spices or something that smells spicy?*

When they got there, they found the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. 'Where is he?' they cried. The angels said, 'Don't be afraid, be joyful! Go and tell everyone that Jesus is risen from the dead.' *Can you find an angel or a feather?*

But Mary Magdalene could not leave. She stood crying until someone said, 'Who are you looking for?' She thought it was the gardener, but he called her by name - 'Mary'. She knew the sound of that voice. It was Jesus! He was alive again! She was so happy that she ran to tell all his friends the good news. At Easter time, we decorate eggs to remind us of new life. Chicks hatching out of eggs help Christians remember Jesus rising from the tomb. *Can you find an egg decoration, or something shaped like an egg?*

I wonder which is your favourite part of the story?

I wonder which is the most important part of the story?

I wonder if there is anything you would change?

I wonder where you are in this story?

I wonder how you will re-tell the story of Holy Week?



Creative Activities

Make a model of something from the story or something the story has made you think of, using clay, plasticine, or playdough

No-cook playdough recipe: mix 8 tablespoons of flour and 2 tablespoons of salt in a bowl. In a separate bowl mix 60ml of warm water, 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil and a few drops of food colouring. Pour the coloured water into the flour and mix with a spoon. Dust a work surface with flour and knead the dough until smooth and pliable.

Colour and decorate Easter symbols cut from card or paper e.g. cross, egg, flower, angel. You will need a crayons or pens and/or a glue stick, and could stick on glitter, sequins, pieces of coloured cloth and paper, or natural objects found in the garden.

Weave a cross

Find two straight sticks, tie them together in the shape of a cross, then weave coloured string, wool or thin strips of cloth around them to create a web design.

Bake biscuits shaped like Easter symbols and decorate with icing, sweets and sprinkles

Basic biscuit recipe: mix 100g of margarine and 50g caster sugar in a bowl until creamy. (Optional – add ginger, lemon or orange zest, vanilla or rose water). Sieve in 150g plain flour and stir then knead until a dough is formed. Wrap in cling film and refrigerate for 40 minutes. Roll out and cut with cutters or with card templates and a knife. Bake on a greased tray at Gas Mark 3/1600C/1400F for 12-14 minutes until golden.

Icing recipe: Beat 140g butter or margarine. Add 140g icing sugar and beat until smooth. Add 1-2 tablespoons of milk, ¼ teaspoon of vanilla extract and a few drops of food colouring and stir in another 140g of icing sugar.

Make an Easter garden on a plate

You will need: a plate, soil, gravel or sand to create a landscape, a plant pot or yoghurt pot laid on its side to make the tomb, a stone, sticks and string to make crosses, any natural objects you can find to decorate eg. moss, flowers, shells, pebbles, feathers. OR sprinkle the soil with grass seed and watch it grow.

Make the sounds of Holy Week

Create sounds that describe what was happening on each day of Holy Week.

Use musical instruments, household objects, hands and voices.

Find some Easter Music

Find your favourite Easter hymn or song on YouTube or Spotify and sing along.



Creative Activities

Colour eggs to eat

Soak cooled boiled eggs in natural dyes (in the fridge) for 30 minutes to 24 hours, depending on depth of colour.

Making dyes: bring 2-3 cups of water to the boil, add 1 tablespoon of white vinegar and your chosen dye, then strain and cool the coloured water.

Yellow: 2 tablespoons ground turmeric

Red: 1 cup onion skins

Lavender/light blue: 1 cup chopped red onion skins

Green: 2 tablespoons Matcha tea powder

For a gentler colour, add raw eggs to the pan of dye, boil and eat immediately.

Read an Easter storybook

Easter storybooks told or read on YouTube include:

The Tale of the Three Trees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjIOvijIM3U>

OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5qRzTOpOnk>

Petook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HJXH6tltlw>

Rechenka's Eggs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aXCk5A3X-0>

And instructions to draw your own egg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eWfCS3B984>

Make your own Easter story book

Imagine that you are someone in the story and tell it from their point of view.

What did you do? What did you see? What did you hear? What did you think?

Plan and perform a Holy Week drama

You can find Our Easter Story on YouTube as told by the children of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgFZDCguR8E>

Design some Stations of Holy Week

Make pictures or models to represent stages of the story of Holy Week and lay them out as a trail to follow. You could write prayers to say as you follow along the trail. You could light candles, or leave stones at each stop.

Build the story of Holy Week

using toys, wooden blocks, Lego or Playmobil

See the Easter response: <http://www.spiritualchild.co.uk/cahresponse.html>

Imagine what the Easter angels looked like

Draw or create your imaginings.

For examples of Easter angels in art see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7hZm8DMhMM>