

## Church at Home for Abridge

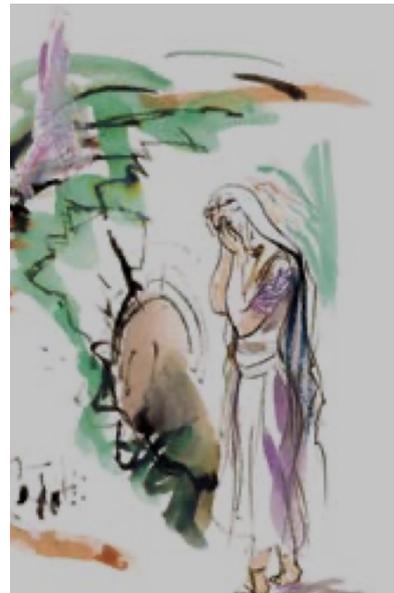
12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### All-age activities for Easter Day

#### Jesus is alive again!

1. Here is a video version of today's story  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgFZDCguR8E>

2. Here are some activity ideas:  
A Scavenger hunt!



## Easter Story Scavenger Hunt

Listed below are ideas for you to find around your house or garden. They are all linked in some way to the Easter Story, found in the Bible. Tick the boxes when you find them. Can you find them all!

Idea: You can do it together as a whole family, or why not have a competition against each other to see who is the winner!

- People waved palm leaves as Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem.  
**FIND: A Leaf (the biggest you can find!)**
- Jesus held a cup of wine saying "this reminds you of my blood shed for you".  
**FIND: A drink**
- Jesus took some bread saying "this reminds you of my body broken for you".  
**FIND: Something edible**
- Pontious Pilate washed his hands and gave Jesus over to be crucified.  
**FIND: Something you can wash your hands with**
- Jesus was dressed in a purple robe.  
**FIND: Something purple**
- Jesus had a crown of thorns put on his head like a pretend King.  
**FIND: Something spiky (careful, nothing dangerous!)**
- Jesus was nailed to a cross.  
**FIND: Something wooden**
- When Jesus died, his body was put in a stone grave.  
**FIND: A rock**
- The woman disciples took lovely smelling spices to put on Jesus' body.  
**FIND: Something that smells nice**
- Jesus was alive again!  
**FIND: Something alive!**
- The disciples were so surprised!  
**FIND: Something surprising (the biggest surprise wins!)**
- It's great news Jesus is alive!  
**FIND: Something happy**

## An edible activity!

This is a way to recap on the whole of the Holy Week story that leads up to the mystery and miracle of Easter Day.

**You will need:** a slice of bread, some chocolate, some jam, sunflower seeds (or something else that is edible and leaflike), some dark food colouring, some butter/margarine, two small bits of cheese, a spreader and a knife.

The idea is to put onto your slice of bread a series of edible objects that link to the Holy Week story.

Lightly spread butter or margarine onto your bread so they objects will stick. Cut up bits of chocolate into the shape of the donkey from Palm Sunday and then put next to it something green and edible to represent the palm leaves. Drop some dark food colouring onto the bread like footsteps to remind you of how Jesus washed his disciples' dirty feet.

Spread and shape a small blob of jam into the cup of wine that they drank at the last meal and beside it put two halves of cheese to represent the bread they shared. Use some of the crust from the slice of bread to make a small cross and then beside it cut a hole and use the cut-out piece as the stone that was rolled away from the empty tomb.

*As you eat this, talk about the story of Jesus in his last week and how he loved his friends right to the very end.*



## Resurrection egg people

**You will need:** some hard-boiled eggs, egg cup holders ( maybe cut from the egg box), washable felt pens, glue sticks, wool, scraps of cloth and anything else that you can find in the home to decorate the eggs as people.

Place each egg into its egg cup holder and decorate the egg as a person in today's story (e.g. Mary, Peter, John, Jesus). Stick on fabric headgear as well as drawing eyes and faces on the eggs.

Alternatively, the eggs could be painted with traditional Eastern European designs for Easter Day such as triangles spirals tripods dots and hearts (*search for Easter European Easter Egg designs on the web*)



**Read the story of the first Easter Day in your Bible as it is record in John 20: 1-23**

### **Suggested visual aid**

Learn the British Sign Language for the name of 'Jesus', which is simply pointing to each wrist in turn, one after the other. In other words, Jesus is recognized by the sign of the nail marks in his hands.

### **Talk about the story**

1. Why didn't Mary recognise Jesus at first?
2. What helped Mary recognise it was Jesus?
3. Why didn't Jesus allow Mary to touch him?
4. What were the disciples afraid of?
5. What sort of body did Jesus have now?
6. What was the new work Jesus gave them to do?

### **Pray with the story**

*'But Jesus is alive'* are four powerful words that sit at the heart of what Christians believe. Make up a series of short prayers together, starting off each time, 'Lord, I know you are alive because.....' Add different phrases starting with the facts of the Bible story itself, but moving on to the things that God has done in history and finally what he has done to show he is alive in your own family life. Each time thank God for what you have said. The traditional greeting between Christians for Easter is: 'Christ is risen', to which the reply is 'He is risen indeed, hallelujah'. Why not use this at the end of each prayer you make?

### **Summing it all up**

**The resurrection** on Easter Day was proof for the disciples that Jesus has won the battle against the darkness on Good Friday.

**The resurrection** is also that moment when that victory became personal to each of those who saw Jesus alive again. They came to know in a deep way that God cared about them.

**This resurrection** moment is when each of us can come to believe that God is real for us.

### **3. Additional ideas**

#### **Talk about the story together**

1. What makes you think that Jesus had planned ahead for this special day?
2. What was so special about choosing a donkey?
3. Why had such large crowds gathered to welcome Jesus?
4. What sort of king was everyone expecting?
5. Why were the Pharisees so upset?

#### **Visual aid**

Find a branch with large leaves to be your 'palms' for this story. You might even be able to find a real palm leaf somewhere or perhaps a cross made from palm leaves.

#### **Activity idea**

Christians usually receive a palm cross at church on the Sunday to remember this story. You may already have one from last year. On the internet there are instructions how to fold paper to make your own palm cross. Once you have something to wave, recreate the sounds of that day calling out the words of welcome from the story and adding a shout of 'Hosanna', which means 'save us', as well as lots of cheering.

Here's a way to make a palm cross with paper:

[https://mommysnippets.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Easy-DIY-Paper-Palm-Crosses-An-FCBlogger-Craft-Tutorial-by-MommySnippets.com\\_.jpg](https://mommysnippets.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Easy-DIY-Paper-Palm-Crosses-An-FCBlogger-Craft-Tutorial-by-MommySnippets.com_.jpg)

#### **Prayer idea**

Use the palms of your hands to signpost different sorts of prayer for this special day. Wave the palms of your hands in praise of Jesus. Hold up your palms asking Jesus to be king of all your life this day. Turn over your palms to let go of all that is bad in your life. Press together the palms of your hands and ask God to help you be ready to say 'yes', whenever the Lord says 'The master needs you'. Stretch out your palms to bless each other in the name of the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

#### **Highlighted verse**

'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord' - Luke 19:38

#### **Old Testament link story**

Zechariah 9:9-10 - Long ago the prophet Zechariah wrote about the way in which the special king from God would arrive in Jerusalem