



10 Ideas for Easter

that can be used with children, young people and families, at home and in the community



NEW FOR 2021
from the Go Team



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10 Ideas for Easter

Introduction

In 2020 we celebrated Easter very differently and 2021 will still have significant restrictions in place. Easter is likely to be different in the way we gather and prepare and in how we celebrate with children, young people and families in our communities.

This resource aims to provide you with creative ideas that can be used during Holy Week as we lead up to Easter. It gives ideas for how to do this safely in household bubbles and in the local community.

The Go Team have collated these ideas with the current COVID-19 restrictions in mind, knowing that they could ease or that we could be in a full national lockdown. We have focused on things you can do as a household or online. Many of the ideas can be adapted to your context and the age and ability of those involved. Full permission is given to adapt ideas in this resource to suit any timings, setting, ability or type of group. Please also consider those with additional needs or special requirements. At this time it may be more about providing ideas and resources that your scattered community can join in with, rather than gathering them together in one place.

If you are planning activities and events for a group you will of course need to adhere to the Government restrictions and guidance in place at the time, ensuring necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions are kept in place and that you have an up to date Risk Assessment. Similarly, you must have all safeguarding procedures in place for in person and online activities.

Latest information and guidance can be found at www.bathandwells.org.uk

As we seek to live and tell the story of Jesus, we hope and pray that these ideas will help you and provide you with some inspiration.

For further help and support contact one of the Go Team Advisers. We would love to hear your stories and experiences of using this resource. Please share them with us by sending us an email or sharing your photos with us on Twitter (@GoTeamAdvisers) and Instagram (GoTeamAdvisers).

For all the latest news, resources and online events please subscribe to our newsletter **Inform** at www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/youth-children



1. Easter in your back garden

Introduction: This resource was put together with the thought that Easter may need to be celebrated at home. There are a variety of resources available for use in our homes, but this simple session is designed to take us outside even if you only have a small garden.

Gathering: What does Easter mean to you?

Allow space to share with one another what Easter means to you.

What does the word Easter make you think of? Are there things you remember about Easter celebrations past, things you did, things you ate or maybe a part of the Easter story itself that sticks with you?

A short prayer: invite a child or an adult in your household to lead you in a short prayer of thanks.

Briefly explain what's going to happen in the rest of the session.

Story: Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Share the story of Easter in two parts based on Luke chapters 23 and 24.

Part 1—Good Friday: Look around your garden to find something to make a simple cross (perhaps a couple of sticks, cuttings from a shrub or some long pieces of grass). Find a comfortable place to sit where you can see the cross you have made.

Read or re-tell the story of Jesus' death from Luke 23. Make sure you read it through yourself first. If you have young children you may want to adapt the story or simplify complicated words and phrases. Equally with older children it can be valuable to share the whole story and not just the familiar parts.

Reflection: Ask everyone to be quiet for a few moments and think about the story they've just heard. Then invite everyone to share 'How does this part of the story make you feel?' and invite any questions or wonderings.

Part 2—Easter Sunday: Have a go at making a simple 'empty tomb' with the stone rolled away from the entrance. Look around the garden for some useful stones or pebbles and perhaps make a 'cave' in a mound of earth.

Read or re-tell the story from Luke 24. The first 12 verses may be enough and it may be good to have someone else from your household to read this part of the story. Again, read through beforehand and adapt to those in your household.

Reflection: Ask everyone to take a few moments to think about this part of the story. 'How does it make you feel?' Finish off by saying something about the hope this brings, that Jesus is alive! Using the last part of chapter 24 (verses 36-53) might help complete the story.



Exploring: New life and new hope

The Easter story has many parallels to the new life we see in Spring, and the hope that it brings. Have a look around your garden for at least three different things that demonstrate new life.

If you are confined to inside, this could even be done by looking out of the window.

- Look for any new flowers or plants that have appeared.
- Look carefully at trees or shrubs for buds or new shoots.
- Notice how some plants die right back in the winter in order to come to life again in Spring.
- Think about what might be underground and yet to appear.
- Take a moment to watch and listen for butterflies, bees and birds—which ones can you identify?

Creating: Easter Garden

Create an Easter scene in a part of your garden, using the cross and tomb you used as a focus for the story, and adding to it other things (e.g. a path of small stones, some small flowers or moss).

Alternatively this could be done in a seed tray or other plastic container part filled with soil (ideally with a couple of small holes in the bottom).

Check out more Easter Garden ideas on Pinterest or at <https://godventure.co.uk/news/easter-gardens/>



Celebrating: He's not here, He has risen!

If possible light a fire and gather around it for the celebration (ensure the fire is contained and that all are aware of the dangers), alternatively light a candle to remind you of Jesus, Light of the World.

Use this simple outline to conclude your time together:

Read aloud Ephesians 2:4-5

Song – Story of the Cross (Rend Co Kids 2019)

Leave space to bring prayers for our world and for ourselves, thanking God for Jesus and all he has done for us through his death and resurrection.

Song – This is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham 2012)

Closing prayer/blessing:

Lord Jesus, you suffered and died for us,
Winning the victory over death for our sakes.
Give us grace to lift you up as we follow the way of your
cross so that all people may be drawn to you. Amen.
Lord Jesus, you have risen! We praise you.

We worship you. We give you thanks. Alleluia!

(adapted from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals)

Conclude the time with hot chocolate and hot crossed buns, or an Easter egg hunt.



2. Easter Walk

This Easter Walk can be done with family or friends, depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in place during Holy Week. Everyone will need to observe social distancing.

The walk can take place close to home, in the woods, in a park, or around a housing estate. Schools can also adapt the walk for school sites or for a Forest School setting. Full permission is given to adapt this resource to suit any timings, setting, ability or weather. Ideally the walk should take place during Holy Week, but it can be done at any time close to Easter.

This walk has minimal cost, as most things required can be found at home; some refreshments to suit your budget, a few small 1p or 2p coins, some string or wool and this sheet with the instructions and readings (there are no images to help minimise printing cost).

Those taking part can be people of faith or not because everything you need is on the sheet; all we ask is that everyone taking part is open to the possibility of encountering God as they walk through the Easter story. There are suggested points to pray, think or reflect, again please be open at these points. The readings are explicitly Christian because this is an Easter Walk, following the account of Holy Week. The Readings have been adapted by Tony Cook from www.communication4all.co.uk/PowerPoint%20Presentations/easter.pps

Before you begin

Instruction: Before you leave home, plan out a circular route with places to stop on the way, including a place to stop and have a snack and drink about halfway.

Action: Collect all you need and get ready to go out for the Easter walk.

1st Reading: Easter is the time when Christians all over the world celebrate new life through the person of Jesus. For three years Jesus had been going around the area with his 12 close friends, known as the disciples, telling people about God, performing all sorts of miracles, healing people and forgiving them from the bad things they had done wrong.

Reflection: Before you leave home, pause for a moment in silence to invite God to show you something new about the Easter story.

Start your journey

Instruction: Walk for a while until you find a safe place to stop.

2nd Reading: Holy Week began with Jesus and two of his friends travelling to a place called Jerusalem. They were on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate a special time for Jews called Passover. Jesus sent his two friends ahead of him to fetch a donkey that was tied up, saying “If anyone asks you why you need it, say the Lord needs it.” Jesus and his friends entered Jerusalem and Jesus was riding on the donkey. People lined the streets shouting ‘Hosanna’ (which means saviour) and they took palm branches and waved them at Jesus, some even took their coats off and laid them on the ground. The crowd were pleased to see Jesus as they were expecting a new king of the Jews.

Action: Collect some fallen leaves and put them in a pile. This is to remind you of the palm branches that people waved before Jesus as they shouted ‘Hosanna’.

Reflection: Think about a time when you have sung a song to God in a church or at school, you might want to share what song comes to mind. At the end (if you are not too embarrassed) you can all shout out ‘Hosanna’ together (loudly or quietly).

Off to the Temple

Instruction: Walk a bit further until you find a safe place to stop, this could be the grounds of a church if there is one on your route.

3rd Reading: The following day Jesus went into the temple. When he got there, he got very upset because people were using the temple as a marketplace, selling all sorts of goods and exchanging money. Jesus told the market traders that the temple was a place of prayer and he overturned the tables and threw them out of the temple. Over the next few days Jesus continued to teach both his disciples and the crowds who came to listen to him. He also said people needed to turn away from the bad things they were doing and turn back to God.

Action: Find some loose stones laying on the floor and turn them over, some may be small stones, some may be larger. As you turn the stones over observe if anything scrambles away, these could be bugs or small insects. This symbolises, Jesus turning over the tables and the people running away.

Reflection: Think about a time when you might have done something wrong or not been kind to someone. This is a bit like the people in the temple. In silence say sorry to God because he always offers everyone a new start. Then turn the stones back over to how they originally were. This symbolises God giving you a new start.

Making plans

Instruction: Walk some more until you find a safe place to stop.

4th Reading: Many of the Jewish religious leaders didn't like what Jesus was saying, so they decided to find a way to hand Jesus over to the Roman authorities to kill him. While Jesus was talking to the people, one of his 12 disciples planned with the religious leaders to capture Jesus and hand him over to the Roman authorities. The close friend who plotted against Jesus was called Judas Iscariot. The Jewish religious leaders gave Judas 30 silver coins to help them capture Jesus. Jesus knew that the Jewish religious leaders were plotting against him. Jesus knew that he would be handed over to the Roman authorities and that he would die.

Action: Take out the coin you brought with you, and either hide it somewhere, or make a small hole in the ground and bury it.

Reflection: Think about Judas and have a conversation about him turning against Jesus. You might want to ask each other why you think Judas did this?

Refreshments time

Instruction: Walk on until you find a safe place to stop and have your refreshments, this could be the halfway point of your walk. If you have hand sanitiser or wipes please use them.

5th Reading: On the Thursday evening before Passover, Jesus shared a special meal with his 12 disciples that we now call The Last Supper. This was because it was the last meal Jesus would have with his disciples before he was to die. During the meal Jesus took bread and blessed it. He gave it to his disciples and said to them, "Take this bread and eat it. This is a symbol of my body that will be broken for you." He did the same with the wine and said, "This is a symbol of my blood that is shed for you." Jesus told his disciples that he knew one of the 12 would betray him by handing him over to the Roman authorities to be killed. Jesus also said that Peter, one of his closest disciples would say three times that he didn't know Jesus. And this would happen before a cockerel crowed. After they had eaten the bread, Jesus took the cup filled with wine and said a prayer. He gave it to his disciples saying, "This wine is a symbol of my blood, it is poured out for many so that all the bad things they do wrong (sins) can be forgiven."

Action: Have your refreshments and a drink.

Reflection: As you have your refreshments, you might want to think about the meal Jesus shared with his friends, especially the significance of the bread and the wine.

In the garden

Instruction: After your refreshments you might want to walk a bit further until you find a safe place to stop, ideally this could be a garden or park.

6th Reading: When Jesus and his disciples had finished their meal, they got up and walked to a garden close by called Gethsemane, where they went to pray. Judas had left the others earlier. Jesus walked a little ahead of his disciples and prayed three times. Each time when he went back to see his disciples, they had fallen asleep. After the third time Jesus prayed, he went to his disciples and said, "Wake up, the time has come for me to be handed over to the authorities." Just then Judas arrived with some men carrying clubs and swords to arrest Jesus. Judas went up to Jesus and kissed him on the cheek. This was the sign to show the men who to arrest. After Jesus was arrested, all the disciples ran away because they were scared. It was during this time that Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples denied knowing Jesus three times. This is exactly what Jesus said would happen. Jesus was first taken to the Jewish religious leaders where he was falsely placed on trial. Many people told lies about Jesus to the Jewish religious leaders as they were scared or paid money to lie.

Action: In this part of the reading, Jesus knew what was about to happen and he was sad, so he spent some time in prayer. In silence or out loud you might want to pray for others or yourself, or just think about them. The pandemic has brought so many sad things, you can silently talk to God about these sad things. There are also some good things that have happened through the pandemic, so you might want to give thanks for these things.

Reflection: Bring all your prayers together with the prayer that Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer. This can be said by one person or all together. Below is a version you could use:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Not such a good Friday

Instruction: Walk on a bit further and find a safe place to stop. On this part of the walk find some twigs or small sticks to make crosses.

7th Reading: The next day was Friday, Jesus was taken by the Jewish religious leaders to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. They told Pilate that Jesus should die. Pilate finally agreed and after the Roman soldiers had made fun of Jesus and beat him up, they led Jesus out to a hill called Golgotha to crucify him. They nailed Jesus to a cross through his hands and feet and after a while he died. After Jesus had died his body was placed in a tomb and a large stone was placed over the entrance to the tomb.

Action: Using the twigs you have gathered and the string you brought with you, make some crosses. You can make as many as you like.

Reflection: Sit in silence for 2 minutes before rushing off on the next part of the walk.

A fantastic Sunday

Instruction: Walk in quiet for the next part until you find a safe place to stop. On this part of the walk find some small stones that can be used in a game.

8th Reading: Early on Sunday morning some of Jesus' friends who were women went to the tomb to mourn, as they were very upset. When they got to the tomb, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus' body was not there. Then the women saw an angel who told them, "Don't be afraid, you are looking for Jesus who was crucified, but he has been brought back to life. Go, and tell his disciples that Jesus is alive and not dead."

Action: The stone that covered the tomb was rolled away because Jesus was alive. Use the stones you have collected to play a game of who can roll their stone the furthest. You can play as many rounds of this as you like.

Reflection: Have a conversation about the good things in life, this can include people and pets.

Nearly Home

Instruction: You should be close to home by now, so find a final safe place to stop.

9th Reading: Over the next few days, Jesus appeared to the disciples and other people many times. He spent time with them and ate with them. Jesus told his disciples that it would soon be time for him to leave them and be with God, but that he would send them a helper called the Holy Spirit, who would help them tell others about him. After Jesus met with his disciples one final time, he was taken up to Heaven. This is called the Ascension.

Action: This is the part of the story where Jesus returns home to be with God in heaven. Each say 3 things that you like about your home.

Reflection: Thank God for your home.

Back at home

Instruction: When you eventually reach home, don't rush off to different rooms as there is the final part of the reading.

Action: Talk about the walk and what you have learned about the Easter Story.

10th Reading: But this is not the end of the Easter story, Jesus told the disciples that one day he would return, but until then all Christians should tell others across the whole world about Jesus. And this is how we join in with the Easter Story.

Reflection: At church people often give each other a hug as a sign of peace. If you are able (depending on current restrictions) give each other a massive hug.

3. Easter 'Hope is...' Photo Challenge

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10: 23

The start of 2021 has been challenging and we have had glimpses of Hope through the prospect of a vaccination, yet we have found ourselves in a lockdown, with continued restrictions on our lives. How do we continue to hold onto the Hope that Jesus promises and keep going in our faith journey at this time? And how do we help our young people to do that? One way is to constantly remind them of the promises in the Bible and of an ever faithful God.

This idea encourages young people to look for hope in the everyday. During Holy Week challenge your young people to take a photo a day that represents 'Hope'. You may like to pose the following questions to them as they consider this:

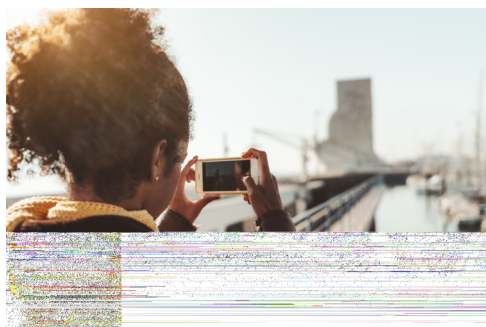
What is Hope?

What does Hope mean to you?

What gives you Hope?

How does God give you hope?

As your young people take the photographs, you may like to find a way to share them with each other. You could do this through social media using #Hopels (please be aware of permissions and [legal ages](#) for various platforms and apps) or in another creative way. Some of your young people may wish to create a collage of their images as a reminder of Holy Week 2021.



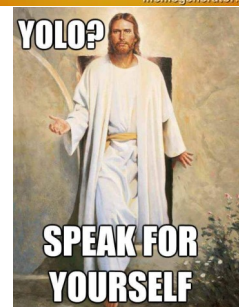
4. Meme for the Easter Story

Young People love Memes! For those who are unsure as to what a Meme is, it is a type of content that spreads virally via the internet. It usually takes the form of a short video, GIF or an image, usually used for humorous purposes.

This idea will work particularly well now we are online, but challenge your young people to generate their own Meme to depict something of the Easter Story. You may even challenge them to share their final version on social media afterwards.

You can find various Meme Generators, but here are some options:

imgflip.com/memegenerator / www.kapwing.com



5. Online Easter session for young people (11-16)

This Easter session is designed to be done online.

Check in: Gather the group as you normally would and check in with each other.

Activity: Invite the young people to scavenge around their house to find a cross. If they can't find a proper cross, they can take a picture on their phone of a cross shape (possibly in a window or on a door, or where tiles on a wall or floor intersect). When they are all back ask them to show their cross or the image on their phone.

Explain: The reason they were asked to find a cross is because during the session the group is going to look at Easter.

Question: Ask the young people what they know about the events of Holy Week, Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. If you have a larger group, breakout rooms could be used or sentences could be posted in the chat or on interactive whiteboards such as Jamboard. Please be mindful that if you are using breakout rooms, the same safeguarding procedures apply as if you were in a building. For example, two DBS checked adults must be in each breakout room with the young people.

Take a look: Below are five suggested YouTube videos that unpack the Easter story through the media of Spoken Word. Leaders can either choose one of these or find their own.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOCAqdg3AFw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KecDVlp9Csl>

<https://skitguys.com/videos/spoken-word-risen>

<https://www.fusionmovement.org/blog/882/arms-wide-open-easter-spoken-word>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojXdFC44UVg>

An alternative to a Spoken Word is to show the two videos from the Bible Project:

Palm Sunday to the Crucifixion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_unHmAf7INk

Resurrection <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb24Lk1Oh5M>

Conversation: After watching the video, have a conversation using some guiding questions, such as:

- What immediately stood out to you about the Easter story?
- Did you discover anything new about Easter?
- Could Easter have been done a different way?

Pause to reflect: When the conversation comes to a natural end, invite the young people to sit in silence for three minutes to think about what Easter means to them. The three minutes silence represent the three days from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. After the reflecting time, invite the young people to share any thoughts they had during this time. Allow time, as it sometimes takes a while for young people to share personal thoughts.



Response: As a way of responding to the reflection, share your screen and play a video of a song with words. Microphones can be muted if any in the group want to sing along or, they can just let the words and music of the song wash over them. Here is a suggested song ('What a beautiful name' by Hillsong): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

Prayer: After the song, a leader could offer a prayer, or the group can have a time of open prayer.

Conclude: As the session comes in to land, invite everyone to say one word about Easter.

Check out: To close the session, have a time of checking out as the group normally would.



6. Holy Week at home activity

This Holy Week activity is designed to be done at home in a single household or with others, with a suggested section each day to follow.

This can be done at minimal cost, as most things required can be found at home, and photos can be taken on a mobile phone. You will need a copy of the following sheets for the relevant sections of the poem each day and to follow the suggested instructions (there are no images to help minimise printing costs). Some permission may be needed for the Monday and Saturday activities or you can do alternative activities. The reflection time increases by 30 seconds each day, so allow time for this. Most days this should not take longer than 10-20 minutes.

This resource is suitable for people of faith as well as those with none, as everything you need is on the sheet. All we ask is that everyone taking part is open to the possibility of encountering God as they journey each day with the resource through Holy Week. The poem is an original by Tony Cook that is written to help tell the accounts of Holy Week in a slightly different way. If you'd rather, you could use the suggested bible readings instead of the poem.

Holy Week day	Poem To be read out aloud in sections relevant to each day Or use the bible reading (or both)	Fun activity These are just suggestions, be as creative as you like.	Reflection Time increases each day
Palm Sunday	The people of Jerusalem filled up the streets, For a glimpse of a king they wanted to meet. Waving their branches and shouted a-loud, As Jesus rode humbly, in front of the crowd. Hosanna, hosanna the people declared, While religious leaders, gazed in despair. For this was a king, like no king before, The kingdom of God he came to restore. Or (Matthew 21:1-11)	If you have a garden, find as many fallen leaves as you can, then arrange them on a flat surface and take a photo. If you can't find fallen leaves, take pictures of as many different leaves. If you don't have a garden, make a palm branch out of scrap materials that can be found at home and take a photo.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 30 seconds to think about it and listen to God.
Monday	So off to the temple this king went to pray, It broke him inside, what he found there that day A den full of traders, without even care, So he busted some tables to make them aware. Or (Matthew 21:12-13)	Move around your house and carefully and safely place any tables and chairs upside down. Then take a photo. Re-member to turn them back up the right way when you have finished.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 1 minute to think about it and listen to God.
Tuesday	The leaders grew fearful of Jesus' fame, So they plotted in secret, in ending his game. They just needed someone, an internal spy, To quash this rebellion, and put an end to this guy. Or (Matthew 26:3-5)	Dress up in work style clothes, and then give everyone a book or makeshift clipboard. Make a small circle of chairs and sit around looking important as though you are planning something. Then take a photo.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 1min 30secs to think about it and listen to God.
Wednesday	So up pops poor Judas to lift off the lid, A well known thief, who'd do 'ought' for a quid. So the money was paid for a place, and a time, And just to make sure, a kiss was the sign. Or (Matthew 26:14-16)	Rummage around the house for any coins or loose change; ideally see if you can find 30, because this was the amount of coins Judas betrayed Jesus for. When you have gathered your coins, lay them out and take a photo	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 2 minutes to think about it and listen to God.

Holy Week day	Poem To be read out aloud in sections relevant to each day Or use the bible reading (or both)	Fun activity These are just suggestions, be as creative as you like.	Reflection Time increases each day
Maundy Thursday	They sat down for supper, now known as the last, Jesus was troubled, for he knew what would pass. So taking the bread he declared it a token, For this is my body, for you it is broken. After they'd eaten he turned to the wine, The hour had come, and now was the time. So lifting the wine cup, he blessed it and said, This is my life blood, for you it is shed. Or (Matthew 26:26-29 and 36-51)	Make some food together, this could be a snack or a meal, you decide. Then take a photo of the food with you eating it together.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 2mins 30 secs to think about it and listen to God.
Good Friday	With the pain of betrayal, Jesus knew what was next, His friends all had scattered, even Peter had left. The trial was a 'done deal', and death the command, His fate had been sealed by the washing of hands. The hope of the people had now all been lost, As this innocent man was nailed to a cross. At midday it darkened, and down went the sun, At three Jesus cried out, to say it is done. Or (Matthew 27:11-50)	In most households there are places where crosses naturally appear. It could be in a window or the joints on tiles in a kitchen or a bathroom. See how many you can find and take photos of them.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 3 minutes to think about it and listen to God.
Saturday	With the sadness of Friday, and a deepening gloom, His body was taken and placed in a tomb. They perfumed with spices, with respect for the dead, And they wrapped him in linen from his feet to his head. They knew it was final but just to be sure, They rolled out a big stone and covered the door. Some lost a brother, and some their dear friend, Hope had been shattered, but was this the end? Or (Matthew 27:57-66)	Using a kitchen or dining room table and some bed sheets, construct a makeshift tomb. All sit in it and then take a photo.	Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this sit in silence for 3mins 30secs to think about it and listen to God.

Holy Week day	Poem To be read out aloud in sections relevant to each day Or use the bible reading (or both)	Fun activity These are just suggestions, be as creative as you like.	Reflection Time increases each day
Easter Sunday	<p>At first light of dawn, when the sun did arise, The tomb now was empty, this man was alive. This was not the ending, and hope was not lost. The price had been paid for our sin on the cross. So who was this man, and what does this mean, The God of the universe, in Jesus was seen. So don't trust in false hope, put your trust in this king, For Jesus is risen, and hosanna we sing.</p> <p>Or (Matthew 28:1-10)</p>	<p>Dress up in party style clothes and take a photo of you all dancing about and singing hosanna.</p> <p>Scroll back through your photographs of Holy Week and all the activities you have done. You might want to have a conversation about each day.</p>	<p>Have a conversation about the poem and activity. After you have done this move about or dance about for 4 minutes to celebrate Easter. This could work off the chocolate from the Easter eggs! If it helps you could put on a song to dance along to.</p>

7. It's Easter! Bible Chat Mat

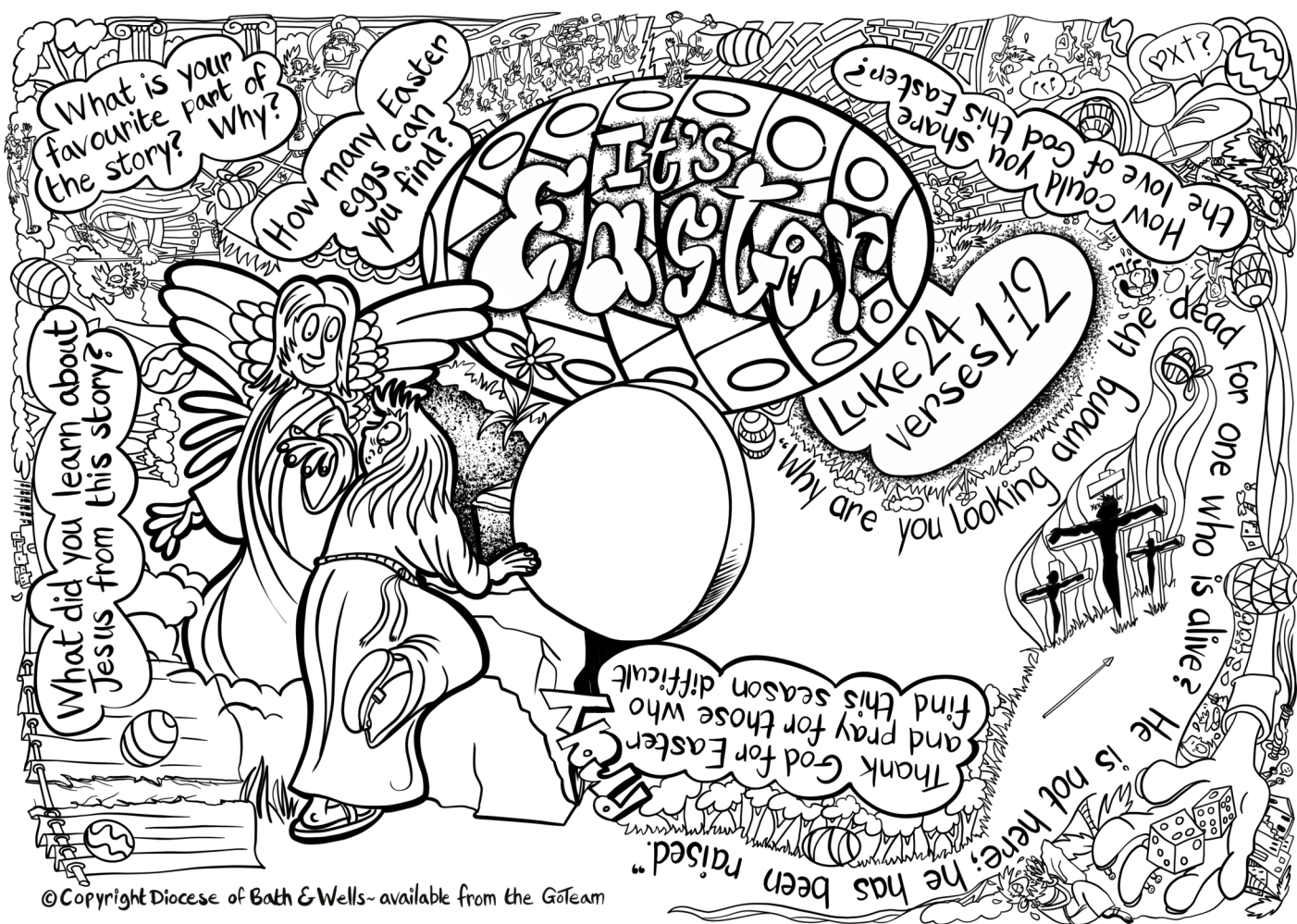
There are three of our popular Bible Chat Mats can be used to explore the story of Easter.

- 'Palm Sunday—Jesus The King' (Matthew 21:1-11—Jesus rides in to Jerusalem on a donkey)
- 'It's Easter' (Luke 24:1-12—the resurrection)
- 'Jesus the Chef' (John 21:1-14—Jesus appears to his disciples on the beach)

You can download the pdfs free here: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/youth-children/resources/bible-chat-mat/>

The 'It's Easter' Bible Chat Mat is a great way to share the Easter story from Luke chapter 24, whether around a meal table or sitting on the sofa at home, or in a church or school group if restrictions allow.

Read the Bible passage together (in an age appropriate version), have a conversation about what you've read using the questions as a guide, and take time to pray together asking God that he would reveal new things to you from this amazing story and use you to bless others this Easter. The sheets can be coloured in and doodled on, allowing you to respond to the Bible story in your own unique way. And don't forget to find all the hidden crowns and Easter Eggs!



8. 'Hope is...' Cardboard Definitions

Here's a creative challenge for your young people which could work in a Zoom session or in person (as and when COVID-19 restrictions allow). It's all about inspiring hope in one another; a key theme at Easter and something that we all need right now.

Preparation: the young people will each need a fairly large piece of cardboard (the bigger the better, Amazon packaging will work well) and a marker pen. If you are running this on Zoom it will be worth letting the group know in advance of the meeting so they have what they need to hand.

If you don't have these available, you could use a piece of paper and a pen or pencil, or create it using a phone as a social media post.

Discussion: Have a conversation with the group about hope. Here are some possible discussion starters:

- How hopeful are you feeling today? As you look to the future?
- What does the Bible say about hope? (try searching 'hope' in a Bible app or on BibleGateway.com)
- Come up with a list of things that bring us hope.
- How can we share the hope we have with others?

Activity: Encourage the young people to come up with their own definition of hope by finishing the sentence 'Hope is...' in 10 words or less, and writing it out on their piece of cardboard.

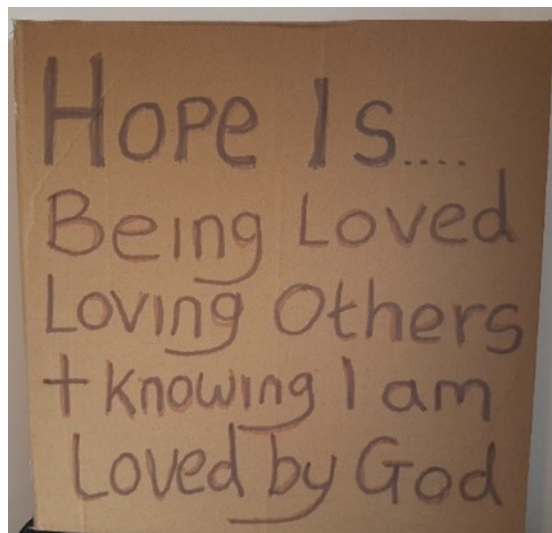
Give the group 5-10 minutes to create their 'Hope is...' definition. If you are on Zoom, the group can stay on camera and chat to each other as they are busy creating. Once they are finished, encourage everyone to share their cardboard definition with the rest of the group.

Take away: Challenge the group to share their definitions of hope with others this week. They could share them with friends and family, in person or by sending them a message. If they use social media they could take a photo and post it using their own account, or alternatively you could ask the group to send their 'Hope is...' photos to you and you could share them on your church's social media, website or as part of an online service.

Finish the session with a prayer of hope.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (NLT)

All age idea: This idea could be adapted to work with people of all ages, at home or in an all-age service, online or in person.



9. Make a cross for your window

With the focus being on our homes rather than our church buildings, how about creating something to display in your window or put up outside your house for neighbours and passers by to see, during Holy Week and Easter?

This could be something you encourage everyone in your group or congregation to do. Lots of homes displaying crosses in their windows could be a powerful thing.

Making a 'stick cross': One simple idea is to create a cross made of twigs or sticks. These could be found in the garden (if you have one), perhaps the left overs from some pruning; or collected on a walk (do remember not to break things off from trees or bushes but only collect things that have already fallen).

You will need two 'bunches' of 5 or 6 sticks. Trim the sticks in each bunch to roughly the same length, with one bunch being longer than the other. Tie the sticks, fairly loosely, at the top and bottom of each bunch, and then tie them together using the longer bunch of sticks as the upright and the shorter bunch as the cross beam. You could also create a loop on the back to hang the cross up with.

For a video explanation of how to make a stick cross check out this video made by Andy and Evie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tKXEAo9Oeg&t=35s>

Other ideas for making and displaying the Easter message could include:

- Making a cardboard cross from packaging (corrugated cardboard looks quite effective) or using card from cereal packets and covering it in wrapping paper.
- Make a wooden cross and stand it in your front garden. You could even wrap fairy lights around it and have it lit up in the evenings, or when Easter Sunday comes add flowers to the cross.
- If you are feeling artistic how about painting an Easter scene on your window? Ready mixed children's poster paint can work well for this and should be easy to clean off again afterwards. Paint on the inside of the window but remember that passers by will be viewing from the other side of the window.
- Make a colourful poster for your window that tells the story of Easter that we find in the Bible. Make sure it's big enough for people to see it as they pass by.



10. Easter Craft Ideas



Egg Carton Easter Wreath

Prepare for your Easter celebrations by getting the family together for craft time. Upcycled from egg cartons and old magazines, this Egg Carton Easter Wreath will take a lot of cutting, painting and assembling that you can work on as a household. While you work, talk about what you are looking forward to this spring.

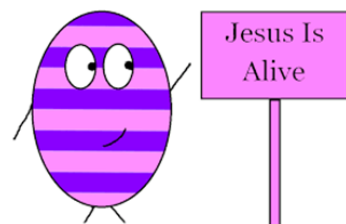
You will need:

- Cardboard egg cartons (about 5)
- Craft paints
- Paint brushes
- Large piece of cardboard
- Glue
- Scissors
-

Instructions:

1. Cut egg cartons into separate little cups.
2. Cut the edge of the cups to look like different types of flowers.
3. Paint the inside and outside of the flowers - pastel colours work well for Spring and Easter.
4. Cut out a large circle with a hole in the middle.
5. Paint this circle green and cut leaf shapes from the egg carton tops and paint them green.
6. Glue the leaves to the circle and then the flowers.

You can make them as simple or as elaborate as you like – making this a great activity for all ages. They look great hung on a door or on the wall.



Why not add a special Easter prayer or message to your wreaths!



Easter paper nests

You will need:

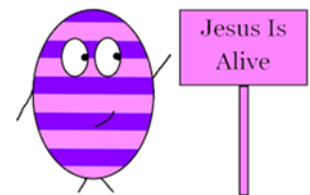
- paper (craft paper, newspaper, catalogues, magazines)
- scissors (or a shredder would be best!)
- PVA glue
- thick paint brush
- a bowl
- cling film

Instructions:

1. First, cut your paper into strips about ½ cm thickness and varying lengths from 15 to 20cm.
2. Next, put cling film on the inside of the bowl.
3. Brush glue all on the inside of the bowl on top of the cling film.
4. Take individual strips and arrange them criss-crossing around the bowl.
5. Wait a while, then paint on more glue and add more paper strips, until there about four layers.
6. Let them dry overnight then lift out of the bowl and peel off the cling film



They would make a great addition to your special Easter displays at home. Why not add special Easter prayers or messages to the strips of paper! You could also fill the bowl with chocolate eggs and give them away as an Easter gift to bless another household.





Plastic Bottle Easter Basket

You will need:

- Clean plastic bottle
- Split pins or a stapler
- Sharpie pens/ stickers/ shredded paper etc to decorate.

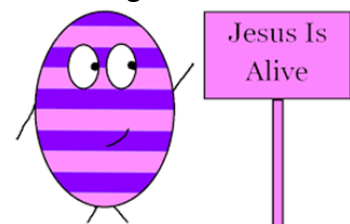
Instructions:

1. Cut a plastic bottle in half – adults need to do this for younger children.
2. Cut out a thin strip of plastic to use as a handle - adults need to do this for younger children.
3. Decorate using pens.
4. Attach the handle to the basket using split pins or a stapler - adults need to do this for younger children.
5. Add stickers or any other decorations.
6. Use straw, shredded paper, or left-over packing materials to line the basket.

The perfect gift with a couple of eggs added – Why not give one to a friend or neighbour.

You could use the basket afterwards to store things in or plant it up with some seeds!

Why not add a special Easter prayer or message on your baskets!



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