

CROSS KIDS

**An activity book for Holy Week
to help you join with the church
as we think about the days that
lead up to Easter**



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Palm Sunday

This week we follow Jesus and the story of the days before He was crucified. When Jesus and his friends arrived in Jerusalem the streets were full of people. They cheered and waved branches cut from palm trees. They called Him King and shouted “Hosanna!”

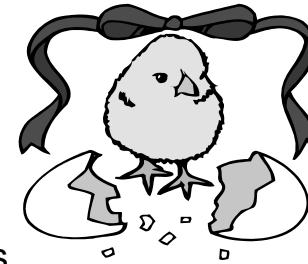
But there were some people in the crowd who were angry with Him, and who hated Him because He told the truth. Sometimes being popular doesn't last very long. Sometimes we have to choose between being popular with our friends and doing the right thing. Have you ever had to make that choice? Jesus did.

Did you remember to bring branches to wave at church? Did you shout, “Hosanna!”?

Why not go for a walk with your family this afternoon, to remember that Jesus and His friends walked a long way to Jerusalem?

A prayer...

like a dead stone but inside is a little baby bird, a new life.



Easter eggs remind us of the stone cave where Jesus laid when he was dead but out of that Jesus came alive. He rose from the dead. He gives us new life.



Have a happy Easter Day and enjoy your Eggs!

A prayer ...

Lord God thank you for loving us so much that you gave us your son, Jesus. We remember at Christmas how he was born in Bethlehem. Now we remember at Easter that he died because he loves us, and he rose again to be with us always. Help us to hear when he calls us by name and to love him. Amen.

Easter Day

One of Jesus' friends, Mary Magdalene, couldn't sleep. She decided to go to his tomb in the garden. It was still dark, and she was still very sad but this was going to be a very special morning.

Just as the sky was beginning to get light, she came to the tomb. She couldn't believe her eyes. The first rays of the sun shone brightly and she could see that the big stone had been rolled away and the cave was empty.

She ran to bring some other friends, Peter and John. They went in the cave and saw the sheet Jesus had been wrapped in but he wasn't there.

Mary was crying because she thought someone had stolen Jesus' body. A man spoke to her. She couldn't see properly because of her tears, but she recognised his voice. He said her name "Mary" very gently and she knew it was Jesus. Mary was so happy and excited. He was alive! He was risen from the dead!

Have you been given Easter eggs today? They are to remind us of Jesus. An egg looks

Dear Jesus, help us to remember you when we have to make choices. Help us to do what is right. Give us the courage to obey you. Amen.



Monday

While Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He stayed over night with some friends. While they were eating, a woman came in. She wanted to show Jesus that she loved Him.

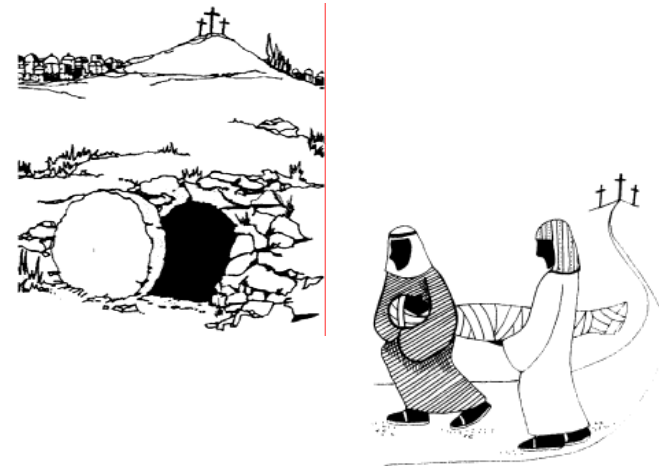
She had a bottle of expensive perfume, which was her most precious possession. She had saved up for a long time to buy it. She broke the bottle, and poured the perfume over Jesus. There was nothing left in the bottle because she had given it all to Jesus.



Some of the people there were very cross about this. It seemed as though she was wasting the perfume. She could have sold it and used the money to buy food for poorer people.

board under the stairs if I was sad. It made me feel safe.

What do you do when your friends are sad? Do you know how to make them happy again?



A prayer ...

Dear Jesus, when you needed a friend Joseph helped you. Your friends helped each other. Help us to look after other people. Amen.

Saturday

All of Jesus' friends were very sad. Jesus had died on the cross. The disciples and some other friends, including some women and Jesus' mother Mary, didn't know what to do. One of Jesus' friends, called Joseph of Arimathea, did something very special.

He asked the Roman soldiers if he could have the body of Jesus. He took it down carefully from the cross, gently wrapped it in a clean sheet and laid it in a tomb in a cave. It was a very kind thing to do for Jesus.

The soldiers were worried that other people might try to steal the body, so they rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the cave. Then they stood guard.

All of Jesus' friends stayed together, quietly talking about him and all the special things he had done during his life. They missed him very much.

What makes you feel sad? Is there a special place that you go when you are sad? Perhaps you sit on your bed, or on the stairs. When I was a child I used to hide in the cup-

But Jesus wasn't cross. He told everyone that it is important to show people that you love them. She had given everything that she had.

What is the most important thing that you have? Is it something expensive, or is it precious to you for a different reasons? Perhaps you have something that reminds you of a special holiday, or a special day, or of someone you love.

Ask other people in your family what their most precious possession is. Why not make a special present to give to someone you love?

A prayer ...

Dear Jesus. It isn't always easy to think of you rather than ourselves. Help us to be generous with what we have. Amen.

Tuesday

Some of the most precious and important people in our lives are our friends. We like to play with them and spend time with them. If we have a party or celebration we want them to join in, and if we are sad or upset they help us to feel happy again. Sometimes we are ill and it is really good when our friends visit us.

Jesus had a group of friends, called disciples, who travelled around with Him and helped Him. There are lots of stories in the Bible about Jesus visiting other friends as well, like the story we read yesterday. He often went to his friend's homes and had meals with them, just like you probably do.



Draw a picture of

Do you think Jesus was frightened by what was happening to him? He always knows when we are frightened, and he is always with us until we stop hurting.



A
Prayer ...

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for us even though it hurt you. We are sorry that we hurt you sometimes and make you sad. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

Good Friday

During the night, Jesus had spent a long time in a garden, praying to God his Father. Some of his special friends were with him. Then soldiers came with Judas. They arrested Jesus and took him to the Roman Governor who was called Pontius Pilot.

He ordered his soldiers to take Jesus away. They dressed Jesus up to make him look like a king, and then they laughed at him. Then they made him carry a heavy wooden cross to a place outside the city and there they nailed him to the cross.

When Jesus was dying all his friends were very sad and very frightened. Most of them were so frightened they ran away. The ones who did stay could not do anything, but just waited with Jesus until all his pain stopped. When we think of Jesus dying, we feel sad too.

What do you do when your friends are in trouble? Do you laugh at them or help them?

you and your best friend playing together. What do you really like to do when you play?

Have you ever thought about why you like your friends? Perhaps they make you laugh or help you, or perhaps you like to do the same things.

Are you a good friend? Think about a time when your friend has needed you to help them. Were you able to listen to them or help them? Why do you think they like you?

Can you think of something you could do today to help your friend, or of something you could do together? Perhaps you could play a game with them, or together you could do something which would help your mums.

A prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for my friends. ***(Tell Jesus the names of your special friends, and what you like about them)***. Help me to be a good friend so that I can cheer them up when they are sad or ill, and so that we can enjoy happy times together. Amen.

Wednesday

Judas Iscariot was one of the special friends of Jesus, and for three years they had travelled around together. Judas and Jesus had probably helped each other many times, but Judas was not a very good friend.

Judas knew that Jesus was telling people about God, His father, and that He was teaching everyone to live in the way God wanted them to live. But Judas met some other people who wanted to trick Jesus, and kill him. Judas agreed to help them, and he even took money from them for doing it.

He told them where they could find Jesus, and said he would tell them who Jesus was, so that they could arrest him. He let Jesus down very badly. He had made a very bad choice about who to be friends with, and he had been persuaded to do something very wrong.

Has one of your friends ever let you down? Perhaps they told someone one of your secrets, or promised to do something but then didn't do it. How did you feel? How do you think they felt? Did you carry on being friends with them or not? Have you ever been persuaded by someone to

or things to do.

Could you ask if today you could all try very hard to sit down together at the table for your meal, so that everyone is together and you can think about how the disciples enjoyed their meals with Jesus. He will be with your family as well, and you can thank him for all the things he has done for you.

A prayer ...

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for always being with us, even though we can't see you. Thank you for giving us a special way of remembering you, in bread and wine. Amen.



Maundy Thursday

Today has a special name because it is a special day. We remember the last time Jesus was with his disciples or friends, and had a meal with them.

Jesus knew that Judas would tell the soldiers about him, and where they could find him, and he wanted to say a special goodbye to his friends. It was a time of a festival called Passover when everyone thought about how good God had been to them.

They all sat down to have their meal, and Jesus said some things that the disciples thought were rather strange. He took some bread and wine, and said, "Eat and drink this to remember me". He was telling them that, after he had died, every time they ate bread and drank wine in this way, he would be with them in a very special way even though they couldn't see him. It was a special gift to them and to all the people who love Jesus. We still remember this last supper Jesus had with his friends in our Communion service at church.

Do you always eat your meals at the table or do you eat them while you are watching television? In some families people have to eat their meals at different times because everyone has places to go

do something that you knew was wrong?

Perhaps you can remember a time when you have let one of your friends down, even if you didn't mean to? Did you say you were sorry? If not, could you try to say it now?



Jesus knew that Judas would let him down, but when the friends all had their last meal together, Jesus was as kind to Judas as he was to all the other disciples. He knows that sometimes we will do the wrong things, but he always loves us and will forgive us if we tell him how sorry we are.

A prayer...

Dear Jesus, thank you for always being my special friend, even when I feel upset because of things my friends have done, and especially when I have hurt or upset people myself. I am sorry for the times I hurt people, but I know that you will always love me. Amen.

Here is a picture of Jesus. He is your friend. Perhaps you could draw yourself and your friends talking to Jesus.

