

Easter: Religious Education Support Materials

The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on Easter, particularly the concepts of the resurrection and atonement as a lead into the GenR8 presentation or as follow up. This presentation also links closely with the following *Understanding Christianity* (RE Today, 2016) units of work: Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden? (EYFS), Why does Easter matter to Christians? (KS1), Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? (LKS2), What did Jesus do to save human beings? And what difference does the resurrection make for Christians? (UKS2)

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Easter Introduction	What is Easter about? What symbols are used at Easter? Which ones are to do with the Easter story?	Link to the GenR8 opening sketch. Consider a range of different symbols and objects associated with Easter e.g. daffodils, eggs, chicks, bunnies, chocolate, cross. Ask the children what they might symbolize? Ask them to see if they can link them to what they know already of the Easter story. Are there any which don't link with the story? Why do they think they have become popular symbols?
Taking the blame	Have you ever taken the blame for something you didn't do?	Link back to the puppet sketch. Have the children ever taken the blame for something they didn't do? Has someone else ever taken the blame for them? To introduce the idea of 'atonement' and taking the blame you could use this modern day parable: http://request.org.uk/life/the-village/
The Easter Story	What do Christians remember at Easter? What happens in the Easter story? What can we learn about Jesus from the Easter story? What can we learn about the Christian idea of God? What does the Easter story tell us about forgiveness?	Read the story! Make sure you read the Easter story with the children, ideally from a Bible. You might use a reflective storytelling approach or Godly Play to introduce the story. There are also some very good videos available, for example: http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance This is a wonderful sand art version for young children.

Engage

Explore

Express

Exploring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Concept of forgiveness	<p>What do Christians believe about forgiveness?</p> <p>Why do Christians call it 'Good Friday'?</p>	<p>Explore the meaning behind the cross for Christians. The idea of Jesus' death being the 'price paid' for sin and providing forgiveness for all.</p> <p>See the following: http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/24/the-cross/ (Key Stage 2) https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zqr87ty About the meaning of Good Friday (Key Stage 2)</p>
Exploring the resurrection	<p>What is the resurrection?</p> <p>How do Christians remember the events of Easter?</p>	<p>The following clip and information gives a good summary of the resurrection: http://request.org.uk/festivals/holy-week-and-easter/easter-sunday/ It provides a personal Christian response to the resurrection which pupils can analyse and evaluate.</p> <p>In addition, this account of the resurrection is presented as an 'eye witness' account: http://request.org.uk/bible/new-testament/john-an-eyewitness-account/ Pupils could be asked to consider writing their own narrative account, or imagine they are creating an interview with John.</p>
Taking the blame	<p>Why do Christians call Good Friday 'Good'?</p>	<p>Explore the idea of Jesus taking the blame, by investigating the Old Testament background to the events of Easter. See for example: http://request.org.uk/jesus/did-jesus-have-to-die/</p> <p>And also the concept of Atonement: http://request.org.uk/life/the-atonement/</p>
Song about God's love	<p>What does it mean for Christians to believe in a loving God?</p> <p>If Christians believe God is all loving, what questions might this raise about the world we live in?</p>	<p>Explore the words of the song For God so loved the world by John Hardwick: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axvzjy8LjoA Discuss the meaning of the song for Christians. What does this tell Christians about God's love? What might Christians compare God's love to?</p> <p>In addition: The following clip focuses on how Christians believe the resurrection shows God's power of love is stronger than death. http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zwb9jxs</p>

Evaluating and Expressing		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Creating Poems	What does the Easter narrative mean to Christians?	Link back to the poem at the end of the GenR8 presentation. Ask the pupils to analyze this and consider whether it clearly presents the Christian beliefs about Easter. Then ask the pupils to create their own poems, this could be linked to work in English. Pupils might write an acrostic for the word 'Atonement' or 'Resurrection'.
Interview a Christian	What does Easter mean to you? Why do Christians celebrate Easter? Is Easter more important than Christmas?	Prepare questions to ask a Christian about what Easter means to them. Write up the answers and consider how they link to the teachings and bible narrative that they have learned about in previous lessons. An alternative would be to set up a 'hot seating' exercise where a member of the class acts as the Christian, and others ask them questions.
Creating a celebration	How should Christians celebrate Easter?	Ask the pupils to consider new ways in which Christians might celebrate Easter. Ask the pupils to create a new style event, festival, ceremony or Church service to remember Easter. They might explore some of the ways this is already done, but the idea is to encourage them to be creative and think differently about how Christians might remember the Easter narrative and the teachings associated with it.

The Easter poem used in the presentation, by Amy Robinson:

Jesus came to live among us
To show us how to live,
How to care for one another,
How to love and how to give.

Jesus had another task
That God sent him to do;
He took our blame upon himself
To make us clean and new.

Jesus died on Good Friday
But that was not the end;
He rose on Easter Sunday
And we can be his friends.

Jesus chose to live among us
He came from God, above,
Now we can choose to follow him
And thank him for his love.