

Easter is the most important time of year for Christians. The unexpected aspects of the journey of Jesus from his entry in Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday to the resurrection on Easter Sunday is explored in this set of three GenR8 Connect videos.

The events took place from Sunday to Sunday, during what Christians refer to as Holy Week:

Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
<i>Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey</i>	<i>The Last Supper</i>	<i>Jesus is crucified</i>	<i>Jesus lives again</i>

The four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – all record the events of this week, each in a different way depending on the perspective of the writer.

A retelling of the story and lots of other useful information and activities can be found here:

<http://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/>

Palm Sunday

Matthew ch 21 vs 1-9; Mark ch 11 vs 1-10; Luke ch 19 vs 28-39; John ch 12 vs 12-18

The first video looks at Palm Sunday, which is also known as the triumphal entry; when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. It is recorded in all of the four gospels. Jesus was going to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate the Passover festival as was the custom for many people at that time. He sent two disciples ahead to borrow a young donkey that no-one had ridden. Jesus then entered the city on a donkey and was welcomed by crowds waving palms and laying their coats in front of him and shouting 'Hosanna' – meaning 'save us', and 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. Jesus was being greeted in the manner of a king – some in the crowd expected him to overthrow the Roman Empire; whilst others thought Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah that they were expecting to come and save them. He was arriving in humility not on a horse and with a sword but riding on a humble donkey. This all infuriated the religious leaders of the day. Christians see Jesus as a king but not of a kingdom on earth, but who rules over people's hearts.

Reflection

- Who is Jesus? This is the same question asked that first Easter.
- If Jesus was a king, why do you think he was so different from any other king who has ever lived? How was he different?

Story Link

Short cartoon versions of the story of Palm Sunday can be found here – please check to see if it suitable for your group:

<https://youtu.be/fbAYBv8rCi8> ; <http://request.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Palm-Sunday.mp4>

Inspire Prayer Space Activity - Joy

inspire
prayer spaces



Equipment

Green paper cut into palm leaf shapes, felt-tip pens

Instructions

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people waved palm leaves, and put them on the ground, shouting "Hosanna". Shouting "Hosanna" is a bit like shouting "Hooray".

When do you feel like shouting "Hooray"? What makes you really happy? What are you really thankful for? Write or draw a thankful or "Hooray" thought or prayer on the leaf shape.

Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

The Last Supper

Matthew ch 26 vs 17-30; Mark ch 14 vs 12-26; Luke ch 22 vs 7-23; John ch 13

Jesus and his disciples, like thousands of other Jews, had gone to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. The Passover was part of this annual Jewish festival that celebrated the escape of Moses and the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus wanted to share the special meal with his disciples.

Before the meal Jesus washed his disciples' feet, a job usually done by the lowest rank of servants. He did this to demonstrate that he had come to serve others. It was a way to show his followers how he wanted them to behave. Jesus did not want his followers to take on the role of lord and master but instead that of a servant to others.

During the meal Jesus broke the bread and poured wine. As he gave these to his disciples, he told them to continue to do this to remember Him. This is the celebration now known as Holy Communion, Mass, the Eucharist or the Lord's supper in churches today. Jesus used the bread and wine as symbols of how he would die: that his body would be broken and his blood would be spilt. He told them that he would be betrayed by one of the men sitting at the table with them. After the meal Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and it was here that his disciple Judas Iscariot betrayed him and he was arrested by soldiers and guards.

Reflection

- Christians believe that Jesus was God's son and yet he was happy to wash his friends' smelly feet. How can we follow his example by helping others?
- The Bible says that Jesus he came to earth to die for us all, so that we can be forgiven for the wrong things that we think, say and do.

Story Link

Short versions of the story can be found here – please check to see if they are suitable for your group:

<https://request.org.uk/festivals/holy-week-and-easter/maundy-thursday/>

Washing feet <https://youtu.be/bv5ajWNRnt4>

Passover meal <https://youtu.be/SigoALSS1R8>

Inspire Prayer Space Activity - Friendship

Equipment

Pipe cleaners, instructions on how to make a pipe cleaner person

Explanation

The English word "companion" comes from the Latin phrase "com panis" which literally means "with bread". During the last supper, Jesus broke bread with his companions, his disciples, his best friends!



Instructions

Who are your best friends? Who is really important to you? Make a model of them out of the pipe cleaners as a way of saying thank you to God for them.



Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Matthew ch 26 vs 36 – ch 28 vs 15; Mark ch 14 vs 32 – ch 16 vs 14; Luke ch 22 vs 39 - ch 24 vs 49; John ch 18 – 20.

Good Friday was the day when Jesus stood trial before the priests and later a Roman Governor called Pilate. Although Pilate could not find any wrong in Jesus, he was still sentenced to death by crucifixion. Later that day after having been beaten and mocked Jesus was crucified. He died in the afternoon. His body was taken from the cross and put into a guarded tomb.

Good Friday is a day when Christians remember what Jesus did for them. It is the day that Christians remember God allowing Jesus, his perfect son, to take the world's sin – all the things people have done wrong – onto Himself. Christians believe that when Jesus died He took the punishment for all of their individual sins. This means that they have been forgiven, and because of this God can be friends with them – both here on earth and when they die, in Heaven.

Did you know?

The Bible says that when Jesus died the curtain in the temple was ripped from top to bottom. This curtain separated the most sacred part of the temple, the Holy of Holies, from the rest of the temple. The Holy of Holies contained the Ark of the Covenant and was where God would meet his people - only the High Priest was allowed in there, once a year. Christians believe that the ripping of the curtain was a symbol: that through Jesus' death on the cross anyone is now able to come into God's presence.

Good Friday is only half of the Easter story. The other is Jesus' resurrection. On Easter Sunday, the disciples visited Jesus' tomb but found the stone covering the cave had been moved and Jesus' body was gone. They reported seeing Jesus alive at the garden that morning, and then again at their house later that day. Christians believe that God raised Jesus to life again – a sign that Jesus was truly the Son of God and more powerful than death.

Reflection

Reflect on some of the unexpected things about that first Easter and what Christians believe they mean:

1. God loves each and every one of us.
2. We can choose to say sorry to God for the wrong things that we think, say and do, and be forgiven and be friends with God.

Story Link

You might find this link helpful: <http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/24/the-cross/>

The song, which expresses what Christians believe about Easter, is here: <https://youtu.be/TV55YtygTTO>

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – the Cross Means Love

Equipment

Some form of modelling clay, plasticine or playdough

Description

Christians believe that Jesus died on a cross for the wrong things we think, say and do, because he loves us and wants us to be forgiven and to be friends with God.

Instructions

Make a cross shape out of the clay and think about what Christians believe about Easter – that Jesus died for us. Turn the cross into a heart shape as you remember that the bible says that he did this because he loves each one of us – the cross means love.

Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

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See below for activity sheets

Make your own Easter cross to retell the events of Holy Week

	1	
2	6	3
<p>You can use these colours to write the words or colour the cross:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus rode a donkey – green2. Jesus washed feet – blue3. Jesus shared a meal – red4. Jesus died – black5. Jesus rose – yellow6. Jesus is king – purple <p>Or you can draw a picture of the events on each square</p>	4	<p>When you have coloured your cross, you can cut it out and tell the story of Easter to a friend.</p> <p>This shape can be folded into a cube, but you will have to add flaps if you want to stick it together.</p>
	5	

The Triumphal Entry

On the Sunday before Jesus' crucifixion, he entered Jerusalem. The people took palm branches and waved them in the air, singing "Hosannas."

What is this Sunday called? Find the letters in the road and place the letters in the blanks below to form the answer.

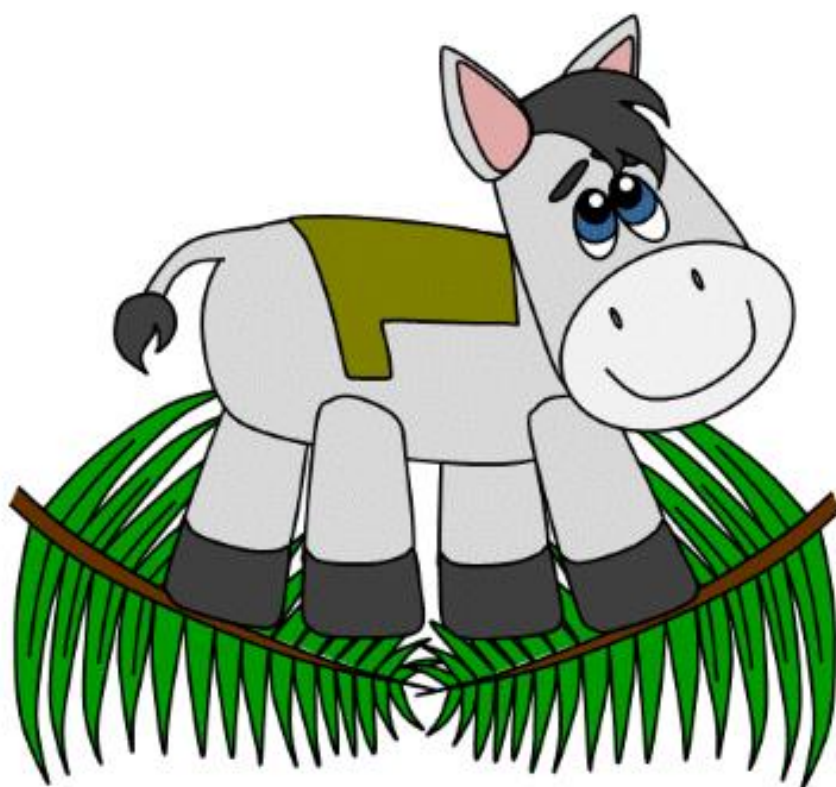


You can colour in the picture too!

People Wave Palms to Jesus

S D A N Y C O W Q D R S I B C V
B E M R X O M R E E D K M R A A
Y R H F A A C F G S J O O L N Y
J T G C H T G J L S Q W N N A R
Z H N J N S I G V E D U A K E P
X V I L L A G E T L W S U S E J
M E L A S U R E J B O Q P M H Y
T C N V J U E B Z H B Q D V P C

blessed
branches
coats
crowd
donkey
Hosanna
Jerusalem
Jesus
palms
village



The Last Supper

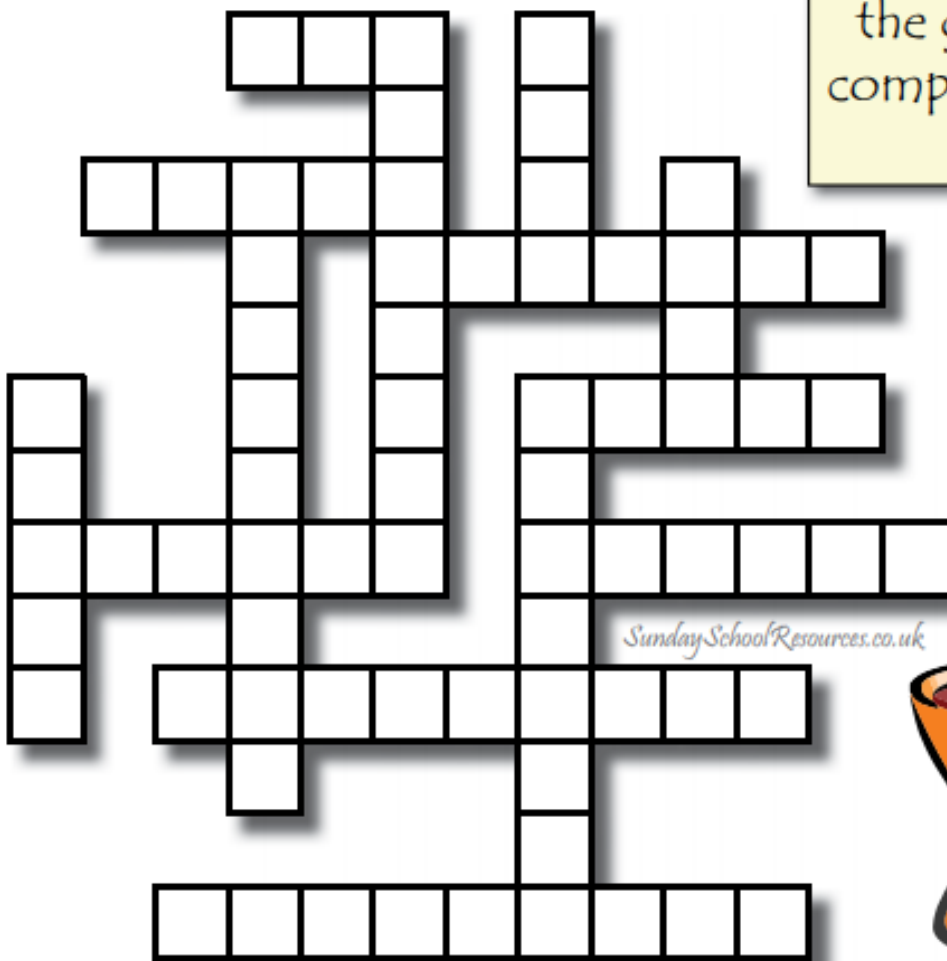
Spot the Differences for Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



The Last Supper

Fit the words into the grid below to complete this fill-in puzzle.



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3 LETTER WORD

CUP

4 LETTER WORDS

HYMN
WINE

5 LETTER WORDS

BREAD
JESUS
JUDAS

6 LETTER WORDS

SUPPER
THANKS

7 LETTER WORD

SINGING

8 LETTER WORDS

BETRAYER
PASSOVER

9 LETTER WORDS

DISCIPLES
JERUSALEM
UPPER ROOM



Good Friday and Easter Sunday – Anagrams Puzzle

Solve the anagrams (in capitals) to make words from the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday in the Bible. Write the words in the spaces provided – the highlighted squares will show what Christians believe happened to Jesus when he came back to life.

The Romans put Jesus on a **SORCS** to die

Jesus came back to **FILE** on Easter Sunday and appeared to many people

The **YSK** turned black when Jesus died

The Roman **INTCNEOUR** watched Jesus on the cross.

Jesus was arrested in the **RAGEND** of Gethsemane when Judas betrayed him.

When Jesus was on the cross he asked one of his friends to take care of his **TEMOHR**

Roman **LIDROSES** were told to guard the tomb with Jesus body in it.

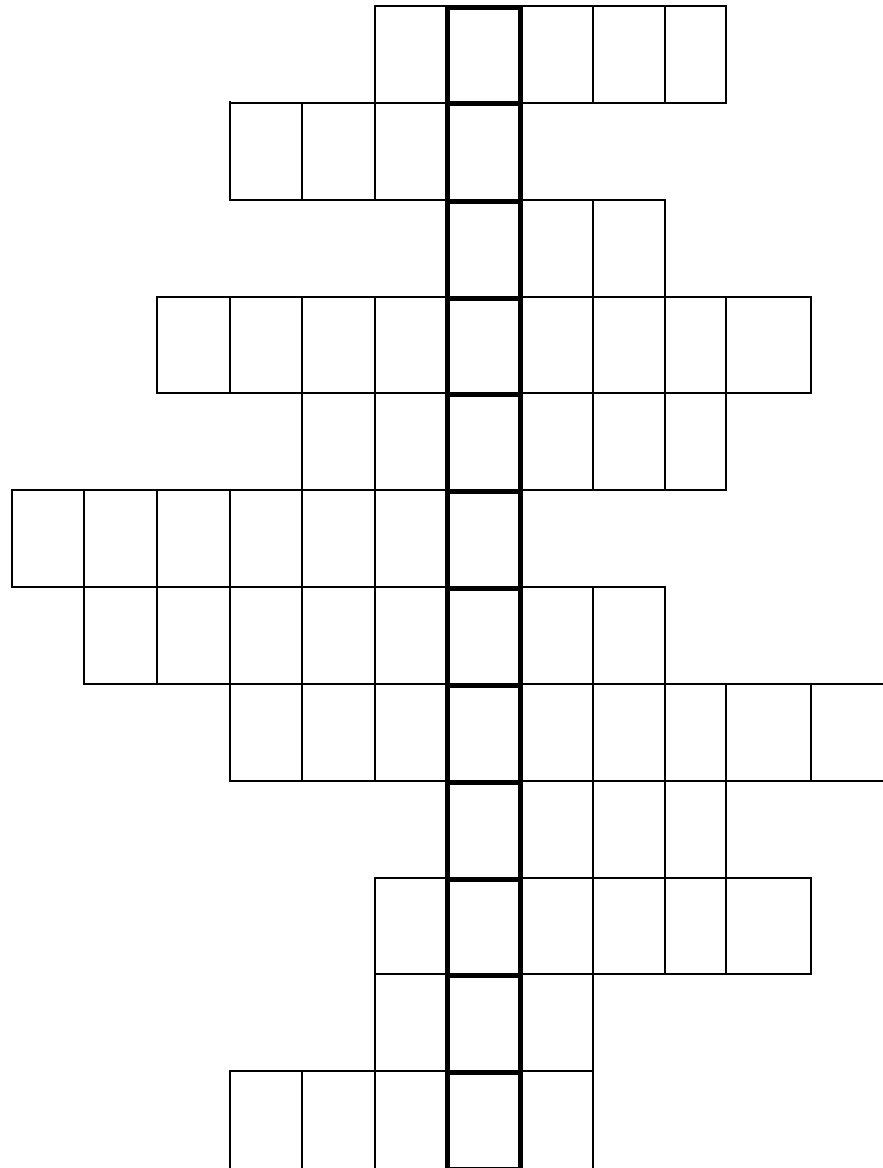
After he rose again, Jesus appeared to his **CLIPSIDES** and many other people

When Jesus died his body was laid in a **BOTM** cut into the rock

The Roman Governor, Pontius **EPTAIL**, ordered Jesus to be crucified

Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of **OGD**

A large **NOTES** was put in the entrance of the tomb to stop Jesus' body being stolen



Easter Garden

Make an Easter Garden to remember the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday:

<http://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/>



