



FIND THE EASTER STORY

PART OF THE EASTER THEMED PROGRAMME



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Explore the highs and lows of the Easter Story in an interactive way, finding everyday items to help bring the story to life.

A leader should have a copy of the Easter story sheet to read aloud to the group. The story covers the events of Easter week, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the crucifixion on Good Friday, and finally the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As you share the story, pause at the appropriate parts and ask the group to go and find the household object that links to the story. This could be as a race. Continue doing this all the way to the end. Once you have finished sharing the story ask the group to remind you what part of the Easter story each of the items they have collected represents. Can they remember all the key parts of the story as you told it?

Remind the group that whilst the story of Easter may only get told once a year, the celebration behind it is something Christians celebrate every day. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. By believing and following him, our sins are forgiven. Next time they see one of the household items they have collected for this activity, hopefully this will help remind you of Jesus' sacrifice for us all.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- The Easter Story Sheet
- Household Objects



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Before playing, ask children to move around their home carefully (i.e not running). They should only bring items which are safe and appropriate, and all items should be returned to where they were found afterwards.

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Our story of Easter starts with Jesus and his disciples travelling to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Jesus entered the city riding on a donkey. Crowds came out to welcome him and spread palm leaves on the road in front of him (**Palms - find something that is the size of the palm of your hand**).

Not everyone was pleased to see him and the priests and religious leaders plotted to get rid of him for good.

At the Passover meal, Jesus broke the bread and shared the wine with the disciples and explained to them how the bread was a symbol of his body, broken for them, and the wine a symbol of his blood which would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven.

Meanwhile Judas (one of the disciples) went to the Roman authorities who were looking to arrest Jesus. He accepted a bribe of 30 silver pieces (**Coin - Find a coin, ideally a silver one**) and agreed to take them to Jesus. Jesus was arrested and taken before the High Priest where he was questioned about his teaching and put on trial.

The Roman governor Pontius Pilate could find no wrong in Jesus, yet he wanted to give the people what they wanted, and that was the death of Jesus. The soldiers dressed Jesus in royal purple, (**Purple - Find something purple**) thrust a crown of thorns on his head (**Hat - Find a hat**) and made to carry his cross along the pathway to the hill where he would be crucified

Crowds had gathered to mourn and watch Jesus' death. Jesus was nailed (**N - Find something beginning with N**) to the cross between two criminals and his sides pierced by a sword. On the cross, Jesus looked to heaven and asked God to "forgive them, for they do not know what they do." When taking his last breath, Jesus spoke: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...it is finished."

Extraordinary events marked the death of Jesus. The sky was completely dark for three hours as Jesus hung on the cross. At the moment of his last breath, the earth shook and the temple curtain split from top to bottom (**Find a piece of kitchen / toilet roll. Challenge the children to try to tear it exactly in half - scissors not allowed**).

After his death, Jesus' body was wrapped in linen cloths and placed in a tomb with a large stone rolled across the opening. On the third day Mary Magdalene and another Mary came to the tomb and found it empty (**Empty - Find something that is empty**). Sitting on the rolled away stone (**Rolls - Find something that rolls**) was an angel of the Lord who told them to not be afraid because Jesus had risen. As the women left to tell the disciples, Jesus Christ met them and showed them his nail-pierced hands.

Jesus had conquered death and is alive today (**Trophy / Medal / Certificate - Find something that celebrates victory**).

At the end of the story ask the group to remind you what part of the Easter story each of the items they have collected represents.