

# HELPING CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT EASTER



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## MOTHERING SUNDAY - A VERY TRICKY ONE.

Can be cloying, portraying a view of motherhood which for many, simply doesn't exist. If you want a "make a card/gift for mum" activity, there are thousands on sites such as Pinterest.

Mothers Union, Barnabas in Churches etc . There is a bit of an expectation that something like this will be done! Fancy something different?



Two suggestions are:

### A) THE MESSED UP BISCUIT

You need

Rich tea biscuits

Prepared icing

Plates

Bowl of water and soap and towel

Chocolate curls

Sugar flowers

Marshmallows

Raw onion

Sprinkles

Raw chopped sprouts

Curry powder

This involves the ubiquitous rich tea biscuit and icing – with a difference.

1. Put icing on your biscuit
2. You must add whatever is in the bowl by each question, **IF** the statement is true for you, even if it's only sometimes true.
  - Chocolate curls – when I'm ill, someone looks after me until I'm better.
  - Sugar flowers – someone makes me food to eat each day.
  - Marshmallows – someone makes sure that my clothes get washed.
  - Raw onion – sometimes I argue with the people who look after me
  - Sprinkles – if I'm upset, someone helps me feel better
  - Raw sprouts – sometimes I forget to say thank you to the people who care for me, and I forget to say thank you to God for them.
  - Curry powder – sometimes I lose my temper and say things I don't really mean.

Sit down and look at your biscuit.

Ephesians 4:1,2 ERV I beg you to live the way God's people should live, because he chose you to be his. <sup>2</sup>Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love.

Is your biscuit good and tasty, or has it been spoiled? Have a think/chat about what spoiled it.

Ephesians 1:7 We have **forgiveness** of sins because of God's rich grace.

Saying sorry – who do you need to say sorry to, how can we do this? (What happens if they don't accept our apology?)

## **B) THE LAST STRAW**

**You need  
PowerPoint  
Pecky  
A straw  
Tags with verse on  
Worship song**

**Pecky dividing sweets  
Breaking vase  
Playing football and breaking window,  
Breakfast cereal  
“Last straw” what does it mean?  
Give up  
Cross the circle if  
You’ve ever broken something that belonged to someone else  
You’ve ever forgotten to say sorry  
You’ve ever felt sad because you’re worried you’re the last straw  
You’d like to know about someone who will never ever give up on you**

**Hebrews 13:5 GNT** For God has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.”

**Do you think anyone is too bad for God to love? How does this make you feel?**

**Use the four cards with pictures if appropriate.**

**Time to worship – sing, listen, look**

# PALM SUNDAY

You need:

- A scarf (made into a hat for male hot seater)
- Stones
- Glue Card
- Pens etc.



Read/tell/watch the story. Someone is asked in advance to be the hot seater – could be an adult, but some children are amazingly good at this, especially if they've done it before.

If you met someone who had been in the crowd is there something you'd like to ask them about?

Give ideas if there don't seem to be any – was everyone in the crowd really happy? Did the donkey look ok? Did you hear what people were shouting? Etc etc

The people were praising Jesus – in two different versions of this event, we can read about some surprising praise!

Matthew 21:15 and 16 The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, "Praise to David's Son!" <sup>16</sup>So they asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying?"

"Indeed I do," answered Jesus. "Haven't you ever read this scripture? 'You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.'"

Luke 19:39 and 40 <sup>39</sup>Then some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus.

"Teacher," they said, "command your disciples to be quiet!"

<sup>40</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting."

Take a stone, or an outline of a child and stick it in the middle of your card. Write or draw all around what you think each would say to praise Jesus.

If you would like to, read aloud some of the words of praise to Jesus.

# MAUNDY THURSDAY – THE LAST SUPPER

You need:

- Tiny flip flops
- Tray of sand, tray of water, tray of soil
- Water in a bowl, soap and a towel
- Illustrations
- Cushions for floor
- Jug
- Postits and pens



## WASHING FEET

Just before the Passover festival – the Jewish people remembered how God had let them escape from being slaves in Egypt.

Jesus and his friends were going to have a special Passover meal together.

They'd been walking all day, we're going to do what might have been their journey!

Start by the side of a lake, bit sandy. Then they have to cross a little stream, everyone got wet. Then there is some more sand on the other side of the river. Then they walked along a dirty, dusty road, then through some trees with leaves on the ground, Finally, they reached the place for their meal. They didn't sit on chairs, they reclined – try it on some cushions.

Everyone wondered if a servant/slave would come in to wash their dirty, smelly feet.

They waited and waited. No-one came. The meal started. Everyone looked around. Is there a job in your house that no-one wants to do? Feeding the cat? Taking the rubbish out to the dustbin? Do you ever wait, hoping that someone else will do it?

Jesus got up took off his big outer robe and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured some water into the bowl and started washing all the dirty feet!

What would you think?

One of the disciples must have been embarrassed. Simon Peter said, "No, you mustn't wash my feet", but Jesus said he would not be Jesus' special friend if he didn't allow this to happen. Simon Peter decided that he would let Jesus wash his feet, in fact he wanted Jesus to wash him all over!

Around the bowl draw or write on a postit what you think you could do to be like Jesus when he did this job that no-one wanted to do.

Put the finger that is now clean in the water and in your head, ask Jesus to help you do things like he did.

## GOOD FRIDAY

(Cards to show what you would/wouldn't say to children of Pre-school, Infant and Junior age.)

### A) EXPERIENCE EASTER – SUFFERING IN OUR PLACE

You need:

- A large cross
- A red length of draping fabric
- Purple fabric around the bottom
- Stones
- Dice
- Soldiers sword
- Ribbons
- Crosses with headlines on.

Tell the story simply.

Hold one of the ribbons, read what is on the cross and quietly thank Jesus for taking the pain and the misery of the situation mentioned.

### B) LOOK AT THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY ACTIVITY

You need:

- Black paper
- Luminous paint
- Torches
- Blanket

Instruction sheet



# EASTER SATURDAY – WAITING

## Marble run

You need:

- Trays
- Straws
- Tape
- Phones with timers
- Marbles

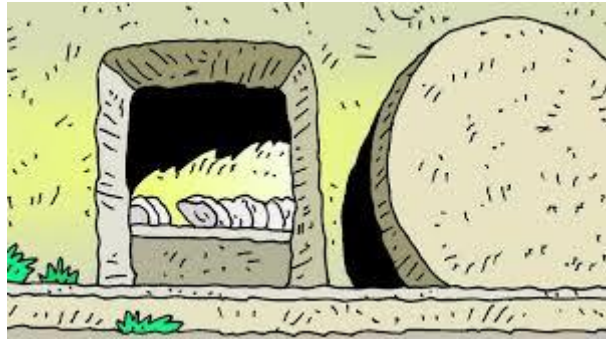
**What is the longest time that the marble can take to run down the tray?  
It must keep moving, not stop!**



# EASTER SUNDAY

Exploding fountain – a challenge!

- Lemonade
- Mentoos
- (Outside)



## 1.WHO STOLE THE TEDDY?

You need:

- Large teddy
- Lots of strips of white sheeting
- A pillowcase to go over the head.
- A table covered by a dark cloth
- A large cushion to act as the stone.

Ask the children to help, the teddy is pretending to be Jesus! Get them to do these things as you talk.

*When Jesus died his friends were very, very sad. The only thing they could do was look after his body now that he was dead. In that time people used to wrap cloths around someone who had died, and a separate cloth over their head. Their graves were like a cave, dug into the ground. Joseph was one of Jesus's friends and he had a grave or a tomb which had never been used. I expect he was thinking that he might be buried there when he died one day. But he wanted Jesus's body to go into the tomb, so after the cloths were all done, he and another friend put the body in Joseph's tomb.*

*They put a big stone in front of the entrance – they didn't want anyone to go into the tomb. Now all of this was watched by some other friends of Jesus. Some ladies were there and they wanted to help too. They thought that they could put some lovely smelling spices next to the body – that was a tradition in that time.*

*But all of these friends were in a hurry because the next day was the Sabbath – a day when everyone had to rest and not travel anywhere. So, they all had to go home and wait until the Sabbath was over.*

Do waiting things!

*Finally, the ladies woke up early on the next day. It was still dark and they hurried to the tomb. They were a bit worried about whether they would be strong enough to move the big stone. But when they got there, they had a terrible shock!*

*(The teddy has been moved from the back of the table)*

*Talk about what they found – what do they think happened?*

Depending on the age/experience of the children, you could give them a scenario of the tomb being totally empty, and then explain that in fact, the cloths were left in the tomb. Acting out someone stealing the teddy with all the cloths in place could help them understand that this wasn't what happened.



**It's important to give them time to consider how the women felt. We know now that Jesus had risen, but they didn't, they were confused and afraid. (see Mark 16:8)**

## **FOLLOW UP – IF TIME, OR ON ANOTHER OCCASION!**

**The crispbread and cheese Road to Emmaus**

**You need:**

- **Box of long crispbreads**
- **Squeezy cheese**
- **Slice of bread and heart cutter**
- **Raisins**