

Active Storytime

'The Easter Story'

Story Station	Story	Activity
1. Journey to Jerusalem	Jesus and his disciples were walking into Jerusalem to celebrate the passover. When they were nearly there, Jesus sent two of his friends ahead of him to get a donkey. He told them to tell the owner that he needed it. the disciples did as they were asked and brought the donkey to Jesus. as he rode into Jerusalem the people saw him coming and covered the path with their coats and palm leaves. They shouted 'hosanna' and 'Jesus is the king!'	Make some simple cut out palm leaves and spread them on the floor. Get them to pick up the Palm leaves and wave them shouting 'Hosanna' Song: (sung to tune of 'this is the way we...') <i>The people all shouted hosanna to God, hosanna to God, Hosanna to God. The people all shouted hosanna to God cause Jesus really loves us.</i>
2. Betrayed by Judas	Most people were very happy, but this did not include some of the priests who were jealous of Jesus. They did not like that ordinary people liked him so much. They wanted an excuse to arrest Jesus and kill him. One of Jesus' disciples, a man called Judas, agreed secretly to betray Jesus to the priests. They gave Judas thirty pieces of silver and Judas waited for his chance to get Jesus into trouble.	Get the children to pretend to be 'mean priests'. Children look for some silver chocolate coins hidden around the room. Song: <i>Judas is bad, and he gave him away, gave him away, gave him away. Judas is bad and he gave him away, but Jesus really loves us.</i>
3. Jesus says Goodbye	Jesus sat down to a meal with his twelve friends. He looked very sad and his friends asked him what was wrong. Jesus told them he would have to go away the next	Family all sit around a low table. Get them to look sad and then shocked then pretend to wave goodbye to Judas. Have a small

	<p>day to be with his father in heaven. Jesus' friends were sad too then. The disciples said they would not let anything happen to Jesus. but Jesus told them that one of them had already taken money to betray him. They all looked at each other and Judas stood up and walked out.</p>	<p>loaf of bread and a cup of juice by the narrator.</p> <p>Song: <i>Jesus is sad as he says goodbye, says goodbye, says goodbye. Jesus is sad as he said goodbye cause Jesus really loves us.</i></p>
4. Remember Me	<p>Jesus told his friends about the people in Jerusalem who didn't like him and that the next day he would be arrested and nailed to a cross. So that they would remember him, Jesus broke some bread and said 'this is my body. Take it and eat it and remember me'. Then he took a cup of wine and told them that it was a reminder of his blood and that they were to remember him as they drank it.</p>	<p>Children remain sitting around the table. Break the bread as story is told then give all the children a small piece of bread and a small cup of juice.</p> <p>Song: <i>Jesus tells us to remember him, remember him, remember him. Jesus tells us to remember him cause Jesus really loves us.</i></p>
5. Jesus Praying	<p>Jesus and his friends walked to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was very sad and asked his friends Peter, James and John to watch over him as he prayed. As he prayed, his friends fell asleep as they were very tired. Just then, Judas arrived with lots of men with swords. They had been sent by the priests to arrest Jesus. Judas kissed Jesus when he saw him. This was the guards' signal to arrest Jesus.</p>	<p>Make some cut out flowers and trees and place around the room or hang from ceiling if you are feeling very brave! Have green fabric or a blanket on the floor to create a 'garden'. Invite the children to kneel or sit down as you tell them the story. Invite the children to say a prayer as they kneel in the 'garden'.</p> <p>Song: <i>Jesus is sad and prays to God, prays to God, prays to God. Jesus is sad and prays to God and Jesus really loves us.</i></p>

<p>6. I do not know Jesus</p>	<p>Earlier, Jesus had predicted that his disciples would betray him. Peter said this was not possible. Jesus explained that before the cockerel crowed at dawn Peter would have disowned him three times. Peter had replied 'Never'. Jesus, now under arrest, was being questioned by the Jewish council. As Peter watched from a distance, people asked if he was a friend of Jesus. Three times he said he did not know him. Suddenly, the cockerel crowed, and Peter cried as he remembered Jesus' words.</p>	<p>Pin a piece of paper with 'bars' drawn onto it to create a 'prison' image. Ask children to sit in front of it. After reading the story, invite the children to go and look around some cut out cockerels for three cockerels. Tell them they have to look very quietly, but when they find one, they have to crow like a cockerel. When they hear three cockerel crows, they must sit down where they are.</p> <p><i>Song: Peter was sad when the cockerel crowed, the cockerel crowed, the cockerel crowed. Peter was sad when the cockerel crowed but Jesus really loves us.</i></p>
<p>7. Pontius Pilate</p>	<p>The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to be guilty, but they couldn't find anything bad about him. Eventually, they asked him if he was the son of God and Jesus answered, 'Yes I am'. This was enough and they said it was an insult to God, so they sent him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. The chief priests who wanted Jesus to die, persuaded the people to set free a bad man called Barabbas. Pilate asked the people what they wanted him to do with Jesus, known as the King of the Jews. 'crucify him' shouted the people. 'Why? What has he done?' said Pilate. But the people continued to shout, 'crucify him'.</p>	<p>Start the story by the prison bars scene and then at the end of part 1 move to the 'podium' (a table or chair) where there is a bowl of water placed on it.</p> <p>Tell the second part of the story from the podium. Wear a roman headband (cut out version available to print) and hold a scroll (rolled up paper). Get the children to be the crowd and shout 'crucify him'. Then wash hands in bowl of water.</p> <p><i>Song: the crowd all shouted, 'crucify him', 'crucify him', 'crucify him'. The crowd all shouted, 'crucify him'. But Jesus really loves us.</i></p>

	Pilate turned to a bowl of water and he washed his hands to show the people that he washed his hands of sending an innocent man to death. Instead he let Barabbas be freed instead.	
8. The Crown of Thorns	The soldiers took Jesus away, removed his clothes and dressed him in a purple robe. They placed a crown of thorns on his head. Mocking him they knelt down before him and said 'hail, king of the Jews'. As the blood ran down his face and they made fun of him – Jesus never said a word. Then they took him away and put a heavy cross on his back.	On the lectern, get some children to place a purple robe (or anything purple) and crown of thorns (print off an image from the internet) on the top as you tell the story. Make a cross out of a broom handle and wood and get the children to carry it slowly. <i>Song: they dressed him in purple and put thorns on his head, thorns on his head, thorns on his head. They dressed him in purple and put thorns on his head. But Jesus really loves us.</i>
9. Carrying the cross	Jesus was made to carry the heavy cross out of the city gates and up a hill. On the way some of the crowds cheered and others wept. On top of the hill Jesus was put on the cross and nails were put through his hands and feet. The cross was raised up with Jesus on it.	Get two children to carry the robe and crown and follow two older children who will carry the cross 'up the hill'. (another room or outside if you have access). Tell the story as you walk up to the 'hill'. Stop to allow the children to put the robe and the crown on the cross before it is raised up. (Place it in a tree stand or lean up against a wall) <i>Song: The crowd followed Jesus who was put on a cross, put on a cross, put on a cross. The crowd followed Jesus who was</i>

		<i>put on a cross because Jesus really loves us!</i>
10. Jesus dies on the cross	<p>Jesus' mother, Mary watched him on the cross. He called to one of his friends to look after her. many people in the crowd were cruel and they shouted things like, 'you saved other people. why don't you save yourself now'. At noon – darkness fell on the land.(turn lights off) Jesus cried out in a loud voice. 'My God, my God! Why have you abandoned me?' In the sadness and the dark...Jesus died!</p> <p>At the moment Jesus died, the earth shook. One of the soldiers who had been keeping guard said, ' This man WAS the Son of God!'. People began to feel afraid. Some of Jesus' friends and his mother waited for permission to take Jesus down off the cross. They laid his body in a tomb and then sealed the tomb with a large stone.</p>	<p>Tell the story while facing the cross. Turn off the lights when it goes dark. When the earth shook get the children to shake like a jelly. Lower the cross at the end of the story and get the children to carry the robe and the crown to the 'tomb' (The tomb can be made by putting two chairs together with a sheet over the top or under a table)</p> <p>Lay the robes and crown in the tomb and get the children to roll the stone over the entrance. (simply cover the gap with a sheet or blanket)</p> <p><i>Song: Jesus had died and was laid in a tomb, laid in a tomb, laid in a tomb. Jesus had died and was laid in a tomb and Jesus really loves us.</i></p>
11. Jesus is alive THIS CAN BE DONE ON EASTER SUNDAY	Two days later a friend of Jesus called Mary Magdalen was at the tomb where Jesus was buried. She was amazed to find that the stone was moved, and the tomb was empty! Jesus wasn't in it anymore! She ran to tell Peter and John that Jesus was gone! She was very sad and upset about this. She sat by the tomb crying and a man who she didn't know asked her why	Ask the children to walk round to the other side of the 'tomb' where it will be open with folded white garments and the stone rolled back. As the children approach the tomb turn on the lights. Give each child a glow stick to crack to demonstrate that the light had come back.

	<p>she was sad. She told them that someone had taken her friend Jesus away. Mary asked the man if she knew where he had been taken and the man turned to her and said, 'Mary! It's me'. Mary was full of Joy and she knew that the man was Jesus – no longer dead but very much alive and well! Mary ran back to tell everyone the news. Jesus was not dead – he was alive! Death was not strong enough to keep Jesus!</p>	<p>Song: <i>Jesus was dead but came BACK TO LIFE, BACK TO LIFE, BACK TO LIFE. Jesus was dead but came BACK TO LIFE and Jesus really loves us!</i></p>
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Resources needed:

- Cut out palm leaves
- Fabric for the ground
- Silver chocolate coins
- Low table with a cloth on it
- Bread and cups of blackcurrant squash
- Crepe paper branches and flowers or cut out flowers
- Large piece of paper with prison bars drawn on it
- Bowl of water on a chair or table
- Roman headband cut out
- Purple robe or purple item
- Crown of thorns (printable)
- 3 cut out cockerels
- Wooden cross made from broom handles
- Table or chairs to use as tomb with fabric
- Folded white piece of cloth