

Sunday School – 12th April 2020

The following is one way of delivering this session with children.

Other ideas for family worship have been made available by Roots and can be found here:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/106-march-april-2020-a/easter-day/worshipathome>

An alternative is provided by Hull minster:

<https://hullminster.org/family-resources>

Or the Diocesan Children and Young People Mission and Ministry Team

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1586346545.pdf>

Opening activity

Make a cross using two large branches or pieces of wood tied together with string. If you can't get outside to retrieve these then you could use straws or pencils.

Encourage the children to decorate the cross with fresh or paper drawn flowers, giving it colour and new life. Talk about the difference between the bare cross and how it looks now you have decorated it.

Opening prayer

Father God,
we come to you
because you turn doubt into hope,
tears into laughter
and fear into fearlessness.
We come to you
because on Easter Sunday
and on every other day,
we can say, 'Jesus is alive!'
Amen.

Open the Word: Open the Bible at Matthew 28.1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28.1-10&version=ICB>

Beforehand, practise together the different facial expressions the people in the story might have made, such as: grief, shock, fear, joy, excitement. Tell the Easter story, pausing at the points where emotion is shown and encourage your child/children to make the appropriate expression for that part of the story.

Talk together:

- What was the most amazing part of the story?
- How do you think you would feel if you were one of the women who visited the tomb?
- How can we share the good news that Jesus is alive?

Craft Activity –

You will need: sheets of A4 card, scissors, pens, coloured tissue paper, glue, envelopes.

- Pre-prepare by folding the sheets of card or paper in half to form a greetings card for each child. Cut a large, cross-shaped hole in the front cover of each card.
- Ask the children to write 'The joy of Easter shines through' on the front, and a message inside their card.
- Inside the card, they can then cover the cross 'window' carefully with tissue paper, creating a stained-glass effect. Help the children to carefully stick and seal all the edges with glue. If you don't have tissue paper then the front of the card can just be decorated.
- Encourage the children to place the finished card on their window sill to show others.

Praise Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXHq2iKhRto>

On that first Easter Day

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus,
for showing yourself to us,
as you showed yourself to Mary;
thank you for beating death,
so that we don't have to be afraid;
thank you for giving us
this wonderful message,
so that we can share it with others.
Amen.