

# Easter Explorers

(A workshop for school children)

## Preparing for Workshops

- Choose your date
- Recruit some volunteer helpers (Talk to your safeguarding officer about doing this safely)
- Think about whether you want a reflective prayer station type workshop, a more craft/activity based workshop or a mixture of both. This will depend on the school you are working with and could be discussed with the teachers. When working with non-church schools we should *invite* children to pray or reflect rather than *instruct* them to pray.
- Contact the school/s you wish to invite, it is best to do this by popping into the school or by telephone in the first instance
- Set the date/time/number and age of pupils with the school
- Follow up the invitation with an email using the information for schools email Template (1) to provide information. Attach the flyer for teachers (3)
- Choose the activities you would like to offer (6 for craft type activities, 7 for prayer and reflection stations) – you can, of course, design your own
- Familiarise yourself and your volunteers with the risk assessment (4) you may need to edit this
- Confirm the programme for the day with the school using the confirmation email template (2) Remember to attach the completed Risk Assessment (4) as this will be useful for the staff.

## Getting the church ready

- Organise an area for children to sit – on a carpeted area on the floor is ideal, but selected seats or pews works too
- Children should be able to see (and hear) you clearly as well as the screen if you are using one
- Have the areas prepared for your activities, with all the equipment needed for each activity
- Check your tech – it's a good idea to open any links and have videos ready to go with the adverts already run through.
- NB the workshops work equally well without a screen, you will simply have to read story. The Lion Storyteller Bible is recommended, but you can use any child friendly translation. It is advisable to choose a fairly concise version to avoid children sitting still for too long. A copy of The Lion Storyteller Bible is available to borrow from Church House if you do not have one.

## Session Timetable

- Children arrive with school staff, invite the children to sit in a group where they can see the screen (or book if your church doesn't have a screen)
- Welcome staff and inform them of the whereabouts of toilets and fire exits, you might want to offer hot drinks to staff. (Not mentioning toilets to the children directly will avoid an immediate rush and lengthy queues)
- Staff to sit with/behind children

- Introduce yourself and your volunteer helpers to the children
- Follow the guidelines on the Easter Explorers Planning document (5) this will guide you through both the Miracle Maker instructions and The Lion Storyteller Versions. If you are using a different version, refer to the objectives to show you which part of the story to read.
- Examples of questions to ask are on the planning, but you can respond to children's questions or observations too
- During the story telling is a good time to allow the children to eat their snacks, or offer them refreshments if you wish to do this\*
- The whole event should last between 90 and 120 minutes depending on how long you spend on the practical activities.

### Things to remember

- The school staff are responsible for the children's behaviour – any issues refer to the class teacher
- Take the opportunity to chat to staff about any other activities that go on in church for young people, ask them to put a flyer or your service times on their school newsletter
- It's useful to find out who the RE lead teacher is so you can communicate directly with them about other activities or invitations

\*Many churches like to offer refreshments to children, but this can cause issues – some children may have allergies or medical issues and some parents prefer their children not to have squash etc. It's a lovely thing to do (and very popular with the children) but always check with the school before you set this up.

NB A stationary box (8) is available for loan from the Old Cathedral School, it contains stationary, clipboards etc for 30+ children, please contact Clare Green for information about this, or about the support we can offer in running your workshops. [clare.green@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:clare.green@trurodiocese.org.uk)