

Example Planning Easter Explorers

General Objectives: To teach primary school children why Easter is an important festival for Christians.

- To invite children inside a local church building if practical
- To run an event which aims to link church with local schools.
- To offer good opportunities for focussed oracy including listening, questioning and giving opinions.

Learning Objectives (in line with the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education):

- L2.5 Why do Christians call the day Jesus died “Good Friday”?
- U2.3 Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?
- U2.5 What do Christians believe Jesus did to save people?
- U2.6 For Christians, what kind of king was Jesus?

Objectives	Activities	Questions to ask
To hear or watch the Easter story. To consider whether it actually happened. To consider it from different viewpoints.	<p>Welcome to the church Introduction to the Church volunteers that have joined us.</p> <p>Explain how session works.</p> <p>Show a bible and discuss Old and New Testament Remember Christmas – that baby called Jesus? He grew up and he lived in Israel. Mention gospel writers – eyewitnesses.</p> <p>Ask – what is Easter? Why do Christians celebrate Easter?</p>	<p>What book is important to Christians?</p> <p>Who or what is it about?</p>

<p>To hear the Last Supper from the Bible. To make connections to the Jewish Passover festival. To understand communion in church and why Christians remember Jesus' sacrifice.</p>	<p>Either Watch "The Miracle Maker" film 56mins – 58:50</p> <p>Or Read from the Lion Story Book Bible p136/7 An Important Meal</p>	<p>Before the meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet, why do you think he did this? Is this what a king should do? How does Jesus react to the betrayal of Judas? What does Jesus do that is unexpected? Does Jesus seem like a king in this part of the story, why? Why not? Why was Jesus so calm about dying? How does this part of the story make you feel?</p>
<p>To hear the Cruxifixion from the Bible. To understand why Christians call this day Good Friday</p>	<p>Either Watch "The Miracle Maker" film 1:01:35 – 1:13:28</p> <p>Or Read from the Lion Story Book Bible p138/9 A Dreadful Day</p>	<p>Did Jesus get a fair trial? What did Jesus say to the men beside him? I wonder, what do you think they felt? I wonder if you had been watching, what would you have thought? Does Jesus seem like a king in this part of the story, why? Why not? Why didn't Jesus just save himself? Why is it called "Good Friday"?</p>
<p>To hear the Resurrection from the Bible. To understand what a messiah is.</p>	<p>Either Watch "The Miracle Maker" film 1:13:28 – 1:17:28</p> <p>Or Read from the Lion Story Book Bible p140/1 A Happy Day</p>	<p>How did the little girl feel when Jesus died? How did she feel when he was alive again?</p> <p>I wonder, why did Jesus appear to lots of people after he came back to life? Did it really happen? What do you think? What does the word Messiah mean? <i>Messiah means "chosen one" or "anointed one."</i> <i>In the Bible, people were waiting for someone special sent by God to help and save them. This person would bring peace, hope, and show people how to live God's way.</i> In what way did Jesus "save" people? Why do Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah?</p>

		<p>What do Christians believe Jesus did to save people? For Christians, what kind of king was Jesus?</p>
<p>At this point, there are two options, you can <i>either</i> use the prayer stations idea below which the children access independently at their own pace</p>		
<p>To experience prayer stations with different activities. To reflect on the Easter story and what it means to Christians and what it might mean to me. What kind of king was Jesus? What do Christians believe Jesus did to save people?</p>	<p>Adult gives instructions. You walk slowly and quietly to each station, in any order, pausing to read each card and reflect. There may be an action/activity too. Think about the mood of each station. Think about being a disciple in the story. How do you feel? Take time to reflect. Sit and be quiet if you prefer.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem – hopes and dreams. I wonder questions. Large picture of hot air balloon on board. Post it notes. 2. Confusion – big questions on cardboard, children peg them on string line. 3. Crucifixion: crown of thorns and wooden cross – sadness – when we miss someone who has died. Write their name on a flower and add to the branches. 4. Sorry – when we know we have done something wrong – sorry cards to peg onto vertical strings. 5. Forgiveness – basket of stones and bowl of water.
<p>Or you can split the class into 3 groups and carry out three different practical activities each led by a volunteer adult</p>		
<p>To encourage dialogue and discussion about feelings about different parts of the Easter story</p>	<p>Set up three stations with an adult leader at each. Choose three activities, one for each table. With the class split into three groups, rotate the groups around the tables with roughly 15 minutes per activity. Aim to have an activity representing each part of the story, while the children are creating, the leader can encourage chat and discussion about each part of the story.</p>	<p>Use the questions above to encourage discussion.</p>
<p>It is possible to do a mixture of workshop activities based on both models, for example having two activities and using prayer stations as your third option.</p>		
<p>Bring the class back together.</p>		
	<p>Show an Easter Egg (preferable a Real Easter Egg)</p>	<p>What does this have to do with the Easter Story? Why do we have eggs at Easter? I wonder which bit of the story did you like best? Why? What have you learned about the story today? Anything</p>

	<p>Reflection: Light the candle – means Jesus is the light of the world. Sit quietly for 2 minutes thinking about what you have heard and taken part in.</p>	<p>new? Any facts/feelings? Any surprises? Do you think the story you have heard is happy or sad? Why?</p> <p>What do Christians believe Jesus did to save people? Why do Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah? What kind of king was Jesus (adjectives)? Can you answer them now?</p>
<p>Pray a simple prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to believe what happened to you and why you died and rose again. Give us faith and hope that you are always with us, no matter what we do and that you will always love us. Help us to love others, to forgive and show kindness to everyone we meet. Amen</p>		