

Holy Monday



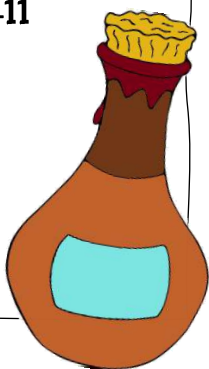
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus being anointed at Bethany

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 12 v 1–11

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



The other lectionary readings for today are:

Isaiah 42 v 1–9

Psalms 36 v 5–11

Hebrews 9 v 11–15

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Mary who recognised how important and precious you are.

As we begin our journey towards Easter help us to draw closer to you.

Thank you for all those in the story who heard about Jesus’ miracles and believed in Him. Help those who do not know you to hear about you this Easter time.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *What did Mary do with her perfume?*
- *What are some of your favourite smells?*

Mary’s perfume was very very expensive, that is why people were so shocked that she gave it to Jesus. But Mary understood how special Jesus was and how precious it was to spend time with Him.

Sometimes there is a cost to spending time with Jesus, we might have to give up doing something else that we also enjoy, but time with Jesus is precious and important

A question for children to ask adults

What are some of the things you do to spend time with Jesus and show Him how special He is to you?

Family Activity

You will need: A selection of items from around the home – perfume, soap, grass, food items etc. Blindfolds (scarves)

Collect together a selection of items from around your house and garden. Children should take it in turns to smell the items whilst wearing a blindfold – can they guess what they are smelling?

They could be nice smells e.g. chocolate, not so nice smells e.g. dirty socks or familiar smells e.g. a parent’s perfume.

Spend some time wondering together what Mary’s perfume smelt like?



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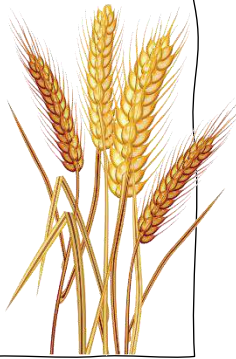
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus explaining that he would die.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 12 v20–36

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



The other lectionary readings for today are:

Isaiah 49 v 1–7

Psalms 71 v 1–14

1 Corinthians 1 v 23–26

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that you sent your son Jesus to die and take the punishment for our sins.

Thank you that you are the light of the world. Help us to follow you and serve you every day.

We pray for all those in the world who don’t know you yet that they would come to know your love and accept you as their Saviour.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *What did Jesus say had to happen to a grain of wheat for it to make many seeds?*

Jesus told the people that grain has to fall to the ground and die to produce seeds. He was using this as a picture to help them understand that He was going to die. Jesus knew that by dying He would make a way for the sins of the world to be forgiven. The seeds He was talking about were all the people who would come to be friends of God through Jesus.

A question for children to ask adults

How did you come to be a friend of God? What is your story?

Family Activity

You will need: A pot, soil, a fruit or vegetable with seeds

Collect the pips or seeds from any fruits/vegetables you have in the house e.g. tomato or peppers seeds, apple or orange pips.

You might need to be creative in getting soil from your garden and you can use any container to plant in e.g. yoghurt pots, tin cans.

Plant the seeds in the pots and see if you can get them to grow. Think about how you had to break open the fruit or vegetable to get the seeds out.

Jesus knew that he had to die to take the punishment for the sins of the world.





Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus talking about being betrayed

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 13 v 21–32

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



The other lectionary readings for today are:

Isaiah 50 v 4–9

Psalm 70

1 Corinthians 11 v 23–26

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a forgiving God; that no mistake we make cannot be forgiven by you.

Help us to love others and forgive them just as you have forgiven us.

We pray for those who have been let down and hurt in the past that they would come to know you and your love that never fails.

Amen

Holy Wednesday

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- How do you think Jesus felt when he knew that Judas would betray him?
- How do you think the other disciples felt when Jesus gave the bread to Judas?

At the beginning of the passage we know that Jesus was troubled, but even though he was struggling with what he knew had to happen he still was open and shared it with his friends. Jesus’ love for us continues when we make mistakes or let God down. Even as he was being betrayed Jesus was encouraging his followers to love one another as He loved them.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when somebody let you down? How did it make you feel?

Family Activity

You will need: Paper and pens

We sometimes call the Wednesday before Easter “Spy Wednesday” as we remember the betrayal of Jesus. Use the code below to write each other messages of love and encouragement. Maybe you could even deliver them ‘spy-style’ slipping them into a pocket or drawer!

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
✓	£	%	=	♥	◇	○	□	☺	✝

k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
≡	⊖	▽	⊘	∞	●	⓪	☺	◐	△

u	v	w	x	y	z
☀	+	↓	←	↑	→





Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 13 v 1–17 and 31–35

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



Maundy Thursday

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *Why do you think Jesus washed his disciples' feet?*

Washing feet was not an unusual thing in Jesus' time – because the ground was dusty, and most people wore sandals, when you had a guest in your house you might offer to wash their feet. Jesus wanted to teach his disciples a lesson – to help them understand what it means to love and serve others. Jesus lived his life as an example for us to follow of how to share God's love with others.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when somebody did something for you that you were not expecting that blessed or encouraged you?

The other lectionary readings for today are:

Exodus 12 v 1–14

Psalms 116 v 1–2 and 12–19

1 Corinthians 11 v 23–26

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that your son Jesus came and lived on the earth as an example for us to follow.

Help us to love and serve others as your son loved and served the world.

Help us to share your love with the world by serving those we meet. May the way we love others speak of your love in the world.

Amen

Family Activity 1

You will need: A bowl of warm water, towels, soap.

Take some time to wash each other's feet – while you are doing it share with one another some of the things that you love most about the person who is having their feet washed.



Family Activity 2

Jesus told his disciples to follow his example. To love each other in the same way that He had loved them.

Play a game of 'follow the leader' taking it in turns to be the leader and have everybody else copy you.



Good Friday



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus' death on the cross.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 18 v 1–19 v 42

Read the story together
– choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



The other lectionary readings for today are:

Isaiah 52 v 13 – 53 v 12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10 v 16–25

or Hebrews 4 v 14–16; 5 v 7–9

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

I am sorry for the mistakes I have made, for the times when I have made bad choices or been disobedient.

Thank you that you sent your son Jesus to die on the cross for us.

Thank you that when Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment for all my mistakes and all the mistakes of the world.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *Why did Jesus have to die?*

It seems strange that we call the day when we remember Jesus dying "Good Friday" but for God's amazing Good news plan to happen Jesus first had to die. When Jesus died he had never done anything wrong but he took the punishment that should have been ours. The punishment for all our mistakes

A question for children to ask adults

*What is the messiest you have ever been?
How did you get cleaned up?*

We have all made mistakes and messed up and our messy sins stop us from coming close to God who is perfect and pure. When Jesus died on the cross, he made a way for all our mistakes to be forgiven so that we can come close to God.

Family Activity

You will need: Any craft materials you have around the house

Use whatever craft materials you have around the house to create your own crowns. Decorate them and wear them together.

Use them as a reminder of the crown of thorns that Jesus was forced to wear. The people were laughing at Jesus when they called him the 'King of the Jews' but we know that the truth that Jesus is the King of Kings.

As children of God we all deserve to wear a crown – we are precious and royal too!



Holy Saturday



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus in the tomb.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 27 v 57–66

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



The other lectionary readings for today are:

Job 14 v 1–14/Lamentations 3 v 1–9, 19–24

Psalms 31 v 1–4, 15–16

1 Peter 4 v 1–8

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you, God, that you always keep your promises.

Thank you that even though Jesus died and was placed into the tomb he had promised He would come back to life.

Help us to be patient and to trust you when we are waiting for things. Thank you that you will never let us down, that you are always there for us.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *Why did they guard the tomb?*

Jesus had told everybody that he was going to die and then rise again from the dead after three days. The people who had ordered for Jesus to be killed were worried that Jesus' friends might steal the body to make it look like Jesus had risen again.

We know that Jesus didn't need to pretend, in just three days he would rise again and appear so that people could see him and know that what he had promised had come true!

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something that you were really excited about?

Family Activity

You will need: A timer / clock

Find out who is best at waiting by playing 'The Minute Game'.

One person has a clock or phone timer, this person tells everybody when to begin.

Everybody else must stand up, they must sit down when they think a minute has passed – they are not allowed to cheat by looking at a watch or clock. Once everybody has sat down the person watching the timer should say who was closest.

Use this game as a reminder that Jesus had promised he would come back from the dead, all everybody had to do was wait! Sometimes we have to wait and be patient, but God always keeps his promises!

