

# EASTER

A creative, prayer centred exploration of the Easter Story.



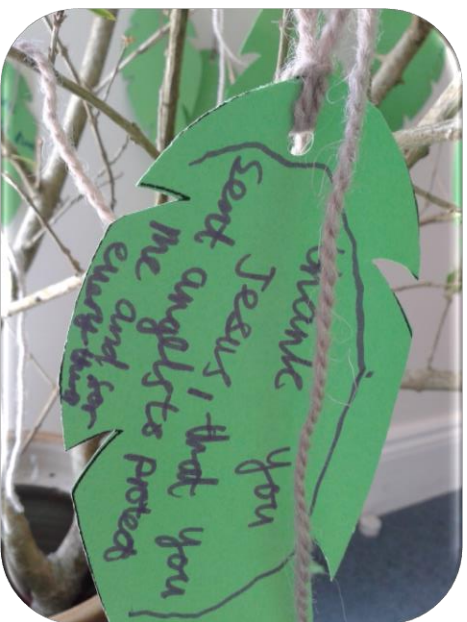
## 1. Palm Sunday Joy

**Equipment:** Green paper, felt-tip pens, scissors.

**Set Up:** Cut out palm tree shaped leaves and put them with the pens.

### **Suggested Instructions:**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people put palm leaves on the ground and shouted, 'Hosanna in the highest!' Shouting 'Hosanna' is a bit like shouting 'Hooray'. When do you feel like shouting 'Hooray'? What are you really happy about? What are you really thankful for? If you want, you can write a thank you/Hooray thought or prayer on a leaf-shape.



## 2. Last Supper Friendship

**Equipment:** Pipe cleaners.

**Set Up:** Put the pipe cleaners with instructions on how to make a pipe cleaner person.

### **Suggested Instructions:**

The English word 'companion' comes from the Latin phrase 'com panis' which literally means 'with bread'. During the last supper, the night before Jesus was killed, Jesus broke bread with his companions, his disciples, his best friends! Who are your best friends? Who is really important to you? If you want to, you can make a model of them out of the pipe cleaners as a way of saying thank you to God for them.



## 3. Gethsemane Big Questions

**Equipment:** (lots of) cardboard, felt-tip pens, string, pegs. Optional: green fabric/mat

**Set Up:** If you have green fabric, create a 'gardeny' area for the activity. Hang the strings and put the cardboard, pens and pegs nearby.

### **Suggested Instructions:**

Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus was worried about what was going to happen to him, and he prayed a 'Big Question' prayer to God. We all have big questions about life. Christians believe that God is OK with our questions, even our angry, painful ones. If you want to, you can write a big questions prayer onto a bit of cardboard.



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## 4. Carrying the Cross Worries

**Equipment:** Paper, scissors, pens.

**Set Up:** Cut out some paper crosses and put them with the pens.

### Suggested Instructions:

The Romans forced Jesus to carry his heavy cross through the streets and then up the hill called Golgotha. Sometimes our problems and fears feel heavy. Christians believe that God wants to help. What are you worried about? What are you finding difficult to carry? If you want to, you can write your worry onto a paper-cross and ask God to help you carry it.



## 5. Simon's Help Helping Others

**Equipment:** Paper, felt-tip pens, scissors.

**Set Up:** Cut out paper hands (older students could do this themselves).

### Suggested Instructions:

Simon, a Cyrenian, helped Jesus to carry his cross towards Golgotha. There are lots of people in our lives that we can provide a 'helping hand' to in the same way that Simon helped Jesus. Who could you help, with an action, a letter, or kind words maybe? It might be something really small, but it might make a big difference. If you want to, you can write or draw a picture of the person on a hand shape.



## 6. Forgive them Father Forgiveness

**Equipment:** Water, container, stones.

**Set Up:** Place the container with water near the stones.

### Suggested Instructions:

On the cross, Jesus cried out, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do'. Even as he was dying he asked God to forgive those who had put him to death. Sometimes bad things happen, people hurt us and it is hard to let go of the pain. Sometimes it feels heavy inside us, like a stone. Think for a moment - is there anyone you need to forgive? If you want to, take a stone and gently drop it into the water as a step of forgiveness.



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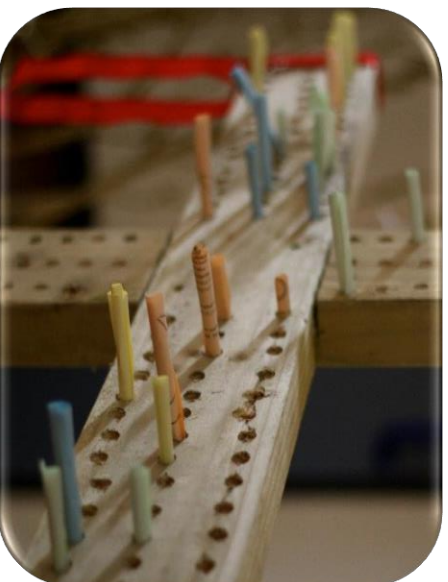
## 7. The Cross Sorry

**Equipment:** Wooden cross, pins, paper, pens.

**Set Up:** Stand the large wooden cross in a corner, making sure it is stable. Put the rest of the equipment nearby.

### Suggested Instructions:

Christians believe that because Jesus died on the cross, they can freely ask God for forgiveness - they can say sorry and know they are forgiven. We all do and say things wrong, things that we regret and wish we hadn't. What have you done or said wrong? If you want to, you can write a sorry thought or prayer onto a piece of paper and pin it to the cross.



## 8. Resurrection Hopes and Dreams

**Equipment:** Scratch cards e.g. [www.bakerross.co.uk/scratch-art-doodle-sheets-1](http://www.bakerross.co.uk/scratch-art-doodle-sheets-1)

**Set Up:** Scratch cards can be cut into halves or quarters. Something to scratch with.

### Suggested Instructions:

After Jesus died, his body was put into a tomb. Jesus' friends were afraid and confused, it was a dark time. It felt like all their hopes and dreams had died with Jesus. But three days later, the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive! We all have hopes and dreams, things that seem impossible, but we hold onto our hopes. If you want to, you can scratch a thought or prayer or a picture about your hope or dreams onto the scratch card.



## 9. Great Commission The World

**Equipment:** World map, newspapers, post-it notes, pens.

**Set Up:** Create a fairly large area to lay out the equipment.

### Suggested Instructions:

After Jesus had come back to life, he told his disciples to share his message, to heal the sick, feed the hungry, to care for the poor. Jesus encouraged them to make the world a better place. Think about things in the world that don't seem right. What could you do to make the world a better place? What could God do? If you want to, write your thoughts and prayers on a Post-it note and place it on the map.

