

Explore Easter

Easter Lesson for Years 3-6

Learning Questions

A: What were the key events surrounding Jesus' death? (for younger year groups – use sections marked **A** below)

B: How did Jesus' death and the events surrounding it fulfil prophecy? (for older year groups – use sections marked **B** below)

Lesson format: series of videos with discussion questions (*answers in brackets*) and activities depending on which learning question you use.

Resources needed: videos (provided on **our website** and **YouTube channel**), Bible texts sheet, one between two (for sections marked **B**) (provided on **our website**), Miracle Maker clip (available on **YouTube**), paper or books for written work. You might also want to use some images and/or props to support memory in the written activity. Suggestions for these are given below.

Duration: 1hr -1hr30mins

Overview

Intro	5 mins
Video 1 – Palm Sunday	1 min
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Video 2 – The Temple	3 mins
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Video 3 – The Last Supper	2 mins
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Video 4 – The Trial	3 mins
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Video 5 – The Crucifixion	4 mins
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Video 6 – The Resurrection	2 mins
Discussion/activity	5 -10 mins
Written work	10 -15 mins
Plenary	5 mins

Word bank

Bible	Governor	Judas	Resurrection
Christians	Herod	Palm	Sacrifice
Crucifixion	Hosanna	Passover	Temple
Crucify	Isaiah	Pilate	Tomb
Disciples	Jeremiah	Prayer	Trial
Easter	Jerusalem	Prophecy	Whip
Gethsemane	Jesus	Psalm	Zechariah

Intro (5 mins)

A: What do Christians celebrate at Easter? (*Jesus' death and resurrection.*) What parts of the Easter story do you already know?

B: Who do Christians believe Jesus was? (*The son of God.*) Why do they believe this? (*Healing, miracles, teaching, prophecies.*) Historians all agree that Jesus existed, but Christians believe he was the son of God because of the things he did and said and because he fulfilled many prophecies. What is a prophecy? (*A prediction of what will happen.*)

Video 1 (1 min) – Palm Sunday (suggested props – donkey, palm branch)

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: What happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem? (*It was Sunday, a massive crowd gathered, he rode on a donkey, the crowd shouted and waved palm branches.*) Why do you think the people did this? (*They were happy, Jesus had been doing amazing things, they thought he was the son of God, they were pleased to see him.*) Would you have joined in? Why?

B: Palm Sunday was a time of great rejoicing – why? (*The people were happy, Jesus had been doing amazing things, they thought he was the son of God, they were pleased to see him.*) Why did they believe he was the son of God? Look at the introduction and first text on the Bible texts sheet. How was this prophecy fulfilled? (*Jesus came on a donkey, everyone was cheering.*) Does it explain why the people were so excited? (*They thought he was a king and had come to save them.*) Would you have felt the same if you had been there?

Video 2 (3 mins) – The Temple (suggested props – coins, whip)

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: What was the Temple supposed to be used for? (*It was like a church, it was a house of prayer, where people went to make sacrifices and meet with God.*) What was it being used for when Jesus came? (*Men were selling things and exchanging money and they were cheating people.*) What did Jesus do? (*He got angry, he shouted, he turned over the tables, he scattered the money, he made a whip and drove people out.*) Why do you think he did this? (*People weren't treating the temple with respect or using it for its proper purpose.*) Would you have agreed with him?

B: Why do you think Jesus was so angry about what was happening in the Temple? (*The men were using the Temple for the wrong purpose and were cheating people.*) Look at the next section of the Bible texts sheet. Which of these prophecies was fulfilled in what you heard? (*All of them, but particularly Isaiah 29 and Jeremiah.*) What is the significance of the words 'which bears my Name'? (*The temple was God's place.*) Do you think any more of

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these prophecies might have been fulfilled as a result of what happened in the temple? (*All of them – Jesus’ actions in the temple upset the religious leaders and started to make them his enemies.*)

Video 3 (2 mins) – The Last Supper (suggested props – plate, chalice, bread)

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: What did Jesus do which surprised Peter and why was it so unusual? (*He washed the disciples’ feet. It was unusual because it was normally the job of a servant.*) What did Jesus say about Judas? (*He said Judas was going to betray him.*) What did Jesus say about the bread and the wine? (*He said the bread was his body and the wine was his blood.*) Do you think Jesus knew he was going to die? How do you think he might have felt?

B: What point was Jesus trying to make by washing the disciples’ feet? (*It is important to serve one another, and one person is no greater than another person.*) Look at the next section of the Bible texts sheet. Which of these prophecies was fulfilled in what you heard? (*All of them but particularly the Psalm and Zechariah. Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus.*) Can you think of any ways the other prophecies might have been fulfilled in this part of the story? (*Isaiah 6: the disciples didn’t understand what Jesus was telling them. Isaiah 53: Jesus was going to endure suffering and pain on the cross, and Christians believe he did this as a sacrifice for others.*)

Video 4 (3 mins) – The Trial (suggested props – whip, crown of thorns)

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: How did Judas betray Jesus? (*He kissed him.*) What did the soldiers do to Jesus? (*They whipped him, dressed him in a purple robe and a crown of thorns, hit him and laughed at him.*) What did Jesus do and say? (*Nothing.*) Why do you think the soldiers and Jesus acted like this?

B: Why do you think the soldiers acted like they did? (*They were scared, they were told to, they enjoyed it.*) Why do you think Jesus acted like he did? (*He knew it was God’s will, he knew it had to happen, he was fulfilling prophecy.*) Look at the next section of the Bible texts sheet. Which of these prophecies was fulfilled in what you heard? (*All of them, but particularly Isaiah 50 and 53.*) Do you think any more of these prophecies might have been fulfilled as a result of what happened in this part of the story? (*Psalm: while Jesus was on the cross the soldiers played dice and gambled for his clothes and divided them between them (except his robe). Zechariah: when Jesus was arrested and tried, some of his followers left him and turned against him.*)

Video 5 (4 mins) – The Crucifixion – show the clip from the Miracle Maker available [here](#).

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: How do you think Jesus felt? How do you think Jesus’ friends felt? How would you have felt? Time for quiet reflection.

B: How do you think Jesus felt? How do you think Jesus’ friends felt? How would you have felt? Time for quiet reflection. Look at the next section of the Bible texts sheet. Which of these prophecies was fulfilled in what you heard and saw? (*All of them, but particularly Isaiah 13 and Zechariah.*) Do you think any of the other prophecies were also fulfilled? (*Psalm: none of Jesus’ bones were broken on the cross – this was unusual for a crucifixion.*)

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Isaiah 53: Jesus died willingly and the two men who were crucified either side of him were criminals.)

Video 6 (2 mins) – The Resurrection (suggested props – basket, white sheet)

Discussion/activity (5-10 mins)

A: Why was Mary surprised when she went to visit Jesus' tomb? (*The stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body was gone.*) Who did she then meet and what did she do? (*She met Jesus and she went to tell all their friends.*)

B: How do you think Mary felt on her way to the tomb? (*Sad, disappointed, confused.*) How do you think she felt when she got there and found it empty? (*Surprised, scared, confused.*) How do you think she felt when she met Jesus? (*Surprised, happy, scared, confused.*) Look at the last Bible text. Jesus spoke these words to his disciples before he died. What do you think he meant? (*His body was the temple and it would be destroyed and brought back to life in three days.*) Can you understand why the disciples back then and Christians today believe he was the son of God? (*Miracles of Jesus, healing, teaching and in particular, prophecies fulfilled.*)

Written work (10-15 mins)

A: Using the learning question above (**What were the key events surrounding Jesus' death?**), get the children to write about one of the sections of the story in as much detail as they can. Try and include how the people felt and why.

B: Using the learning question above (**How did Jesus' death and the events surrounding it fulfil prophecy?**), get the children to write about one of the prophecies that was fulfilled in the story. See if they can explain how the fulfilment of prophecy makes Christians believe Jesus was the son of God.

Plenary (5 mins)

A: Did you learn something new about the Easter story? Did anything surprise you? Can you remember the key events? Which part would you most have liked to be there for and why? Can you explain why Easter is important to Christians?

B: Why did the disciples believe Jesus was the son of God? What prophecies did the events surrounding his death fulfil? (*All the prophecies on the Bible texts sheet.*) Are there any other reasons the disciples had for believing he was the son of God? (*Healing, miracles, teaching of Jesus.*) What do you think?