



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

Story Script

First Level

An active retelling of the Bible story of The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Props needed:

- *Small world person to be Jesus*
- *2 small world people to be soldiers.*
- *2 small world people to be the women.*
- *Small world person to be an angel.*
- *Shoebbox made into a tomb. (stood on side with hole cut out. Cut the bottom of a large yoghurt pot and insert it into the hole so the top is the front of the tomb. Cover the shoebbox (except the hole) with green felt. Ensure the back is covered loosely so you can get your hand in to remove Jesus.*
- *A large stone which will cover the yogurt pot tomb.*
- *A cross made out of sticks able to stand up (pop it into a pot of playdough.)*

Palm Sunday

I don't know if you know much about Jesus, but Christians believe he was someone really special. They believe he was the Son of God. That God was his dad. The Bible says he did some amazing things when he had been living on earth. Like changing water into wine, making enough food to feed 5000 people from just 5 loaves of bread and two fish, making a storm stop just by speaking. And he had been telling everyone great stories, all about how much God loved them. Most people thought he was great.

One day Jesus and his friends (we call them the Disciples) were going into the big city of Jerusalem. (Invite one child to be Jesus, and a few others his disciples.)

Invite one child to be Jesus and a few others his disciples. Ask them to stand at one side

As they got near, Jesus spoke to a couple of his disciples and said:

'Go to the village, take the donkey you see. If anyone says 'what are you doing?', tell them it's for the Lord.'

Ask Jesus to repeat his lines after you.

Jesus' friends were used to him doing odd things, so they went to the village and found the donkey. They told its owner 'it's for the Lord' and brought it back to Jesus.

The disciples should walk a short distance to find the 'owner' and the donkey. Find a volunteer to be the donkey. (with waterproofs on if outside! Or willing to give a piggy back)

They put their coats over the donkey's back and Jesus sat on it.

Act this out!

As they got into Jerusalem there were loads and loads of people. They were so excited to see Jesus.

Arrange class into two, as if on either side of a road

They put their coats down on the road just like a red carpet.

(The children will be keen to do this. Pop some tarps underneath if wet and muddy!)

And got palm leaves to wave like flags.

Everyone find a leaf.

As he came closer the crowds wave their leaves and started to shout 'Hooray for the King, Here is the one to save us'.

The crowds wave and shout as Jesus moves through them on the donkey.

They all followed him into the city still waving and shouting. The whole city came out to see. And no one would fight him.

Death and Resurrection

Show them a small world person and explain that you're now going to use this small character to be Jesus.

Put your 'tomb' shoebox to one side of you and your cross next to that.

It seemed like everyone loved Jesus. But some people didn't. The leaders were jealous of how much everyone liked Jesus. They wanted to be the popular ones. They didn't believe that he was the son of God. They wanted Jesus dead. So they had him arrested. They made up things about him and told lies at his trial. Jesus was sentenced to death.

Jesus was killed in a horrible way. He was nailed to a cross. This is called a crucifixion.

Hold the Jesus character up to the cross.

How do you think his friends felt now? He'd done nothing wrong and now he was being killed.

The Bible says that even though it was daytime the whole sky went dark when Jesus died. The soldiers at his cross said 'He must be the son of God'. They checked he was really dead.

They took Jesus' body from the cross and put it in a tomb. That was like a large cave in the hillside.

Put Jesus into your tomb.

They wanted to make sure no one would steal his body so they rolled a really heavy stone across the entrance.

Block your tomb entrance with a stone.

And put two soldiers to guard the tomb.

Place your two small world people representing the soldiers in front of the tomb.

Pause and remind the children how sad this was.

Three days later some of the women who were Jesus' friends came to the tomb. They wanted to say goodbye.

'walk' your small world 'women' towards the tomb. As the children are watching them, use your other hand to subtly remove Jesus from the back of the tomb. Keep him hidden.

But when they got to the tomb they were shocked. The stone was rolled away.

Move the stone

The soldiers had fallen over

Lie the soldiers down

And when they looked inside Jesus' body wasn't there.

Allow them to look inside and be surprised.

They saw an angel

Bring out your 'angel'

The angel said 'Jesus isn't here. He is alive again. Go and tell his friends.'

The women couldn't believe it but they ran to tell their friends. And as they were running they met someone.

Bring out 'Jesus' to meet the women.

It was Jesus! He was alive! He had been dead but now he had really come alive again. Wow! How do you think they felt now

It will be helpful to confirm to the children that what you did was a trick. But Christians believe that when it happened it wasn't a trick. Jesus really died and really came back to life.