



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Easter Story

Introduction



Introduction

This topic is part of a suite of classroom resources developed by Ten Must Know Bible Stories. It is available as a First and Second Level resource.

These resources are designed to support learning across the curriculum and demonstrate how RME can be embedded within learning and will support the values and ethos of the school. This fits with the 4 capacities and the 4 contexts of learning.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Learning Resource could be used:

- Linked to the festival of Easter.
- To explore emotions such as sadness, grief, happiness, amazement, confusion, betrayal.
- Outdoors or indoors.
- As a stand alone topic or you can link to other areas of the curriculum.



Note to Head Teachers:

This topic delivers key parts of the RME curriculum, and supports Literacy, Science, Health & Well-being and Outdoor Learning. In helping children to develop respect as they explore Christian belief and consider or share their own, it also supports the wider school culture, ethos and values. It can further help the school support families and develop wider community links, e.g. with charities and faith groups.



Note to Teachers:

The Easter story for Christians focuses on Jesus, the son of God, being betrayed by a friend, found guilty even though he was innocent, crucified on a cross and coming back to life. Although this story can be common knowledge to some, it is being less and less told today and is an essential element to the basis of the Christian faith. Children will enjoy exploring the characters and events in the story.

- *Outdoor Learning:* As the weather is often starting to become nicer Easter can be a great time of year to get outside and explore a story. Search for or make cross shapes. Roll eggs down the hill.
- *Explore the emotions in the story:* It's a sad story with a happy ending. When do

we feel sad or happy? What other emotions can you find in the story?

- *The themes of life and death:* can be hard ones to explore and discuss with children. This story provides a safe way in to those discussions.

The sections of the Bible on which this topic is based are:

- **Matthew 21:1-11** (Palm Sunday. Jesus enters Jerusalem)
- **Matthew 26:17-30** (The Last Supper)
- **Matthew 26:36-50** (Garden of Gethsemane and Arrest)
- **Matthew 26:57-67** and **Matthew 27:11-26** (The trials of Jesus)
- **Matthew 27:27-65** (The crucifixion and burial)
- **Matthew 28:1-10** (The Resurrection)



Note to School Chaplains or School Workers:

You can work in partnership with teachers in your school to help deliver this material. Some of the resources can also be adapted to create really lively Time for Reflection school assemblies for Easter.



How to use the material for this story

As with all other Ten Must Know Bible Stories, you need to start with Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story. You can then 'pick and mix' from the sessions that follow. Each session can stand by itself or can be combined with other sessions depending on the age of your children and the length of your lesson.

First level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story – outdoors.

Session 2: Explore the emotions.

Session 3: Consider the characters.

Second level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the story.

Session 2 and 3: Discovering the story for ourselves.

Session 4: What do I think?

Additionally you can access:

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus: PowerPoint and images

Additional Resources for the Death and Resurrection of Jesus learning resource.

Each session supports learning across the curriculum for example Literacy, Expressive arts, Health & Well-being and Social Studies.

The sessions are designed to be extended with learning across the curricular areas. This will increase the depth and richness of the children's learning, ensuring they know the story and have been allowed to explore the many aspects of it. Some ideas are provided below but we're sure you'll have more of your own.



Extending the Learning across the Curriculum

Expressive Arts

- Enjoy creating some artwork linked to the story.
- Create sound effects for the story.
- Grow/make an Easter garden.
- Decorate eggs.
- Use old/traditional children's Bibles with graphics and compare them with the Scottish Bible Society images. Which do children prefer and why?

Mathematics

- Spot or make cross shapes.
- Find some stones – which ones roll easily? Can you order them from big to small.

Sciences

- Go for a walk in Spring and search for signs of new life.

Social Studies

- How do Christians celebrate Easter today? Invite a Christian child or adult to tell you what their Easter traditions are.
- Find out how Easter is celebrated in other parts of the world.
- Investigate Lent.
- Find out about other faith/belief groups. What do they believe about death and what, if anything, happens after death.

- Where did it all happen? Can you find Jerusalem on a map?

Languages

- Can you tell the Easter story in one sentence?
- Pretend to be one of the characters and write a diary.

Health and Well-being

- Spend time exploring the emotions in the story. Betrayal. Amazement. Grief.
- Invite someone from an appropriate agency to come and talk to the children about grief and how we can support ourselves/others.