

Easter (Bridge)

Passage: Mark 15.22-39

Theme: Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with God again.

Resources: Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts.
Jesus robe, soldier robe, priest robe, 2 large sheets (marked God & People), large Bible for narrator with script

Person 1: Intro, Jesus, Person 1, Prayer & Close

Person 2: Narrator, Person 2, Questions

Person 3: Soldier, Talk

Introduction:

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! We are _____ (insert church/organisation name), I am _____, and this is _____ (introduce rest of the team).

We're going to start with a quiz. Where do you find this bridge? [PPT] London (it's Tower Bridge). What about this one? [PPT] Looks like Tower Bridge, but it's at Legoland near Windsor! This one [PPT]. At Winchester Railway Station. This one? [PPT] Hogwarts (it's called the Wooden Bridge or Covered Bridge).

In today's story from the Bible, there's another bridge...

Story:

Narrator: They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha.

[Jesus enters, pushed by soldier, enter stage left]

Narrator: Then they nailed him to a cross. [Pause]

[Soldier mimes nailing Jesus' hands to a cross and exits stage right. Changes into Priest.]

Narrator: It was nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to a cross with two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

[Jesus looks to right, then left]

People shouted at Jesus: Come down from the cross and save yourself.

[Priest enters stage right, crosses stage]

Priest: Let's see God's chosen one come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him! [Exits]

Narrator: At midday the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours.

Jesus: [Pause] My God, my God, why did you abandon me?

[Groans & drops his head]

[Soldier enters]

Narrator: The huge curtain which hung in the Temple, separating the place where God was meant to live from the place where the people could go, was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Soldier: This man was really the Son of God!

[Freeze and exit]



Talk:

[Person 1 and 2 start close together]

Person 2: I hate you! [Turns their back and takes a step away from Person 1]

[From between Persons 1 and 2] I wonder if you've ever had an argument with someone or someone has done something mean to you, and you've ended up not being friends. It feels like a big gap has opened between you, and the gap is too big to cross.

[Person 1 holds up 'God' sheet. Person 2 'People'. Stand together.]

The Bible says that at the start of the world, God and people were friends. But then people chose not to be God's friends. Because of that a gap opened between God and people. [Person 1 turns back and steps arm's length from narrator, tries to get back but can't, but don't distract].

People couldn't get to God because of the things they didn't do - like being generous and helping others - and because of the things they did wrong - like being mean or lying - or just ignoring God. People and God couldn't be friends... The gap was too big to get over, no matter how good people were, no matter what they did. Christians call that gap 'sin'.

The Bible says that God loves people and doesn't want that gap between him and people. He wants to get rid of sin. He wants to be friends. When Jesus died on the cross [Stand holding out your hands between Persons 1 and 2], Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with God again. [Drop hands] That's

why in the temple, the curtain separating the place where God was meant to live from the place where the people could go, was torn in two, from top to bottom. Jesus had given people a way for sin to be forgiven and opened a way so that people could get to God. Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with God again

Just like Tower Bridge bridges the gap between the two sides of the River Thames, [hold out hands between Persons 1 and 2] Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with God again.

Song:

CHRIST CHURCH
WINCHESTER
King of Kings (2 verses: Jesus met a man & Jesus on a cross)

Questions:

I'm going to ask you some questions so that you can show me how well you've been listening:

1. What happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus died? [It tore from top to bottom]
2. What do Christians call the gap that separates God from people? [Sin, or selfishness]
3. What do Christians believe we can learn from this story? [Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with God again.]

Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So, if you can please close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you want to make it your prayer, you can say, "Amen" at the end with me....

Dear God, thank you so much for _____ (insert school name). Thank you that we have learnt from this story - that Christians believe that Jesus bridges the gap so we can be friends with you again. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thanks for inviting us and taking part so well! We'll see you next month.

