

## Easter

**Resources:** Laptop (Check cable), Memory stick with PowerPoint, extension lead, projector (2 cables) spare t-shirt, Big Bible with narrator script, spare script, white t-shirt, messy t-shirt ('hurt people', 'do bad things', 'tell lies', 'say bad words', 'think bad thoughts', 'being mean', , 'don't do as I'm told' – written on) paper palm leaves (x35), music stand, Caiaphas / Pilate sign, Costumes for Jesus, Disciple (x2) Pilate, Soldier, Judas, Sellotape

**Passage: Matthew 20:17-19; Matthew 21:7-11; Matthew 26:36-56; Matthew 26:57 – 27:26; Matthew 27:32-50**

**Theme: Christians believe that Jesus dies on the cross to wipe out the things we do wrong.**

**Part 1:** Intro, Disciple, Judas, Caiaphas, Pilate, Roman Soldier, Quiz

**Part 2:** Jesus, Prayer

**Part 3:** Narrator, Arrester, Talk

**Before you start:**

Set costumes for disciples and Judas stage right and costumes for Pilate / Caiaphas and soldier stage left. Stand also needs to be set stage left with Pilate / Caiaphas sign attached.

**Intro:** Hello [name of School], we are so pleased to be back with you again! We're the Christ Church Schools' Team, I am \_\_\_\_\_, and this is \_\_\_\_\_ [Intro team]...

[Intro puts on messed up t-shirt]

I wonder if you ever feel that you are forever messing up and doing wrong things [read out a few of the words on the t-shirt]. Maybe even people tell you that you're always doing wrong. Today we're telling you a story from the Bible about the first Easter, because Christians believe that what happened on that first Easter is a real help to those of us who are forever messing up...

[Intro takes off messed up t-shirt]

**Drama**

**Narrator:** In order to tell our story today we are going to need your help.  
[Person 1 and 2 start putting palm leaves in front of the front row]

As you can see, some of you have a palm leaf, don't touch them just yet. When you hear me say the line 'people waved branches' you can wave them. Let's practise 'People waved branches,' great now put them back down on the floor.

The rest of you will be the crowd. When I put my hand up you will clap and cheer and when I put it down you will stop. Let's have a practise.

**Narrator:** [Stood stage right] Scene 1 – Jesus with his friends

[Jesus and his disciple walk onto stage – Stage Right]

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he said to his friend:

**Jesus:** We're going up to Jerusalem, where I'm going to be handed over to the religious leaders. They are going to put me to death. I will be laughed at and beaten and crucified. But three days later I will rise again.

[Jesus walks off stage, with Disciple looking shocked and confused – stage left]

**Narrator:** Scene Two - On the road to Jerusalem

[Jesus enters with Disciple – Stage left]

Later that day Jesus asked his friend to go and find a donkey to ride to Jerusalem.

[Disciple walks off stage left looking for a donkey.]

**Narrator:** The friends did what Jesus told him and returned with a donkey.

[Disciple enters stage left pretending to pull a donkey.]

**Narrator:** Jesus' friends laid their coats on the donkey and Jesus sat on it.

[Jesus climbs onto donkey]

Many people spread their coats on the road. Other people waved branches at Jesus. [Front row to waves their branches]

All the people were cheering and clapping. [raise hand to get children to cheer and clap, then put hand down to stop.]

Some of the crowd shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David' and others shouted 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Even more people waved branches and cheered and clapped.

[raise hand to get children to cheer and clap, then put hand down to stop.]

[Jesus and Disciple walk off stage right.]

The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus and said, [in a deep voice] "We've got to get rid of Jesus."

One of Jesus' friends, Judas, offered to help them ...

**Narrator:** Scene 3 - Jesus is arrested [Narrator exits stage right]

[Jesus enters stage right]

[Narrator becomes arrester]

**Jesus:** Stay here [gesturing to the stage left] while I go over there and pray.

[Jesus walks stage left and kneels to pray, looking up sadly]

My heart is full of sadness.

Father? Is there not another way? [Pause]

But help me to do what you want, not what I want.

[Judas leads in Arrester from stage right. Jesus stands to meet Judas]

**Judas:** Greetings, teacher!

[Judas hugs Jesus and exits stage left]

[Arrester takes Jesus' hands behind his back. Judas, Arrester & Jesus walk off stage right]

[Judas quickly changes into Caiaphas]

**Narrator:** Scene 4 - Jesus on Trial

[Caiaphas comes, with stand and stands behind it. Jesus enters with hands behind his back.]

**Narrator:** The crowd took Jesus to Caiaphas, one of the religious leaders. He asked Jesus lots of questions.

[Caiaphas points at Jesus and mimes asking questions.]

People lied about what Jesus had said, Jesus said nothing in response.

[Jesus stands quietly]

Finally, Caiaphas asked.

**Caiaphas:** Are you God's chosen one?

Are you the Son of God?

**Jesus:** You have said so.

**Caiaphas:** You can't say that! He should be killed, take him to Pilate.

[Jesus walks off towards stage right, then turns and comes and stands before Pilate. Caiaphas flips the sign on the stand so it now shows Pilate.]

**Pilate:** Are you God's special King?

**Jesus:** You have said so.

**Pilate:** [To crowd] What should I do with Jesus?

**Narrator:** The crowd shouted, "Crucify him!"

**Pilate:** But he has done nothing wrong.

**Narrator:** The crowd shouted louder, "Crucify him!"

[Pilate walks off stage left with the stand and changes into Roman soldier. Jesus left standing in the middle of the stage.]

**Narrator:** Scene 5 - The death of Jesus

Jesus was taken and nailed to a wooden cross.

[Roman Soldier mimes nailing Jesus to a cross. Careful here not to be too gratuitous.]

The crowd mocked him, shouting, "Come down from the cross if you really are the Son of God!" Others saying, "He saved others but he can't save himself!"

**Jesus:** [Pause. Looking around weakly] It is finished! [drop head to die]

## Talk

Christians believe Jesus was the perfect person and never did anything wrong.

[Throw Jesus a white t-shirt. Jesus puts on t-shirt. Talk puts on t-shirt covered in writing]

Me? I'm not like that [Pointing to Jesus]. I hurt other people. I say bad words. I think bad thoughts. I do bad things. I wonder if you're the same. Maybe we tell lies. Maybe we are mean to our brothers and sisters. Maybe we don't do what our parents tell us to do. Maybe we take things that aren't ours.

Maybe we're not kind. Maybe we don't think about other people, or about God, we just think about ourselves.

But Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to wipe out the things we have done wrong – to give people a clean shirt to wear. So, they don't need to feel bad about doing stuff wrong any more. They don't need to feel guilty about messing up.

Instead, I can be clean. [\[Talk and Jesus swap tops\]](#)

Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to wipe out the things we have done wrong, and that's what Christians remember at Easter time. As Christians, we ask God to forgive us – to take away the things we have done wrong and to make us clean. So, if you've done wrong or if people say you've done bad things, or maybe they don't, but you know deep down that you have done something wrong, remember that first Easter we were talking about today, and how Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to wipe out the things we have done wrong.

### **Song**

Who is this man?

### **Quiz**

We've got a little quiz for you now, so put your hand up if you think you know the answer:

1. In our story from the Bible, on what did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? [On a donkey]
2. Who betrayed Jesus so he could be arrested? [Judas]
3. What do Christians believe is the reason that Jesus died? [Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to wipe out the things we do wrong]

## **Prayer**

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. Before I do that, let's spend a moment thinking about what this assembly means for us. As we pause, why don't you think of some of the things you may have done wrong. You may want to close your eyes, so you are not distracted or focus on the candle on the screen. If you want to agree with my prayer, you can say 'Amen' at the end with me....

[flickering candle on PowerPoint – wait for a minute]

Dear God, thank you so much for ..... school. Thank you that we have learnt that Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to wipe out the things we do wrong. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. Amen.

## **Close**

Thank you for having us today. We will see you again soon.