

## The Easter Swap

**Resources :** Memory stick with PowerPoint and relevant files, song CD, laptop (check cable), projector (check 2 cables), extension lead, 3 scripts, spare t-shirts, 'Crazy Foam', paper plates, chocolate eggs as prizes, towel, wipes, Bin Bags, laminated verses for crowd, shield, sword, quiz cards, Big Bible with story script , Numbers 1&2 to hold up, Jesus robe, music stand.

**Passage: Mark 15.24-39**

**Theme: Christians believe that Jesus died to do a swap so that we can be forgiven.**

**Before you start:**

- Arrange for a teacher to help you later. Find out their name.
- Find team member who's doing quiz's favourite choc (be specific!)
- Ask teacher for two confident readers and give them verses 1&2 as they come in (explain they should shout it out when you hold up the number during drama).
- Get quiz cards, easter egg, paper plate, crazy foam, towel and bin bag ready.

**Person 1:** Intro / Quiz Master, Soldier, Quiz

**Person 2:** Quiz Player / Jesus, Prayer

**Person 3:** Talk 1 & 2 / Narrator

**Person 1:** 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].

**Quiz Master:**[Quiz show feel] It's quiz time! Easter is coming up and we're excited. There is a prize for the winner [hold up chocolate egg] and something not very nice for the loser! I need an adult volunteer to go up against our quiz player [name of quiz player]  
[Get up teacher and Quiz Player]

Fantastic. Each of you are going to be asked three questions; the person who gets the most questions right is the winner.

[Quiz master using quiz cards. Go through questions alternately to keep tension as long as possible...Question to quiz player first followed by volunteer/teacher]

**For Quiz Player [think about each answer]:**

1. What is py (pie-)sanka? [Egg painting]
2. How many chocolate bunnies are made each year? [About 90 million]
3. What is the earliest date Easter could fall on? [March 22<sup>nd</sup>]

**For volunteer/teacher:**

1. What year was the first Easter egg made in the UK? [1873]
2. What is [name of team member]'s favourite kind of chocolate?
3. What was the date of Easter Sunday in 2001? [April 15]

[The volunteer/teacher should get all the questions wrong. The team member should get all the answers right.]

**Quiz Master:** Congratulations [name of quiz player], you have won today's quiz. [Give them the chocolate egg]

[To teacher] So you need to do a forfeit. Here it is.

[Dramatically put lots of crazy foam onto plate]

You got it all wrong so you're getting...

[Raise pie as if to pie the teacher, but as you do a member of the team steps in.]

**Quiz Player:** I want to take his/her place [Hand over prize to teacher]

**Quiz Master:** But you got it all right...

[Shrug & pie the substitute]

### Talk 1:

That was a bit of a shock, wasn't it?

[Quiz Player] got it all right and deserved the prize. Your teacher got all the questions wrong and deserved to get the foam pie! But [Quiz Player] did a swap for your teacher. [Quiz Player] took [Teacher]'s place... And that's something to do with what happened on the first Good Friday and we are going to hear about it in today's Bible story.

## Drama

**Narr:** Jesus was arrested, and the crowd wanted to crucify him, even though he had done nothing wrong. [Sadly]

[Soldier enters pushing Jesus]

**Narr:** He was taken out and nailed to a wooden cross.

**Soldier:***[mime Jesus being nailed to the cross – outstretched flat hands leaning slightly forward.]*

**Narr:** People even played dice to see who would get Jesus' clothes. It was 9 o'clock in the morning. They crucified two criminals with him. Then the crowd laughed at him:

[Hold up number 1]

**Crowd 1:** Come down from the cross if you really are the Son of God!

[Hold up number 2]

**Crowd 2:** He saved others, but he can't save himself!

**Narr:** [Pause] At midday, the whole country was covered with darkness which lasted for three hours. At 3 o'clock, Jesus shouted:

**Jesus:** [Gently, not scarily] My God, my God, why did you abandon me?  
[Jesus dies by silently, slowly dropping his head]

**Narr:** Jesus died. A soldier was watching the crucifixion.

**Soldier:** This man was really the Son of God

## Talk 2:

At the start of the assembly, your teacher got all the questions wrong, and should have got a foam pie, but [Quiz Player] took their place and their forfeit. They did a swap. Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross, he did a swap, so that we can be forgiven.

We all know there are times when we get things wrong, not just answers in a quiz, but also in the choices we make each day, when we haven't done the right things. The Bible says that God is fair, and there should be a punishment for times when people have got things wrong.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus died, he took the punishment, so we don't have to. Just like [Quiz Player] took the punishment for [your teacher] when he/she got all the questions wrong. Christians believe that Jesus died to do a swap, so that we can be forgiven.

That's why Christians call the day they remember Jesus dying on the cross **Good** Friday. But the story doesn't end on Friday. The Bible says that Jesus came back to life three days later. Christians believe that because Jesus did a swap and came back to life, we are forgiven and we can be friends with God forever.

So, when you're eating your Easter Eggs or Chocolate Bunnies, remember that Christians believe that Jesus died to do a swap, so that we can be forgiven.

**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. How does the Bible say that Jesus died? [Nailed to a cross]
2. What strange thing happened to the sky when Jesus died? [It went dark]
3. What do Christians believe we can learn from our story from the Bible?  
[Christians believe that Jesus died to do a swap so that we can be forgiven]

**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 about something you wish you hadn't done that you could be forgiven for. 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 from this story - that Christians believe that Jesus died to do a swap so that we could be forgiven. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. Amen.

**Close:**

Thank you for having us today. Happy Easter. We'll see you again soon.

