



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 12/04/2020

HAPPY EASTER!

Welcome to Junior Church! we pray the following helps you to worship as a family at home, on a regular basis.

These sessions will follow a similar pattern to that the children experience on a Sunday morning. Maybe different members of the family can lead your service? (All words in bold, we encourage you to say together).

Easter day 12/4/2020

Matthew 28.1-10

Two women, disciples of Jesus, visit his tomb once the sabbath is over. They find the tomb empty, and experience both fear and joy. They are sent by an angel to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus is raised.

An active way to begin your session.

Make a cross using two large branches or pieces of wood tied together with string. Encourage the everyone to decorate the cross with fresh flowers, or other things you can find (buttons, scraps of material, bits of coloured paper) giving it colour and new life. Talk about the difference between the bare cross and how it looks now you have decorated it.

GATHERING PRAYER

Father God, we come to you
because you turn doubt into hope,
tears into laughter and fear into fearlessness.
We come to you
because on Easter Sunday

and on every other day,
we can say, 'Jesus is alive!'

Amen

The lord be with you
And also with you.

Lord you want us to be with you,
Thank you for inviting us

Lord you chose each one of us to be your friend,
Thank you for inviting us

Lord we love being with you
Thank you for inviting us
Amen

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD *(can you remember the actions?)*

We're happy when we're close to God, since that's where we belong, *(hug yourself)*

But sometimes we go far from God and everything feels wrong.
(turn away and hands by your sides)

**But if we say we're sorry then, God's love is sure and strong,
And he will draw us back to him and that's where we belong.**
(turn back around and hug yourself again).

Dear God, we want to follow you
When we let you down,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

When we are selfish,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.
When we are greedy,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

When we want to do things our way instead of yours,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.
Dear God, we want to follow you,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in His image. To the praise and glory of His name. Amen

SONG *My God is so Big*

My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! Repeat

The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handywork too!

My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! For me, and you and you.

STORY

Beforehand, practise together the different facial expressions the people in the story might have made, such as: grief, shock, fear, joy, excitement. Tell the Easter story, pausing at the points marked by asterisks and encourage the children to make the appropriate expression for that part of the story.



It was early in the morning, on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and her friend, who was also called Mary, were on their way to Jesus' tomb. As they drew near, they saw two guards sitting there.*

Without warning, an angel came down from the sky like a bolt of lightning.* He was dressed in dazzling white clothes*, and the earth shook as he landed and rolled back the stone at the entrance to the tomb.*

The guards were terrified!* First, they shook with fear*, and then they fainted.* 'Do not be afraid,' the angel said to the two

Marys.* He was sitting on the stone. 'I know who you're looking for*. You came to see Jesus, who was killed on the cross. He isn't here any more; he's been raised from the dead. Come, and see where his body lay.'*

The two Marys didn't know what to think. They were both scared of the angel*, and excited by what he said.* The angel continued speaking, 'When you have seen that Jesus is gone, go and tell the disciples the news. Jesus will go ahead of them to Galilee, and they will see him there.'*

Still frightened, but also full of joy, the women ran from the tomb to find the disciples.* They didn't get far, though, because suddenly, Jesus was there, standing in front of them.* 'Greetings!' said Jesus. The women fell to the ground, took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him.* Jesus spoke again. 'Do not be afraid,' he said. 'Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee.* They will see me there.'

Talk together

- What was the most amazing part of the story?
- How do you think you would feel if you were one of the women who visited the tomb?
- How can we share the good news that Jesus is alive?

CRAFT Easter story book (*see below*)

Fold in half in the landscape orientation. Zig-zag fold so that the "The Easter Story" by is the front cover and "Easter Sunday" is the back page. As you read the book you get back to the beginning. Colour the pictures and tell the story. You may like to write something on each page. If you can't print, cut out some cross shapes and write the days of Holy week on each one and make some bunting, to put up in your window.

Ideas to explore the story further... Everyone to move around the room freely to express joy. If you have instruments, then use them if not make some! Rice or pasta in an empty tub or plastic bottle makes an excellent shaker!

For older children



- How does this image speak of joy?
- What does the word 'joy' mean to you?
- How do you share the joy of Easter?

SONG (you can find this music on you tube)

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Where?

Down in my heart!

Where?

Down in my heart!

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Down in my heart to stay

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

Down in my heart

And I'm so happy

So very happy

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart

Where?

Down in my heart!

Where?

Down in my heart!

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart
Where?
Down in my heart to stay.

And I'm so happy
So very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart
Down in my heart
And I'm so happy
So very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

PRAYERS

Holy Spirit, light up our faces,
to pass the Easter joy to others;
give us the words,
to tell Jesus' story to others;
make us the loving embrace
that tells others they belong;
fill us with courage
to pass the joy on.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

JUNIOR CHURCH PRAYER

Thank you for each other.

Thank you that we can learn together, play, laugh and pray together. Bless us Lord, as we remember how much you love us.
Amen

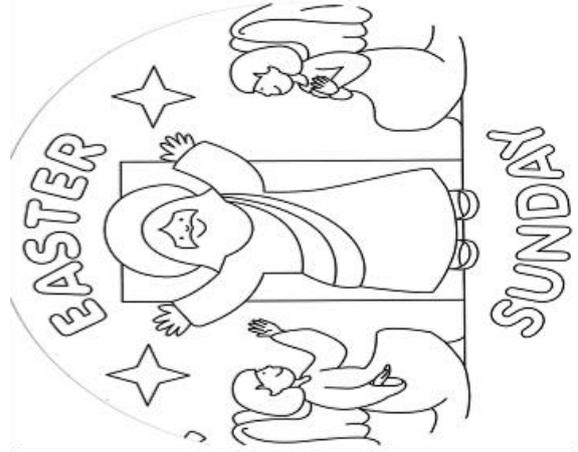
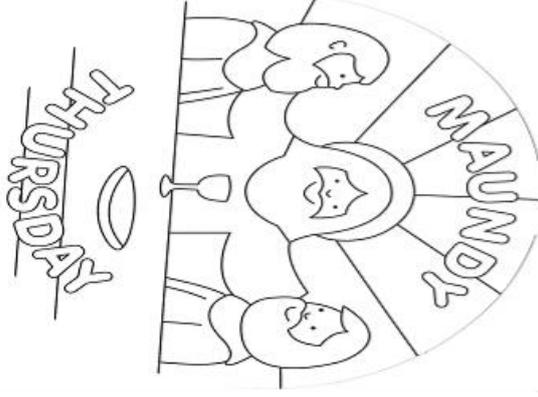
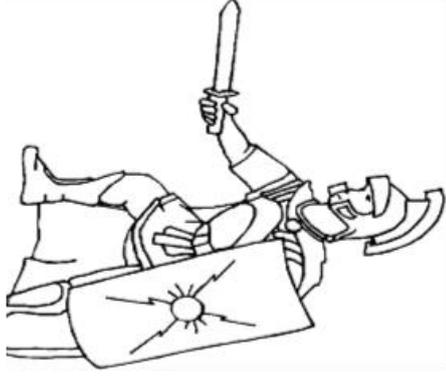
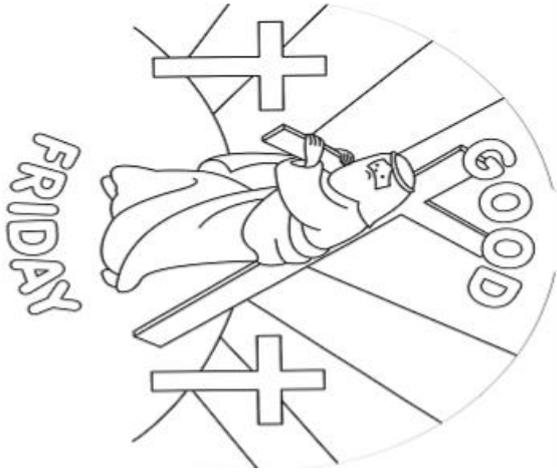
LIVE YOUR FAITH

Chocolate prayers

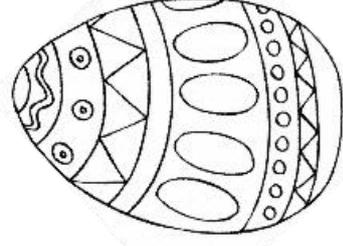
If you are lucky enough to have an Easter egg unwrap it carefully and save the foil. As you read the story again, invite everyone to eat their egg and enjoy the taste. Then ask everyone to create a cross using their foil wrapper. Reflect together on the journey from the cross to the joy of Easter Day.

With grateful thanks to Roots for use of some material.

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Happy Easter



The
Easter
Story
by