

Children & Young People

Explore & respond with children

Do, Make, Pray and Sing activities based on Matthew 28.1-10

Choose from these ideas to help the children make connections between the Bible reading and their lives

Do

Egg-rolling race 10 mins E

Play a game to share the joy of Easter

You will need: masking tape, solid eggs (wooden, chocolate or hard-boiled), wooden spoons.

- Use masking tape to mark out lanes on the floor, for players to race in, and add start and finish lines.
- Give everyone an egg and a wooden spoon. Ask the children to kneel behind the starting line, placing their egg on the line.
- When the race begins, players use their spoon to gently guide the egg along their lane to the finishing line.
- Players must remain on their knees and only tap their own egg.
- The race works well as a relay race.

Easter traditions 10 mins W E

Think about ways of sharing the joy of Easter

- Encourage the group to talk about Easter traditions in their home, at school, in church.
- Ask the children: what are their favourite traditions? Do they remember how those traditions started? Have they started any new traditions?
- Discuss together how they think traditions might have emerged after the first Easter Day. What do they imagine the disciples did to remember the following year?
- Finish by talking about whether traditions are helpful to them in feeling and sharing the joy of Easter.

Make

Joyous party bags 15 mins E A

Celebrate the good news by making and sharing gifts

You will need: pens, stickers, party bags, one for each child; Easter-themed items to put inside, e.g. decorated or chocolate eggs, chicks, bubbles, gift tags.

- Invite the children to use pens and stickers to decorate their party bag; encourage them to add a joyful word or message on the front.
- Set up a production line to fill the party bags, talking with the children about each item as you put it in, and how it helps us to celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead.
- Add messages to the gift tags such as, 'A gift of Easter joy', and tie one onto each bag.
- At the end of the session, ensure everyone has one to take home. Encourage the children to reflect on who they will share this gift with.

Celebration cards 10 mins E A

Sharing the message of Easter with others

You will need: sheets of A4 card, scissors, pens, coloured tissue paper, glue, envelopes.

- Pre-prepare by folding the sheets of card in half to form a greetings card for each child. Cut a large, cross-shaped hole in the front cover of each card.
- Ask the children to write 'The joy of Easter shines through' on the front, and a message inside their card.
- Inside the card, they can then cover the cross 'window' carefully with tissue paper, creating a stained-glass effect. Help the children to carefully stick and seal all the edges with glue.
- Leave for a few minutes to dry. Then encourage the children to place the finished cards in the envelopes. Invite them to take their card home for a friend.

Pray

The cross 5 mins E S

Remembering God's love for us

You will need: a candle, gentle music and equipment to play it, a holding cross.

- As a group, sit in a circle, place the lit candle in the centre, and play the music quietly in the background.
- Encourage the children to think about something they wish to thank God for, something that brings them joy. Remind them that the cross is a symbol of joy because it shows God's love for the world.
- When everyone is ready, pass the cross around the circle. Each child and leader can say their prayer out loud or in their own thoughts when they are holding the cross.

KEY

Spiritual styles (as defined by David Csinos)

W Word **E** Emotion **S** Symbol **A** Action