

Kidz Church

Sunday 12th April 2020 – Easter Day

Hello and Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah! Welcome to our virtual Kidz Church session for today, the happiest day in the Christian Calendar. The day we rejoice as we understand that the resurrection of Jesus is central to everything we as Christians believe in.

You may like to take time today to read the Easter story in each of the four Gospels. Each writer gives a slightly different account of the day, and each one is really important to help us understand the emotions everyone went through on that first Easter day.

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Mark 16:1-8
- Luke 24:1-43
- John 20:1-29; 21:1-19

If you have made an Easter garden at home, (you can find instructions in the April newsletter in the Kidz Zone pages), today is the day to roll away the stone from the tomb of Christ, Maybe you could light a candle, as we would do in church, and have as the centre piece to your meals and family time today.

Today's Kidz Church activities focus on the bible passage from Luke 24:1-35. Last week we explored some of the clues Jesus gives us about the meaning of his life. This week we continue this theme.

Clues Game

For this activity you will need several pictures of people well known to your child/children. Start by covering the pictures with small pieces of paper or sticky notes. Take it in turns to guess who the picture might be of. When each person has guessed they remove one of the pieces of paper or sticky notes. Continue in this way until the picture is guessed correctly or fully revealed. Play the game as many times as you would like to.

Tell your child/children that the game revealed small clues to the persons identity as you played. The passage of the bible in the next activity will reveal clues about who Jesus is and why he came to earth.

Walking the Bible story

To prepare for this activity you will need to draw at least 12 pairs of footprints. Your child/children will probably enjoy helping to do this, maybe they could be painted footprints!

When you have your 12 pairs of footprints, use the sentences on the Splash! sheet titled 'Walking the Bible story'. Write one sentence on the back of each set of footprints with the number, you need to keep them in order. If you have more than 12 pairs of footprints use these to make the following trail longer if you wish to.

Lay the footprints out in a trail around your home, placing number 12 back at the beginning of the trail (so that at the appropriate time your child/children can run back from Emmaus to Jerusalem).

If you did the session last week, ask your child/children if they remember the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Otherwise give a brief summary of this part of the story now. Then talk with your child/children about what happened next (Jesus died on the cross). Say that today you are all going to follow some clues to find out what happened to Jesus after he died.

Show your child/children the first set of footprints. Read the sentence on the back together. Talk about how the women might have been feeling when they went to the tomb. Challenge everyone to walk in a sad and tired way to the next set of prints.

Read the next sentence, again talk about how the women might have been feeling (scared, shocked) and walk on together showing those emotions. Continue in the same way until number 11, then run back to 'Jerusalem' for sentence 12.

Discuss together the three episodes which make up this story and the 'clues' the characters were given about Jesus. For example:

The women: they saw the stone had been rolled away; saw that the body had gone; saw two angels; the angels told them Jesus was alive; they remembered Jesus' words.

Peter: heard what the women said; saw the stone had been rolled away; saw that the body had gone; Jesus appeared to him.

Cleopas and his friend: had the scriptures explained to them so they understood that Jesus would die and come back to life again; saw Jesus break the bread. (Did they see the nail marks? Did they recognise his mannerisms?)

Living the life:

Bible search

Older children may like to carry on with a bit of bible research from Splash! S sheet 362 – Bible search. Look up each of the bible references and see if you can link the pictures to the correct passage. (answers at the end of this document).

For younger children find a favourite Easter hymn or worship song and listen quietly together. When the song has finished, talk about the words and ask your child/children to draw a picture about Jesus.

The song 'Who was the man' is available as an MP3 in the downloads for this session.

Finally...

Take a moment of quiet time together to pray.

'The angel rolled the stone away' prayer

Make a 'tomb' with one hand by curling the fingers round, with the thumb and first finger making a circle shape, as the entrance to the tomb. The other hand, shaped as a fist, becomes the stone blocking the entrance. Each time 'The angel rolled the stone away' is said, roll the fist away to reveal the empty tomb.

Thank you, Lord God for Easter Day
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for raising Jesus from the dead
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for taking away our fear of death
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for loving us so much through Jesus
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for giving us hope and a new start
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for giving us a message of love to share with others
The angel rolled the stone away

Thank you, Lord God for Easter Day
The angel rolled the stone away

Amen.

Answers for Bible search: Isaiah 7:14 – baby in a manger: Isaiah 61:1 – teaching and healing: Zechariah 9:9 – riding a donkey: Psalm 41:9 – Judas betraying Jesus: Isaiah 53:4,5 – being whipped and beaten: Psalm 22:16-18 – on the cross: Isaiah 53:9 – in a tomb.

Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!

