

Easter Stations 2012

Station One: Jesus in the Temple

2 tables, tablecloth
Laptop with movie loop of Bible story. No sound.
Bowl of coins
Pictures of 'poor people'

Station Two: Jesus Washes Their Feet

Photo/art
Table, tablecloth
2 bowls, 2 buckets
Hand towels

Station Three: Jesus Prays in the Garden

Table, tablecloth, candles
Pot plants
Cup/chalice
Printed prayers

Station Four: Peter is Frightened

2 tables, tablecloths
iPod with audio loop of rooster crowing.
Picture of rooster.
Clay pots with lotion.

Station Five: Jesus on the Cross

Table
Laptop with X-ray movie loop, 2 headphones
Art images
Bowl and nails
Block of wax

Station Six: Jesus is Buried

Tables
iPod with music and 2 headphones
Cloths and textas
Safety pins.

Station Seven: Jesus Teaches About Love

Table, bowl, Easter eggs

Jesus in the Temple

After Jesus and his disciples reached Jerusalem, he went into the temple and began chasing out everyone who was selling and buying.

He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and the benches of those who were selling doves. Jesus would not let anyone carry things through the temple.

Then he taught the people and said, "The Scriptures say, 'My house should be called a place of worship for all nations.' But you have made it a place where robbers hide!"

Mark 11:15-17

After the coins stopped rattling
there was silence
All eyes were fixed on Jesus
It was heaven's moment
They all knew it

They'd seen him feed the hungry
and heal a sick child
They'd heard him speak wise words
and welcome children
but today he acted like a wild thing
a mad man

Angry at those people
who used the temple for profit,
not for prayer
Angry at those
who took money from the poor

They saw his eyes,
they heard his cry
and they knew that
heaven's time on earth had come.

Hold some coins in your hand.

We can be generous or greedy with money. Money can hurt or help people.

Jesus was angry at those who used the temple as a place to make money.

He wanted it to be a place where people could pray to God, not a shopping mall.

But he also wanted people to help those who were poor, not take money away from them.

Take one of the coins from the bowl. Place it on one of the photos of the people on the table. Say a quiet prayer that these people will have what they need.

Jesus Washes Their Feet

So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing.

But when he came to Simon Peter, that disciple asked, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You don't really know what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"You will never wash my feet!" Peter replied.

"If I don't wash you," Jesus told him, "you don't really belong to me."

Peter said, "Lord, don't wash just my feet. Wash my hands and my head."

Jesus said:

I am giving you a new command.
You must love each other, just as I have loved you.
If you love each other, everyone will know
that you are my disciples.

John 13:4-9, 33-35

Jesus was their leader
yet behaved like a servant

He rode into town on a donkey
not a strong war-horse

He brought words of peace
not a soldier's sword

He showed forgiveness
not harsh judgment

He spoke uncomfortable truth
not comforting lies

He offered true friendship
not a traitor's kiss.

Wash and dry each other's hands in this bowl.
As the water runs through your fingers,
feel its cool, clear touch on your skin.
How does it feel to have someone else do this for you?

Imagine Jesus washing your feet.
How would you feel about that?
What would you want to say to him?
Imagine him telling you to love and help others just as he has loved and helped you.

Think of someone you need to show love to.
Write their name in the water with your finger.
Remember that God can help you to love them.

Jesus Prays in the Garden

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he told them, "Sit here while I pray."

Jesus took along Peter, James, and John. He was sad and troubled and told them, "I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me."

Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed, "Father, if it is possible, don't let this happen to me! Father, you can do anything. Don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."

When Jesus came back and found the disciples sleeping, he said to Simon Peter, "Are you asleep? Can't you stay awake for just one hour?"

Mark 14:32-42

Jesus knew there were people
who wanted to silence him
to prevent him speaking truth
to stop him healing the sick
and making friends with foreigners

Jesus knew he had friends
who listened to his words
who helped him serve others
who were learning God's way

Jesus felt alone
the way ahead would be hard
his friends fell asleep
All he could do was trust
that God would be with him
as he followed God's way

Imagine how Jesus might have felt at this time.
Alone. Afraid of what might come.
Sometimes it's hard to do what we feel we must.
Sometimes we too feel alone. We wish a friend would stand by us.
Like Jesus, we can know that God never leaves us alone,
even when doing the right thing is difficult.

Take a copy of this prayer. Read it silently, or aloud, together.

Take it with you and say it when you need to know that God is with you.

God be in my heart
and in my yearning
God be in my lips
and in my speaking
God be in my hands
and in my helping
God be in my mind
and in my wondering
God be in my ears
and in my listening
God be in my feet
and in my journeying.
This day and always.

God be in my heart
and in my yearning
God be in my lips
and in my speaking
God be in my hands
and in my helping
God be in my mind
and in my wondering
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God be in my ears
and in my listening
God be in my feet
and in my journeying.
This day and always.

Peter is Frightened

While Peter was still in the courtyard, a servant girl of the high priest came up and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, "You were with Jesus from Nazareth!"

Peter replied, "That isn't true! I don't know what you're talking about. I don't have any idea what you mean."

He went out to the gate, and a rooster crowed.

The servant girl saw Peter again and said to the people standing there, "This man is one of them!"

"No, I'm not!" Peter replied.

A little while later some of the people said to Peter, "You certainly are one of them. You're a Galilean!"

This time Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't even know the man you're talking about!"

Right away the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had told him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me."

So Peter started crying.

Peter was one of Jesus' best friends
but tonight he felt afraid
frightened of being arrested

Peter had let Jesus wash his feet
but tonight he felt alone
his Master had been taken away

Peter had been the strong one
but tonight he felt weak
no courage to stand up and speak

Peter had been sure of himself
but tonight he felt lost
not knowing what to do next

Peter couldn't imagine that Jesus would forgive him
But that's exactly what Jesus did.

I wonder if you've ever felt like Peter...
... like you let down a friend
... like you failed to tell the truth
... like you had not courage
... like you didn't know what to do

I wonder if you've ever felt like Peter did later...
...forgiven
...released
...set free
...restored

Smell the lotion in the clay pots. Dip your finger in the lotion.
Rub it into someone's palm. Or touch it to their forehead.
Say to them, "You are forgiven." And maybe they will say "Thanks be to God."

Jesus on the Cross

It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Jesus shouted and then died.

At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.

A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

Mark 15

We wish this hadn't happened
for God's sake
but it did

We wish someone had spoken up
for God's sake
but they didn't

We wish someone had done something
for God's sake
but they didn't

We wish God had done something
God did...
for our sake

This is the hardest part of the story.
Hardest to hear, hardest to understand.
Hardest to face, hardest to receive.
Why did it happen? Why wasn't it stopped?
In this, God's love is a mystery.
Love that refuses to hate.
Love that always forgives.
Love that is willing to suffer.
Love that outlasts death.

Hold a nail in your hand and remember Jesus on the Cross.

Take the nail and carve a word into the clay to express your feelings,
your thoughts, your prayer.

Take the nail with you as a reminder of this moment.

Jesus is Buried

Some women were looking on from a distance.
They had come with Jesus to Jerusalem.
But even before this they had been his followers
and had helped him while he was in Galilee.
Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of the younger James
and of Joseph were two of these women.

A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough
to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus.

Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down
from the cross. He had it wrapped in the cloth,
and he put it in a tomb that had been cut into solid rock.
Then he rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph
were watching and saw where the body was placed.

They took him down
and cradled him in grief

They took him down
and bathed him with tears

They took him down
and rubbed him with oil

They took him down
and wrapped him in love

They took him down
and placed him in silence

Joseph and the women
stood by while others fled and hid

They would not have believed
what was to come
yet God was in their tears and oil
God was in their grief and love
God was in the silence

Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth.

He was held and buried in love.

Take a strip of cloth. Write (or draw) a word on it
to express how you feel at this time.

Tie the cloth to your wrist or pin it to your clothes.

Wear it as a sign that his dying might make a difference in our world.

Take it with you as a reminder of today.

Jesus Teaches about Love

One of the teachers of the Law of Moses came up while Jesus and the Sadducees were arguing. When he heard Jesus give a good answer, he asked him, "What is the most important commandment?"

Jesus answered, "The most important one says: 'People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.' The second most important commandment says: 'Love others as much as you love yourself.' No other commandment is more important than these."

Mark 12:28-31

When people wondered
what God would say,
Jesus spoke of love.
When people wondered
what God would do,
Jesus acted with love.
When people wondered
what they should do,
Jesus told them to love.

When we wonder
what God would say
what God would do
what we should do
we can look at Jesus
and listen to him
and know God's love
is there always,
to be received
to be shared
for us and everyone.

Perhaps this has been a difficult journey for you.

Be reminded here that, even though we struggle to understand, it took place for love. God's love for all people, for all the world, for you and for me.

Take a chocolate egg. May it be for you today a symbol of love and newness.

The Last Supper

Welcome to this table
Say 'welcome' to someone else!
Help them feel welcome too
Go on, do it...

Jesus' last meal with his friends
was at Passover
when the Jewish people
celebrated their freedom
from being slaves in Egypt.

They shared bread and wine
stories and laughs
memories and hopes
doubts and faith

Imagine being at dinner with Jesus
he welcomes you
like a brother or sister
like an aunt or uncle
he is your truest friend

How would you feel?
What might you talk about?
What might he say to you?

You are welcome at this table
Eat some food
Drink some juice or wine

The music, words and images
remind us that this meal took place
just before Jesus' arrest and death
Imagine what it might have been like

Take a texta
Write or draw on the plate
what it means to you
for Jesus to call you his friend

Know that you are always welcome
at his table
always

He Is Risen

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James bought some spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just as the sun was coming up, they went to the tomb. On their way, they were asking one another, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" But when they looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. And it was a huge stone!

The women went into the tomb, and on the right side they saw a young man in a white robe sitting there. They were alarmed.

The man said, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body. Now go and tell his disciples, and especially Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you."

Mark 16

Every Easter Day we celebrate that Jesus is risen.
God's love is shown to be stronger than anything.
God's love can set us free. God's love can bring us hope.
God's love can offer peace to our world.

Take a piece of paper and write or draw
a message of hope for someone
a message of peace for someone
Place it on the light box to let the light shine through.
Let this act be a simple prayer
Take your message with you and stick it somewhere that the light can shine through.