# Fresh Approach Collective Worship Planning



# Year 2 Term 4 Lent, the life of Jesus and Easter.

Week 1	Lent
Week 2	Jesus cares and provides
Week 3	Following Jesus' example
Week 4	Exploring the Eucharist/Holy Communion
Week 5	Holy Week 1
Week 6	Holy Week 2



# Week 4 – Exploring the Eucharist/Holy Communion

This week's worship explores the features of the Eucharist/Communion service and its importance to Christians within worship. You might want to get advice and support from your vicar during this week, so that the pupils can hear about how this celebration in the local parish church.

# **Holy Week Collect:**

Almighty God whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. AMEN

These plans continue from Term 3, the life of Jesus. Weeks 2, 3 and 5 continue with stories from the Gospel panel of the Big Frieze.







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Lent – the life of Jesus - Easter							
Liturgical colour	Monday Whole School	Tuesday Whole School	<b>Wednesday</b> Whole School Psalm Praise / Singing Worship	<b>Thursday</b> Worship in the classroom	<b>Friday</b> Celebration worship		
Week 1	Lent – remembering Jesus' temptation Luke 4:1-12  This week we start Lent, a time when Christians remember Jesus spending 40 days in the desert, fasting and praying. as they prepare for Easter.  'There is a time for everything' (Ecclesiastes 3v1). I wonder why, after Jesus is baptised, Jesus is sent into the desert to be tempted. I wonder how this might have been a part of God's plan. I wonder if you have ever been 'tempted' to do something. I wonder how easy it is to do the right thing. Look at Luke 4:1-12 together https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af zoWMTkKHY https://www.freebibleimages.org/illust rations/jesus-tempted/  I wonder how Jesus found the answers and the strength he needed. I wonder what kind of teacher and leader Jesus is showing he was going to be. Unlike the Israelites who spent 40 years in the Sinai desert (Deuteronomy 8:2-3), Jesus resisted temptation to follow God's commands. I wonder what we can learn about the times when we are tempted.	Shrove Tuesday Matthew 4:1-4 You could start with some pancake facts, and/or making pancakes.  Pancake day/'Mardi Gras' is a chance to use up food, to enable Christians to 'fast' and focus on prayer leading up to Easter. On Shrove Tuesday, Christians confess and ask forgiveness for the wrong they have done as they start preparing for the greatest celebration ever: remembering Jesus' resurrection and how it has brought new life, at Easter. Traditionally a 'shriving bell' called Christians to confess/pray. Fasting can focus the senses on worshipping God, rather than on 'bread alone'/treats.  Read Matthew 4:1-4 Reflect: I wonder if our lives are too full of things that we might give up for a while (not just material things but also the wrong sort of attitudes). I wonder if this Lent there are ways to focus more on God. I wonder if 'giving' rather than 'giving up' something might help us to re-focus on different ways of living.  Reflect on this prayer or parts of it <a href="https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/protestant/gratitude/the-blessing-of-unanswered-prayers.aspx">https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/protestant/gratitude/the-blessing-of-unanswered-prayers.aspx</a> I wonder if we need to see life differently sometimes, if we need to make sure that we are asking for the right things and focussing	Ash Wednesday I John 1:9  Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Traditionally at the 'ashing' service, Christians say sorry and may be marked with an ash cross (possibly ashes of last year's Palam Crosses) on their foreheads to symbolise repentance. This means showing how sorry you are for what you have done wrong and, for Christians, turning around, back to God's ways.  Ashes in the bible symbolise mourning and saying sorry, as in Daniel 9:3 If you are not using ashes, use images to help pupils understand what happens and what this symbolises for Christians who do this eg https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/19-february/news/uk/c-ofe-goes-online-for-ash-wednesday I wonder how we see that our world is broken and diminished, like ashes, rather than like a beautiful leaf of God's creation. The children could write their sorry prayer about this on a piece of paper to be burned to ash in a fire bucket.  Read I John 1:9 as reassurance that God's love and compassion assures forgiveness if we ask for it	What might our Lent look like? Luke 9:23 Play some quiet music and have images of desert and/or similar empty space. I wonder how having quiet space can help us in our lives. Jesus frequently took time out when he was busy, to pray and to consider his mission/next life choices. I wonder if life ever feels hard and a bit empty, a bit like a desert. I wonder how our school and local community help us to feel that, however we are feeling, we are not alone in an empty and difficult place. I wonder what we gain from being part of a community and also what we bring to that community to help anyone 'in the desert'. I wonder how the Bible verse can help us to see how we can share in Christ's journey through Lent and to the cross of Easter.  Alternatively, this would be an opportunity to look at what you might give up or take up as an individual or class for Lent this year. Refer back to the sessions earlier in the week to think about	the ways in which people in the community have resisted temptation this week and the things which people plant to take up and give up during Lent.  We are waiting. God on whom our lives depend, Ware waiting for you and with you. We are waiting and preparing.  Open us: For then we will know your possibility Challenge us: For then we will know your way.  Forgive us: For then we will know your grace.  In this time, in all time. In the name of Jesus Christ who journeyed to the cross Amen.  https://urc.org.uk/images/FeastsAndFestivals/Monthly-resources/Lent.pdf provide some additional Len material		
	Dear God, Help us to be strong when we are tempted and show us the right things to do. AMEN	on the right things. Share pancakes as you leave worship	May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of God's forgiveness and the gift of God's light.	this. I wonder how it might help us if we do this.			

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Jesus Feeds the 5000

#### Luke 9:10-17/John 6:12-17

This episode is recorded in all 4 gospels, so this is clearly an important and significant event. Jesus performing a miracle shows not only that He is God, but that God is compassionate and caring. Jesus teaches, but also cares for the people's hunger in this remote place

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY s0i4V-72M

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyXP-kQfooU

Look at the different characters in this episode

Disciples – Like the disciples, I wonder if we worry and try to find our own answers. I wonder if we might trust God to love us, to walk alongside us and to support us through our problems.

**Crowd** – Like the crowd, I wonder if we fully trust God to abundantly provide what we need (note the abundance of leftovers as well as everyone having all that they could eat)

**Small boy** – Like this child, I wonder if we want to know how God can use us. I wonder if we sometimes think that our gifts are too small/insignificant - don't underestimate yourself or overlook anyone in your community.

I wonder how we might bless our community by sharing our gifts and talents.

This is a song about God's generosity https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t ECGsxQRq8

#### Jesus Calms the Storm

#### Luke 8:22-25

You may wish to show a stained glass window or images of stormy/tranquil sea as an introduction.

Tell the story or use a clip:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyzwCpofQSA. (Jesus Film)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzPwRXytr
7U (KidsHub TV)

You may also wish to use 'The Storm that Stopped' picture book by Alison Mitchell.

The question is asked by the disciples: 'who is this, even the winds and the water, obey him!' I wonder if the disciples understood that this showed that Jesus is God.

Reflect on what storms may face us. I wonder if we ever feel like we are drowning. Even the disciples who were experienced fishermen felt out of control sometimes. Jesus didn't promise no troubles in life (John 16v33) but Jesus shows that he has the power to bring peace even in the middle of life's storms.



A Christian song asking Jesus to be 'the wind in my sails' — Christians believe that Jesus can calm the storms of life but also be the power for good in their lives

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=884tP ls01e0

# Peter walks on the water Matthew 14:22-33

This is a great story to read/act out and freeze-frame to explore how the children feel at every stage.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= D0m3DocgFkM

Remind pupils of Jesus' power shown over the past two days' episodes. These accounts show Christians that they can trust Jesus.

I wonder who we trust and why?

Yesterday we were reminded that life isn't always easy. We don't always get to walk beside still waters, sometimes we will face challenges that seem impossible, like walking on water.

I wonder why Jesus walked on the water. I wonder if you think that Peter was brave or foolish.

Jesus says to 'have courage' (to do something even when it frightens you). The disciples could have courage because Jesus was there alongside them.

Reflect: I wonder when we might feel afraid. I wonder where we can find our strength when we are in 'deep waters' or feel like we are drowning.

Here is a song that reminds Christians how to have courage

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=
QQeCJ9EgLXQ

### Parable of the Lost Sheep Matthew 18:12-14

If you lost a card/sticker from a collection you had been making, how hard would you look for it? Would different stickers have different value? How hard will the children look around the hall for a stone... for a sweet?

To God EACH of us is infinitely valuable...

I wonder if you sometimes feel invisible, like yet another person wearing the same school jumper.

Read Matthew 18:12-14. This picture story/parable comes just after Jesus calls a child to him in response to his disciples asking who is the 'most important' (Matthew 18:1-5).

I wonder what words you would use to describe the shepherd. I wonder why you think that the shepherd is so very happy about this sheep when he finds it. I wonder what this might tell us about God's love for his people.

The Bible says that Jesus is responsible for keeping us safe, and each of us is personally valued by him, it isn't about what we do/are worth, but because we are uniquely 'us'.

Did you know that one of the earliest pictures of Christ is of a Shepherd carrying a sheep on shoulders? - it was found in the Roman catacombs

https://seeinggodinart.wordpress.co m/2015/02/06/the-good-shepherd/

Reflect on this image which is a comforting and helpful image for Christians

 $\frac{\text{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=}}{\text{pN4tPkX0MG0}}$ 

Celebrate

Celebrate how the members of your community have faced the storms and difficulties of life this week. I wonder what we can learn from their example.

Following Jesus'

# Collective Worship Plan - Year B Term 4

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# Zacchaeus – Listening to Jesus Luke 19:1-7

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F
e7dTNID6h8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3
uL6FuAE2r4

Today's story may be very familiar, but encourage the children to consider how Zacchaeus is feeling. Set the scene, of a 'traitor' Jew collecting taxes for the Roman occupiers, and very likely for himself too. He was rich but I wonder if he was happy.

Act out/watch the story... I wonder if Zacchaeus' actions surprised anyone. I wonder if the reactions of the crowd and Jesus are what you expected.

I wonder why Zacchaeus was not too busy to go and listen to Jesus.

I wonder why Jesus was not too busy to go and listen to Zacchaeus.

Reflect: I wonder if we are sometimes too busy to listen others especially those who are left out but really need our help. I wonder who you could listen to today.



### Zacchaeus - saying sorry

Luke 19: 8-9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C1bGwVHsk

This focuses on Jesus focusing on those who were unpopular and overlooked – at the end, there is also a focus on how Zacchaeus turned his life around and on ways in which we might do the same.

I wonder how we say sorry. I wonder how we show that we are truly sorry (not just words or gestures, but actions)

There is a difference between guilty regret/ remorse 'I wish I hadn't...', and repentance, a commitment to change/live differently. True forgiveness helps us to start with accompanied by a feeling of relief, a clean slate...

So yesterday Zacchaeus met Jesus. You may wish to improvise/act out the end of the story.

I wonder exactly what difference it made to his life. Jesus' generous friendship led to Zacchaeus's generous repentance and amends.

Saying sorry isn't just words, but motivated by true acceptance and love, as in the example of Jesus towards Zacchaeus.

Quietly end with the Lord's Prayer 'forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors'. Or a song such as 'This little light of mine', to reflect on how life can be changed when we say sorry and are forgiven.

 $\frac{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdvRF}{6W7OSE}$ 

### **Good Fruit**

#### Matthew 12:33

I wonder what Jesus meant by these words.

Show an image of a dying tree: would this make you want to visit gardens or a forest to see it?

I wonder how you would describe a good tree. A tree that grows and weathers storms and seasons, that is flourishing and bears fruit. I wonder what is needed to maintain it as a good tree.



I wonder what will help our roots so that we grow to up to be like healthy trees that bear fruit. The Bible speaks about being rooted in God's love.

Another useful image that Jesus used is that of a vine where the strength of the branches (God's people) comes from being joined to the vine (God).

If we grow like healthy trees, I wonder what fruit we could bear in our community.

Perhaps you could start a tree display where people add the 'fruit' that they are going to aim to produce this week.

This Christian song takes up this theme:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= X-hrxEjWxkE

# Speaking words of love Matthew 22:37-39

I wonder whether you remember any of the fruit of the Spirit from yesterday. (Love is one)

Read Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus reminds the Pharisees that the greatest commandment, the priority for our life, to share his message of love: to God, and to all people.

I wonder who you have shared your love with today. I wonder what other opportunities you will have to show love to others today. What a challenge — ALL of our heart, ALL of our soul, ALL of our mind full of love. I wonder how easy or difficult that might be. I wonder if our words and actions always show all-inclusive love, love that makes sure that no-one is left out.

Use images to contrast eg Proverbs 16:24 and Psalm 64:3, to show the power of words for love or for damage. You can use a toothpaste tube to show how hard it can be to retract unloving words/actions – once they are out of your mouth, you cannot take them back. I wonder how you are going to use loving words today.



You may wish to end reflecting on this song: 'Lovin me, by Jonathan Reynolds. https://www.youtube.com/watc h?v=mfvVeJ2OdQg

#### Celebrate

The good fruit that has been growing in the school this week.

Dear God

Please help us to show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in the various situations you put us in. Help us to use the fruit of the Spirit to show others what your love looks like. AMEN

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# 'The Sign of the Peace' John 14:25-27



'Eucharist'/'Holy Communion' services are a very special time when Christians gather together to 'do this in remembrance of me', following Jesus' instruction before he died. You could watch this video, which helps to explain what communion is.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time continue=5&v=a5zqtsiwKDw&feature =emb\_logo

I wonder how this service helps Christians to feel connected to the church all over the world?

Christians often start this service by saying:

'The peace of the Lord be always with you, and also with you, Let us offer one another a sign of peace'

I wonder why you think this service starts with these words?

In the gospels, on many occasions, Jesus encouraged his followers to be peaceful people, e.g. 'be at peace with each other' (Mark 9:50), 'Blessed are the peacemakers' (Matthew 5:9). I wonder how you can promote peace in your school community today.

When Jesus rose again, he greeted his disciples with the words 'Peace be with you' (Luke 24:36). I wonder why he chose to greet his friends in this way?

Show a variety of symbols of peace and discuss what symbols the children think are best. Discuss how in a church there may be a pause while people shake hands, hug, etc. I wonder how you would you communicate peace. I wonder if you would use an action or a symbol.

Dear God, Thank you for the times when I can feel peace, your special peace and also the peace which those around me help to create. AMEN

### 'Confession' - God's forgiveness

#### Psalm 103: 8-13

Take a moment of calm, e.g. light a candle, shut doors, draw curtains. I wonder if there is anything that is making it hard for you to feel calm right now.

At the start of Eucharist/Communion, Christians take a moment to say sorry, so that they know that they are freed from any mistakes they have made, forgiven, ready to have a fresh start. Invite children to join in a prayer, silently filling in their own words in the gaps, or using the silences to reflect. Father God,

For the wrong things we've done, we're sorry. (pause)

For the wrong things we've said, we're sorry. (pause)

For the wrong things we've thought, we're sorry. (pause)

#### Amen

I wonder if you sometimes find it hard to feel that it's ok, even when you have said sorry. I wonder if it is hard to be sure that those things have truly been forgiven and gone away.

Adding bleach to coloured water, or shredding/burning a piece of paper, dissolving rice paper, may help children to grasp the concept of forgiveness as completely getting rid of the wrong thought/word/action.

How might Psalm 103:8-13 reassure Christians about how God forgives them? What promises does God make?

You could listen to this song which shows how Christians feel knowing that God totally forgives them:

## https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7IKcU

I wonder how you can put our message of forgiveness into practice today.

#### **Believing- The Apostles' Creed**

Are you a member of a club? Does your club have a motto/promise which you all make? Does your school have a vision that you all share? Why is this important? How do you remember this?

During the Eucharist/Communion service Christians say the words of 'The Creed'. These words were written by early followers of Jesus, to explain what it means to be a Christian, in the same way that your club or school may have words that say what is most important to them.

Christians say out loud that they believe in God, Father Son and Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.....

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

http://anglicansonline.org/basics/nicene.html

I wonder whether you have thought about this before and used another word (Trinity)

I wonder why you think that Christians choose to say these words at every Eucharist Service. I wonder how saying this statement of belief links Christians with one another no matter who or where they are.

I wonder how these words might remind Christians of the 'Big Story' of the Bible.

# The Eucharistic prayer Mark 14: 22-25

What do you notice Jesus does first, before he shares the bread and the wine? I wonder do we always take time to stop and say thank you for things we appreciate every day.

In the Eucharist/Communion service, Christians pause and say thank you to God for Creation, Salvation and all other gifts that we receive from God, before they take communion, saying:

'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise' followed by the Eucharistic prayer for which there are several options eg

https://www.churchofengland.org/p rayer-and-worship/worship-textsand-resources/commonworship/holycommunion/additional-4

I wonder what you might give thanks and praise right now.

'Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish...

I wonder what you see in our world that you are thankful for today

You give us friends and families...

I wonder which people you are thankful for today

You give us happy times and things to celebrate...

I wonder what happy memories you are thankful for

You made us all, each wonderfully different...

I wonder if you take time to be thankful for the wonderful person you are

The biggest thank you of all in the Eucharist/Communion service is that Christians want to remember Jesus giving his life from them on the Cross.

#### Celebrate

The love and service that has been demonstrated in your school this week.

Christians may end a Eucharist service with these words:

'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

I wonder how you could share the love God has for his people with all those you meet today





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Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 or Luke 19:28-38

I wonder what kind of a leader the People of God were expecting. I wonder what sort of leader you might follow

Display a <u>crown of thorns and a golden crown</u> — I wonder who would wear these crowns. Who wears a crown? Who do they wear it for? For themselves/for others? Do leaders have kingly power for themselves or for others? I wonder if being a leader is glorious or costly. I wonder if you know about any great leaders.

Read one of the gospel accounts:

https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-palm-sunday/

Jesus was recognised as the prophesied Messiah (deliverer), This procession with palm leaves (symbolising goodness and victory) celebrated Jesus coming as a king, with everyone crying 'Hosanna' ('save now'). For Jewish people, waving palms was a symbol of rejoicing (Leviticus 23:40) and part of the Sukkot festival, a bit like we would wave flags to rejoice at a Royal Wedding/National event.

Yet the donkey Jesus chose to ride on showed that he would be a very different king, a humble saviour king, not the political rescuer that some were expecting, but part of God's plan for an eternal kingdom. Reflect on Jesus' servant leadership. I wonder how can you show gentleness and humility in your life.

Use or make a Palm cross:

http://www.kingofpeace.org/palmcrosses/

Possible songs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCQ7fb0hEA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OcU0 EMP5 s The Last Supper: Washing the disciples' feet (Maundy Thursday)

John 13:1-17

Display bowl of water and towel.

What does water symbolise for you? Use images to inspire.

Read: John 13:1-17 Or use online clip eg

https://www.google.com/search?q=jesuswashes+the+feet+of+the+disciples+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBD\_en-GBGB806GB806&ei=6cilY6DeAdOF8gKAjpewCw&ved=0ahUKEwig9pbd3ti7AhXTglwKHQDHBbYQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=jesuswashes+the+feet+of+the+disciples+youtube&gs\_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQAzIGCAAQFhAeOgo\_IABBHENYEELADSgQIQRgASgUIQBIBMUoECEYYAFDTBli4FmDZF2gBcAF4AIABKAGIAaIHkgEDMi42mAEAoAEByAEIWAEB&sclient=gws-wiz-

serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:a04298ff,vid:KmwpHKyif-U

Think about the words that we used to describe Jesus when he rode into Jerusalem. I wonder what words best describe Jesus in the episode today. Compassionate, loving, humble, servant...

I wonder what Jesus wants the disciples to learn. I wonder what the water in this account symbolises.

When the feet of the disciples became dusty, the dust needed to be washed away. When we feel dusty and dirty because we have made bad choices, we need to wash about the feeling of guilt about that. Christians believe that Jesus did that by dying on the Cross for their sins. I wonder if there is anything that needs to be 'washed clean' in your life.

As you reflect, you could use the words/music of 'River, wash over me' <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0Am96tYu">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu">Voicing-type-com-watch?v=c0Am96tYu</a> <a href="Voicing-type-com-wat

Or reflect on Jesus as a servant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ iSYO8

Dear God, Help me to follow the example of the servant king, Jesus, so that I think of others more than of myself in school today.

Amen

Last Supper- Bread and wine (Maundy Thursday)

Matthew 26:26-29

Display a simple chalice and paten and/or bread and wine.

You could play Kim's game to introduce the idea and challenge of remembering

https://www.greenlands.lancsngfl.ac.uk/ wp-content/uploads/2020/10/kimsgame.pdf

Read Matthew 26v26-29 or you could use the opening of this clip from the Miracle Maker Film:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20v OuZAcsB0

I wonder if you ever have special meals to celebrate, with family or friends. Jesus knew he was going to leave his disciples, and wanted to share this last meal with them, to prepare them for what was going to happen to him, to leave symbols to help them remember this.

Think back to last week and how important this last meal is to Christians today when they are part of the Eucharist/Holy Communion. In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to 'do this in remembrance of me' and this is what Christians continue to do week by week today.

I wonder how we remember important things in our lives. I wonder if we make the time and effort to remember people and events and what that means to us. Jesus was giving his disciples a way of remembering by repeating some simple actions (you could compare to remembering a song using actions)

You might want to close by listening to this song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhF BX5ZSySo Garden of Gethsemane – Jesus prays and is betrayed

Matthew 26:36-46

I wonder if you can remember a time when you felt really lonely and you felt completely on your own. I hope you've never had that experience but, if you have, I hope that things got better and that you found someone to talk to. If you're feeling a bit like that at the moment, then please, find somebody trustworthy to talk to. We weren't made to be lonely. We need someone else to understand us. Today's story is all about someone feeling like this.

https://www.brf.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/Gethsema ne-garden-sculpture-photo-by-Roger-Mills.jpg

Look at this image and read the account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (after the last meal with his friends).

I wonder

what it feels like to hear Jesus praying about the difficult time he knows is coming for him what questions you might have for his disciples, who fell asleep when Jesus asked them to keep watch

what sorts of prayers might people pray when they come to Gethsemane Church today https://www.brf.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/Gethsema ne-garden-man-praying-photo-by-Jeremy-Cooper.jpg

Dear God, be with all those who are finding life difficult, and be their light through the darkness. And if we're feeling alone in the dark as well, help us to find a friend we can talk to. Amen.

#### Celebrate

John 13:34-35

By looking at the command that Jesus gave to his disciples during the Last Supper

'Love one another as I have loved you'.

These words are used in this song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agM2Ujl7Aas

I wonder who has been doing this in school this week.

<u>Holy Week Collect (themed</u> prayer)

Almighty God whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

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Good Friday - why?

#### Matthew 27

Today there is a focus on three parts of the account of Good Friday to try and understand why Christians believe that Good Friday was necessary and good.

You will need:

- a washbowl with water
- a sponge on a stick
- a large dice

#### The wash bowl

'Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do and that the people were starting to riot. So he took some water and washed his hands in front of them and said, "I won't have anything to do with killing this man. You are the ones doing it!"' Matthew 27:24

Talk about this and make the key point that Christians believe that no human washing can ever clean up the bad there is on the inside of people's lives.

#### The sponge

'There they gave Jesus some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain. But when Jesus tasted what it was, he refused to drink it.'

Matthew 27:34

Talk about this and make the key point that Christians believe that no earthly painkiller can take away the disease of wrong that has spoilt the world.

#### The dice

'The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes.' *Matthew 27:35* 

Talk about this and make the key point that Christians believe that no worldly good luck can gamble our way out of the penalty of sin.

Christians believe that only Jesus, by dying, was able on our behalf to cancel the power of evil in human lives and then enable people to fight against evil in this world and win!

Share some hot cross buns

**Easter Sunday** 

John 20:10-18

Read the account of the women who came to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning

https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-102-appearance-mary/

I wonder why Mary thought that the gardener might have taken away the body. I wonder why Jesus chose to appear to Mary before all the others.

Now look at this image.

https://www.brf.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/A-Resurrection-Cross-image.jpg

Thinking of the account we read and what happened on Easter Sunday, I wonder why the Cross is presented like this.

Traditionally, the whole church is stripped bare for the services on Good Friday, when Christians remember the death of Jesus on the cross. All that is left at the end of a service is a cross, sometimes draped with a purple cloth.

To mark the tremendous change that happens on Easter morning, many churches decorate the whole church with an abundance of fresh flowers and greenery as a sign of the new life that the resurrection brings. This is extended to the cross; so it too is covered with colourful blooms.

Lilies are the traditional resurrection flower for this decoration. The dramatic difference between their closed buds and the full glory of the opened flower expresses the wonderful transformation that Easter morning brings — you can even find lily crosses in some Christian art and in stained glass windows.

Decorate a cross in school in this way – perhaps each class could decorate their own.

A traditional Easter hymn:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laZqL PmhNAc Spend any other acts of worship this week thinking about the symbolism of the Cross, the way in which Easter is celebrated across the world and the hope and joy which Christians everywhere share because Jesus rose from the dead

Your worship can be thought provoking, joyful and reflective depending on what works best for the time and the place. Make sure you sing and listen to your favourite, most joyful Easter music.

Here are some places to explore:

https://www.brf.org.uk/product/easter-cross-words/ https://www.brf.org.uk/product/a-word-cross/

https://www.brf.org.uk/product/talking-about-easter-easter-eggs-and-new-life/

https://www.brf.org.uk/product/exploring-narnia-and-christianity-a-reflective-story/

https://www.brf.org.uk/product/circle-of-peace-for-easter/

Christians declare how Christ has risen as part of their Easter worship using these words or similar

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

They start their worship by declaring

"Jesus Christ is risen today! **Alleluia**!"

You might want to make an Easter shout in different languages

Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

Christos anestee – Aleethos anestee! (Greek – phonetically)

Al Masih Quaam – Quaam Halleluiah! (Arabic – phonetically)

Kristos a inviat – Adverat a inviat (Romanian – phonetically)

Kristos Vos Kres – Voistin Vos Kres (Russian – phonetically)

Thank you to BRF for their archive materials used for ideas this week

You will probably also have your own school Easter celebration this week at some point.