

The Case of the Christ



Welcome back Detectives...

Thanks for all the investigating you have been doing for me. The case is really beginning to build...

Not only have we found a trustworthy source in Dr Luke - he investigated what the eyewitnesses saw and heard about Jesus. But we've also seen something about Jesus - He is God's King. But a different type of king than we would expect - mighty yet gentle, powerful, yet thinks about others.

But the work is not over!

Here is your next assignment.

Signing off...

P.I. Paul

Opening Prayer

The Bible is God's word - so we need God to help us understand it!

Pray together

'Dear Heavenly Father, help us to know you better as we read this true story from the Bible now, and to love Jesus more. Amen.'

Challenge

God is a God who gives fun and life. So looking at the Bible can be fun too. A simple challenge can also help focus the mind!

Give it a go

Play a game of 'Charades' - where you have to act something out and other people have to guess it.

Take it in turns to act out these words - see if others can guess it (No peeking if it is not your turn!)

- Lifeguard
- Firefighter
- Superhero
- Ambulance person/Doctor/Nurse

What do all those people have in common? (They rescue people)

Or/and

Set up a simple obstacle course in the house (I mean simple!) some cushions to step over, a chair to weave around etc. Take it in turns to try to do it - with your eyes closed - get someone to help you either giving instruction or holding your hand. Be careful!

How was it?

Read Bible Passage or Bible Story

Read Luke 23:44-49

As you read this passage out - pull the curtains so the room you are in is dark. If you have children's Bible maybe find some pictures and look at them as you read the verses. One person might like to say Jesus' words, or another the Centurion's.

You can see an animated video - <https://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk/> - you can sign up for 'The Easter Tale' videos for free here (until April 17th).

You could give this little introduction - 'After Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he was arrested - even though he had never done anything wrong. A friend told the people who wanted to hurt Jesus where to find him. The people in charge decided Jesus must die. They hung Jesus on a cross.'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'^[e] When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, 'Surely this was a righteous man.'⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Chat it through

It is really important we think about what it means - that is what God wants to teach us through it, and then what it means in our lives. But that doesn't need to be long or complicated.

Some questions to help

- What strange thing happened when Jesus was on the cross? Why was it strange? (Darkness covered the land when the sun should have been brightest!

In the Bible, darkness is a sign God is punishing sin. Sin is saying 'Shove off God, I'm in charge, No to your rules.' Just like breaking rules at home or school, there are consequences for breaking God's rules. We deserve punishment. One way the Bible talks about that is living in darkness now and forever.

- But Jesus had never done anything wrong! Why do you think he was facing this darkness? (The darkness over Jesus on the cross shows us that Jesus came to rescue people from it. He was taking the punishment for us.

- The temple curtain was like a big sign, saying we can't come near to God as friends because of our sin. (circle the right one)



- But draw what happened to curtain when Jesus died?



- How does the Bible say we can now come to God as friends? (rearrange the letters)

Only by _ _ _ _ _ Jesus and his death for us

I U N S R T T G

- Pause together and think - **How much must God love you to make a way for you to be his friends again?**

Pray it through

The Bible isn't there just to teach us more things, God is wanting to change us through it. So we need to pray for his help, as well as other needs.

This week

Each get a small piece of scrap paper. On it write something you have done or said or thought which shows you are saying 'Shove off God, I'm in charge, No to your rules.'

Don't let anyone see it. Then in the quiet (you don't have to say it out loud), say sorry to God for living that way, and ask for his help to change.

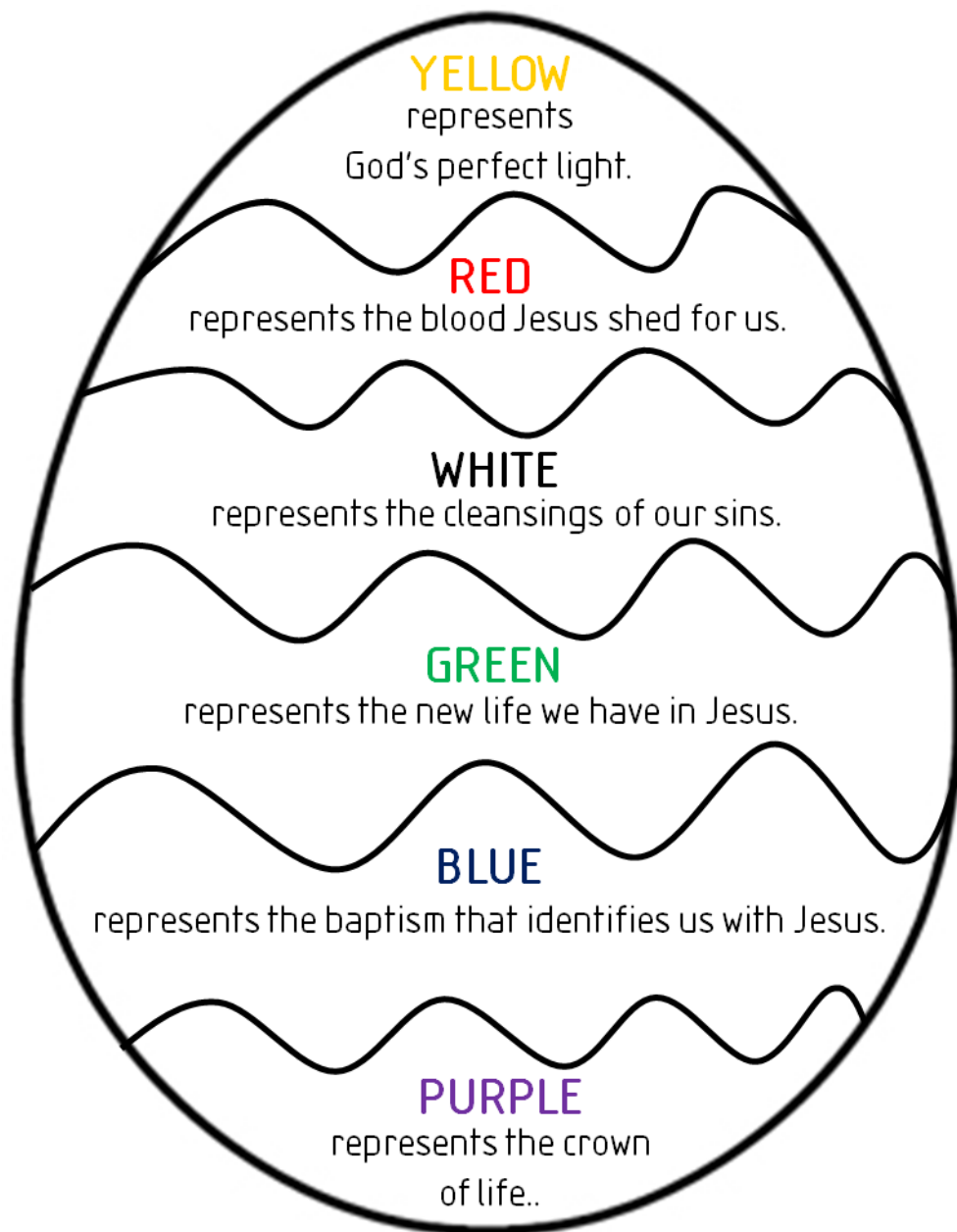
Then go and screw the paper up and put it in the bin. Don't go any look at it again.

Say a thank you prayer together - 'Thank you Father that if I trust Jesus to forgive me, my sin is gone forever and I can enjoy being your friend. Amen.'

NOW unpause the video on YouTube to continue...

Craft

Here are some things you could do today...



Cross Craft - Get four lolly sticks, four bits of card, or four twigs from the garden. Join them in a rectangle (with tape or glue). Get some string, (or brown wool) and wrap it around the frame - from left to right, and then from bottom to top - to form a cross shape. If you have red wool - wrap a little around the middle. You could write 'Jesus loves me' around the edge.

For a more trendy one you can look here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YwRf0IUj58>

