

The Case of the Christ



Welcome back Detectives...

This case is full of twists and turns...God's king arrives - celebrated and cheers. Then God's King dies - laughed at and mocked. But all the evidence points to the fact Jesus' death was a rescue mission - to make a way for us to be God's friends again.

But is that the end of the investigation? I have reports coming in which need more work from you...

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.

Give it a go

Try and find 10 'empty' things in your house. What do you feel when you find something empty (say a biscuit tin or pop bottle...)

And/or

Play a 'Change' game - the leader calls out a different feeling - happy, sad, angry, tired, thoughtful, confused, shocked, scared... and people have to make that expression with their face - then the leader says change and calls a new one out - and people have to change. You can repeat them, swap leaders, go fast or slow - whatever! Make sure the last two are - sad, and then happy.

Read Bible Passage or Bible Story

Read Luke 24:1-12

Why not cover a dining room table with a sheet - so it is like the tomb. Maybe you could use a sofa cushion as the stone. You can sit outside the tomb as you read the passage. Maybe two people could be the angels?

You can see an animated video at <https://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk/> - you can sign up for free (until April 17th).

You could give this little introduction - *'After Jesus died, soldiers checked he really was dead. He was laid in a tomb and it was sealed shut. Guards were placed at the entrance. But something happened...'*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **'Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."** 8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

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 were the women expecting to find when they came to the tomb?** (Jesus' dead body - that's why they had the spices. The tomb shut.)
- **But what did they find?** (The stone rolled away. Jesus' body not there. Two angels)
- **Why did the angels say the women were looking in the wrong place for Jesus?** (It wasn't that they had the wrong tomb. It's that you don't look in a cemetery for living people! His body. Jesus is alive!)
- **What did Peter find when he went to the tomb?** (Jesus' grave clothes. If someone had stolen Jesus' body, you wouldn't take those off - yuck! It's that Jesus didn't need them anymore.)
- **Why should the disciples have expected Jesus to rise from the dead?** (He had said this would happen beforehand)
- Jesus promises to give life with God now and forever to any who follow him as their king. **How do these verses help us to trust Jesus' promises more?**

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

Let's make all our prayers today - thank and praise prayers...

Get an Easter Egg (in a box - otherwise it will melt!) - Pass it between you - whoever has the Easter Egg says a short prayer. It could be

'Wow! Father you are...Amen' - powerful, kind, loving, good or others. Or

'Thank you Father for...Amen' - think of things to give thanks for - spring flowers, our NHS, lovely treats, family or others.

Try to make sure some of the praise and thanks are around Easter - e.g. thank you that Jesus lives today etc.

If you are allowed, at the end tuck into the egg!

NOW un pause the video on YouTube to continue...

Craft

Here are some things you could do today...

- Easter Garden - go outside garden with a shallow tray (foil tray, plant pot holder, old plate - whatever). Put a little soil in a mound on the plate (like a little hill). Place a stone at the front like the entrance to the tomb. Find two twigs and made a cross and stick it in the hill. If you can find some moss, cover the soil with it, like grass.
- Jesus is risen - Easter tomb - <https://meaningfulmama.com/resurrection-craft-easter.html>
- Simple - clothes peg tomb -

