

Good Friday – Exploring the Easter Story using an A4 sheet of paper

Jesus went to Jerusalem for the very last time.



Hold up the piece of A4 paper flat, as if it were the ground plan of the big city of Jerusalem with its walls high on a hill.

It was the time of the Jewish feast of the Passover, and the city was full of people from many different lands. They thought Jesus was coming to be king, but they weren't paying attention.

He wasn't riding on a great white horse when he came into the City. He wasn't being carried by soldiers. He was riding on a donkey, and it wasn't even his. He had borrowed it.

Still, that Sunday when Jesus came into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches, which were a sign of kings.



Fold the paper as shown in the picture and then, holding the pointed end, wave it like a palm branch.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Jesus went into the Temple to teach.



Fold the paper as shown in the picture so that it looks like a great big house with a roof.

Every night he went back to the Mount of Olives with the twelve disciples. The people watched him and whispered, and the soldiers said, "On Thursday we will take him." But on Thursday, they could not find him. That evening Jesus and the disciples hurried through the dark streets to a narrow house. They climbed up the stairs to an upper room and where they would share their last supper together.



Fold 'the temple' shape in half so that it becomes a narrow house with an attic room upstairs in the roof space.

Jesus surprised the disciples by taking a bowl and a jug of water and washing their feet in an act of love and service to them.

After they had everything they wanted to eat Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God for it, and said, "Whenever you share a cup of wine like this, I will be there."



Hold the paper you have just folded by the pointed end, as if it were a chalice or cup.

Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it and said something like, "Whenever you break the bread like this and share it, I will be there."



Tear a strip of paper off the edge of the paper, parallel to the fold, as shown in the picture, as you talk about the bread being broken

What was he talking about? He was always saying things like that. How could they know? Still, they did not forget, and later they would understand.

Suddenly Judas got up and left. He was going to betray Jesus. Jesus knew, but the others didn't. They sang a hymn and then went with Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Jesus wanted to pray and he asked the disciples to watch with him. When he was finished, he joined the disciples, but Judas came out of the dark and greeted him. This was a signal for the Temple guards to take him. They too came out of the shadows and took Jesus away with them into the night. The disciples disappeared into the darkness as well.

The night was a confusing one. Jesus was put on trial and stood before the religious leaders and the roman rulers. It was clear that he was guilty of absolutely nothing but he was still sentenced to death. He was tortured.



As you mention all the terrible things that happened to Jesus, tear the paper again in parallel to the fold, slowly and carefully, to reflect the pain and horror of what happened to Jesus.

That afternoon, Jesus died. The sky grew dark.



Open up the thinnest piece of paper left with the fold, keeping the other torn parts carefully on one side. You will have the shape of a cross.

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave.



Fold up the cross loosely to make a box with an open entrance, as shown in the picture.

A great stone was rolled into the opening of the cave to close it like a door.



Fold in the last piece of the box to cover the way in, as shown in the picture.

Saturday was so quiet you could almost hear the earth breathing. On Sunday, it was the women who had the courage to go to the tomb just to be close to Jesus. They wanted to remember, even if it was sad. When they came to the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled back and that the tomb was empty.



Unfold the last piece of the box to show the open entrance.

Jesus had died on the cross, but somehow he was still with them as he is with us. Death was not the end - because of what Jesus had done. God can turn death into life for everyone!



Unfold the box back into the shape of a cross and then pick up the pieces that were torn away earlier and unfold them slowly. Now spell LIFE with the cut-off pieces, as shown in the picture



And that is the Mystery of Easter, and that makes all the difference...