

Topic Title: Christianity - Salvation

Early Years Foundation Stage Spring 2



Enquiry Question:
Why do Christians put a cross in
an Easter garden?

Disciplinary Focus:
Theology

Background for Teachers:

Core beliefs behind this unit, taken from *Understanding Christianity*:

Christians believe that:

- The world is not perfect; its pain and suffering is not what God intended. The world needs to be put right and people can make a new start with God as king. Christians pray 'your kingdom come, your will be done'.
- The world has been spoilt by sin. 'Sin' means deliberate wrongdoing, and also failure to do the right thing. All humanity sins and falls short of God's standards; no one is perfect.
- The Bible tells the story of salvation, of how Jesus came to earth on a rescue mission. Jesus' name means 'he saves'. Jesus said he came to 'seek and save the lost', and he helped all he met.
- The cross is a reminder of Jesus' death, and that putting things right can be costly. Christians say Jesus died to save everyone, to pay the price of sin in our world and reunite humans with God.
- Christians ask God to forgive their sins in Jesus' name. They pray for help to live the right way. They pray for people in need. They tell others about Jesus the Saviour and what he has done.
- Christians should be committed to 'rescuing' or 'saving' others. Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour'; they must not 'walk by' those in need. Christians say we should help to bring in the Kingdom of God.

Previously On ... (Links to Prior Learning):

Share some familiar Easter images and ask the children to think about what they already know about Easter? What happens at Easter? Why do we celebrate Easter?

Big Questions:
Why do Christians celebrate
Easter?
What happened on Palm
Sunday?
Why is the palm cross a
special symbol for
Christians?
What does the word
Hosanna mean?
What happened on Good
Friday? And two days later
on Easter Sunday?
Why is Easter Sunday an
exciting day for Christians?

| LEARNING OBJECTIVE | | WHOLE CLASS INTRODUCTION / FOCUS | DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES | PLENARY |
|--------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Lesson 1 | LO: to explore the symbol of a palm cross. | <p>Starter: share some familiar Easter images and ask the children to think about what they already know about Easter. What happens at Easter? Why do we celebrate Easter?</p> <p>Input: Use the ‘Tom and Tessa’ characters to tell the story. They are getting ready for a special time called Easter. This week, when they were at church, they acted out the story of Palm Sunday and at the end, they were given a palm cross to take home. Show an image of a palm cross and explain that they’ve sent you a photo.</p> <p>Explain that they’ve also sent you some other photos: a Bible, a donkey, a white cloth, a robe, some palm leaves, percussion, flags, ribbon and the word <i>Hosanna</i>. What could this story be about? Do the children have any ideas?</p> <p>Tell the story and as Jesus and the donkey walk along the road, invite the children to shout <i>Hosanna</i>. Use flags and instruments to act this out as a joyous occasion. Explain that <i>Hosanna</i> means ‘save us’ and the crowds of people wanted Jesus to save them from the Romans/ They wanted Jesus to be king.</p> <p>Share the following film – ‘The Riddle of Palm Sunday’: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0113x23 And a <i>Hosanna</i> song that the children might like to sing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7OmW6PNPNI https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBo9BM6QVxs</p> | <p>Task: Choice of challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a storyboard to retell the story of Palm Sunday. • Learn a Palm Sunday song and add in actions or dance moves. • Make a sign of the word <i>Hosanna</i>. • Make a palm cross out of paper, ribbon or even leaves. • Build a gateway into Jerusalem for Jesus to come through out of blocks or Lego. | <p>Plenary: What does the word <i>Hosanna</i> mean?</p> <p><i>Save me!</i> Remember, the crowds of people wanted to be saved from the Romans, who were not being very kind to them. They wanted Jesus to be their king instead.</p> |

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| Lesson 2 | <p>LO: to understand the symbol of the cross linked to Good Friday.</p> | <p>Starter: Last week, we looked at what happened on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey and the crowds were so excited to see him, they started shouting <i>Hosanna! Save me!</i></p> <p>Input: Tome and Tessa are back to tell us more about Easter! Palm Sunday is the first day of a special week called Holy Week, when lots of important things happen to Jesus. Ask the children to chant the days of the week.</p> <p>On the Friday of Holy Week, Tom and Tessa celebrate at home by baking and eating hot cross buns. Show some images of hot cross buns – or even some real hot cross buns! Who has seen or eaten one of these before? What shape do the children recognise on top of the buns?</p> <p>Good Friday is the day that Jesus died and the Bible tells Christians that Jesus died on a cross. He was then buried in a cave with a big, round stone in front of it.</p> <p>Easter is an exciting time for Tom and Tessa because they are on holiday from school and on Good Friday, they make hot cross buns at home. While they are eating them, they look at the crosses on top of the buns. Tom thinks the bun is like the cave Jesus was buried in and Tessa thinks it is like the stone door of the cave. What do the children think?</p> | <p>Task: Make a pretend hot cross bun – drawing, junk modelling, playdough ... make sure the cross is shown on the top! Opportunity for cooking?</p> | <p>Plenary: Tom and Tessa think Good Friday is a bit sad because Jesus died but something very special happened two days later on Easter Sunday. Do any of the children know what happened?</p> |

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| Lesson 3 | LO: to understand what happened on Easter Sunday. | <p>Starter: How do the children celebrate Easter? What do they do? What do they eat? How do they feel?</p> <p>Input: Explain that Easter Sunday is an exciting day for Christians. They want to tell everyone that Jesus is alive again. At church, they sing loud, joyful songs. Tom and Tessa love doing the Easter shout – <i>'Jesus is risen!'</i>. Everyone has to shout back, <i>'He is risen indeed. Alleluia!'</i></p> <p>Then everyone goes and puts flowers on a big cross to show that Jesus is not dead anymore. Flowers are a symbol of new life. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StIJgYF-Ki8</p> | <p>Task: Children to participate in making a giant flower cross. Alternatively, decorate small stones with crosses and flowers or other simple flower crafts.</p> | <p>Plenary: What have the children learnt about Easter Sunday?</p> |

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| Lesson 4 | LO: | Starter: Input: | Task: | Plenary: |

Celebration of knowledge and skills gained (opportunities for assessment):

| | <u>Skills and Knowledge</u> Add in skills-based from Ruth ... |
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| Some children will: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about Easter as a Christian festival. • Recognise the cross as a Christian symbol. |
| Most children will: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know that Easter is a very important story in the Bible. • Recognise that the local church celebrates Easter. |
| Some children will progress further and will: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know some of the events of the Easter story. • Recall some of the ways that the local church celebrates Easter. |