

An Introduction to Easter Experience

How to use this material :

1. If you want to use it daily choose a specific time when you will do it each day either a mealtime or bedtime perhaps.

2. If you miss it you miss it!

The point of this book is to build happy memories with God at the centre - so don't let it become a task master. But be aware that often when we pray as families, things go wrong !! Persevere in spite of the problems, it's not the individual occasion that matters but the effect of praying together year after year.

3. You could choose to use the book once a week - perhaps at the weekend, and I have included a longer celebration for that purpose.

4. The first section each day is for use with younger children, (or if you're short of time!), marked YC. The second section each day, marked OC, is for older children and adults.

5. You could choose to use the book once a week - perhaps at the weekend, and I have included a longer celebration for that purpose.

6. The first section each day is for use with younger children - or if you're short of time !



How to use the worship time

- i) It helps if one person in the family looks ahead and decides which bits will suit your family.
- ii) Don't be afraid of excluding parts or including new ideas. What I've written is only a starting point.
- iii) For the younger children's prayer time you will need a modern bible story book or a bible.
- iv) Make sure you sort out who's reading what before you start. Sometimes a rota helps!
- v) The Ash Wednesday worship will help you focus on the purpose of Lent. It's a good idea to look at this in advance.
- vi) Singing: the songs on Sunday are only a suggestion. They are all from 'Mission Praise'
Alternatively you could:
 - choose a suitable song for your family,
 - use a CD,
 - leave out the song,
 - say some or all of the song together.
 - read aloud together the short statement of faith which will be found at the end of 'Easter Experience'.



Shrove Tuesday

This is a day for family fun and celebration - it's also a day for saying "Sorry". ('Shrove' comes from the word 'Shriven', which means to be forgiven the things you've done wrong.)

Make and serve plenty of pancakes, sharing out the tossing of them if possible.

Think: about how each person can sometimes spoil family life. Each person needs to decide for themselves what they want to say sorry for. It may help to give everyone paper and pen here.

Pray: (You could choose bits of this prayer for younger children.)

Voice 1: We thank you Lord God
for the fun and laughter
of family life.

Voice 2: We are sorry for the things we do
which spoil our family life . . .

Voice 3: We want to say sorry
especially for _____
(each person names what they want to say sorry for)

Voice 4: We know that your Holy Spirit
can help us to be better people.
We ask that over Lent
we will let your Holy Spirit work in us.
Amen.

Read: Gal 5 v22-26 (With younger children you could just read verses 22-23)



Ash Wednesday

- Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which lasts for 40 days.
- Some Christians have a black cross marked on their foreheads in ashes - to show they are sorry for things they've done wrong.
- You could make a traditional fish pie today, and then worship together:

YC Read: Matt 4 v1-11 - The story of Jesus in the desert.

N.B. Remember to use a bible story book.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
You spent forty days in the desert
learning to know God
your Father better.
Help us to learn more about you this Lent.
Amen.

OC Read: Matt 6 v1-4

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,
In our family this Lent,
we want to put you first.

Voice 2: We ask that you will
help us now
as we plan what to do in Lent.

Voice 3: We are going on a journey,
towards Good Friday
and Easter Day.

Voice 4: Please travel with us,
teach us
and guide us.
Amen.



Planning for Lent:

What are we going to do this Lent? As you talk bear in mind these thoughts::

1. Lent does not include Sunday - Sunday is the resurrection day and always a day of celebration. You could make a Lent cross. Make a cross out of brown dried flower oasis or a block of wood, and put seven candles in it. Light another candle each Sunday. On Easter Saturday decorate your cross and light all the candles.

2. You could each decide to give up something you enjoy, either for the whole of Lent or a different thing each week.

3. You could agree to have a really frugal meal one week.

4. You could give up an outing and do something simple instead. You could walk or cycle instead of drive and then...

5. ...You could make a family collecting box and all put in money you save from numbers 2, 3, and 4. Where will the money go and why?

6. One of my sisters made a Lent calendar. It was a paper pathway along a window-sill, divided into 48 days. she put on four duplo figures one for each member of the family and a candle! Each day they lit the candle and moved it and the figures on one more space. If the days worship required them to write anything down they would put that on the pathway too.

7. Finally make a wall chart to encourage yourselves. A traditional Lent Calendar is shaped like a Nun.

a) She has no mouth because she's fasting. (She could be made to smile on Easter Sunday.)

b) Fold back one foot for each week you complete.

c) On her tummy write your plans for each week and how much money you have collected.



Thursday 1

YC Read: Mark 1 v 9-13 - The baptism of Jesus.
N.B. Use either a bible or a bible story book.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
Just as you said "Yes" to being baptised by John
in the River Jordan,
help us to say "Yes"
to everything you want us to do.
Amen.

OC Read: Lk 9 v. 23-26

Pray:

Voice 1: We thank you that we can be
your disciples.
Help us to follow you
wherever you lead us.

Voice 2: Sometimes it's hard to follow you,
when we don't feel like it;
when people laugh at us;
when we have difficulties in our life;
when we are embarrassed;
and when we are tired.
Please forgive us.

All: Give us courage
as individuals
and as a family,
to follow you every day
even when we're tired,
even if we are afraid,
and even when life is difficult.

Voice 3: Please help us to do this together.
Amen.



Friday 1

YC Pray: Lord God,
Help us to know what you want to say to us today.
Amen.

Read: John 2 v1-11 - The wedding in Cana.
N.B. Use your bible story book.

Discuss: Weddings (or parties) are great fun, what else do you enjoy doing as a family?

Pray: Thank you God for all the good things you give us like _____ .
Amen.

OC Pray: Lord God,
Help us to know what you want to say to us today. Amen.

Read: Mark 2 v18-20

Ask: How can we fast as a family ?
(Think about money, food, behaviour, bad habits.)

(N.B. This is not meant to be a time of individual confession, but a way of looking at how the whole family can follow good patterns.)

Pray:
Voice 1: Dear Lord,
you said that we should fast
when you the bridegroom
were taken away.

Voice 2: We don't find it very easy to fast,
or to change our comfortable
way of life.

Voice 3: Please help us to fast
in the ways we discussed earlier.

Voice 4: Help us to remember,
that you gave up everything
because you love us.
Amen.

Saturday 1

YC Read: John 3 v1-5 - Jesus and Nicodemus.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We want to be born again into your family.
Thank you that you accept
anyone who wants to
follow you.
Amen.

OC Read: Luke 5 v27-32

Pray:

Voice 1: Levi wasn't respectable!
He was a hated, despised,
Tax-collector.
Nobody liked him,
nobody wanted him.

Voice 2: Except Jesus.
He chose Levi to be one of
His best friends.
He called him Matthew.

Voice 3: Matthew invited all his friends
to meet Jesus.
To meet the man who wanted Him,



who chose him,
who loved him.

All: Lord God,
Help us to follow you like Matthew did,
to come when you call us,
to introduce our friends to you,
and to follow you all our life.
Amen.

Sunday 1

YC Sing: "Father I place into your hands" M.P. 133 (v.2) or use
no. 1 from end of Easter Experience at the back of Easter
Experience.

Read: John 4 v45-53 - Jesus heals the official's Son.

Pray: Dear God,
Thank you for Sunday.
We love to go to your house,
with our Christian friends
to worship you.

Amen.

Don't forget to turn up the first foot on your calendar.

OC Sing: "Seek ye first" M.P. 590 or use no. 2 from end of Easter
Experience.

Read: Luke 4 v1-4

Pray:
Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
In the desert,
you were tempted to use your power
for the wrong reasons,
and in the wrong way.



Voice 2: Forgive us when we use our power wrongly.
Forgive us when we use anger
as a weapon against other people.

Voice 3: Forgive us when we use silence
to manipulate or hurt others.

Voice 4: Forgive us when we use
physical or mental strength
to get our own way.

All: O God,
We like to have a comfortable life,
we enjoy everything going our way.
Please help us not to use our power
in a way that damages,
or hurts others,
whilst making our life easier.
Amen.

Don't forget to turn up the first foot on your calendar.

Monday 1

YC Read: Matthew 4 v18-22 - Jesus calls His disciples.

Pray: Dear Jesus,
So many people wanted to follow you.
We want to follow you too.
Amen.

OC Pray:

Voice 1: Thank you for God-given opportunities,
for opportunities to care for the poor.

Voice 2: Those who are poor in terms of wealth,
or friends, or family, or happiness.

All: Help us to serve the poor.



Voice 3: Thank you for God-given opportunities
to care for the hungry and thirsty.

Voice 4: Those who lack food to eat
and water to drink,
and those who don't know you,
- the Bread of Life,
- the fountain of life-giving water.

All: Help us to feed the hungry.

Read: Matthew 25 v 31-40

Tuesday 1

YC Read: Luke 5 v 17-26 - Jesus heals the paralysed man.
(Don't forget to use a bible story book if it's easier.)

Pray: Friends were so important to this sick man,
Lord God.
Please help us to be good friends
to other people.
Amen.

OC Read: Matthew 25 v41-46

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,
Whenever we are tempted
to harden our hearts
against someone in need,
remind us of this picture.
Help us to understand
that when we close our hearts
to other people,
we close our hearts to you.



Voice 2: Jesus says :
"I tell you, whatever you did
for the least important of these
brothers of mine,
you did for me."
Amen.

Wednesday 2

YC Read: Jn 5 v1-9 - Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath.

Pray: Do you know anyone who has been sick or unhappy for a long time ?
Ask God to make them better.
or say the Lord's Prayer together.

OC Pray: The Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Ask: Which line is the most important for you today ?

Read: Matt 6 v7-15

(You will need pen and paper for tomorrow).



Thursday 2

YC Read: Lk 6 v46-49 - the story of the 2 house builders.
(You could sing The wise man built his house upon the rock)

Think: of your favourite story in the bible, what do you like about it?

○ Thank God for those stories. ○

(You may like to get some cress seeds for Sunday).

OC Read: Lk 11 v33-36 (If possible make the room dark for reading verses 33-35. Turn on the lights for verse 36.)

Think: What do we do that makes darkness inside us ?
What do we do that increases the light within us ?
Make a list of these.

Pray: Get one person to say sorry for the 'darkness' list.
Get another person to ask God to spread his light in us,
through the 'light' list.

Friday 2

YC Read: Luke 7 v36-50 - The woman with the jar of perfume.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
Help us to love you so much,
○ that we give our best things to you. ○
Amen

You will need a candle and matches tomorrow.

OC Read: Psalm 139 v1-18 (you could divide this reading into 3 parts, and if you are short of time read v1-10.)

Say together: Lord God,
you are all around me on every side,
you protect me with your power,
your knowledge of me is too deep,
it is beyond my understanding.

Voice 1: As we go to school,
out to work,
or work at home.

Voice 2: As we meet people,
travel,
or eat meals,

Voice 3: Help us to be aware of you
Lord God : within us,
beside us,
around us. Amen.

You will need a candle and matches tomorrow.

Saturday 2

YC Voice 1: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world,
whoever follows me will have the light of life
and will never walk in darkness."
(Jn 8 v12)
(You could light a candle as you read this verse).

Read: Matt 9 v27-31 - Jesus heals two blind men.

Pray: Dear God,
Please light up our lives with your love,
so we can love others. Amen.

OC Voice 1: Jesus said :
"I am the light of the world,
whoever follows me will have the light of life

and will never walk in darkness.”

(Jn 8 v12)

Read : Matthew 17 v1-9

(You could light a candle as you read this verse).



Voice 2: This is my own dear Son
with whom I am pleased
- Listen to Him !

Voice 3: In our life today, help us to listen to you, Jesus.
When we want our own way,
help us to put others first.

Voice 4: When we feel angry with someone else,
help us to forgive them.

Voice 5: When we see an opportunity to be kind,
help us to put ourselves out for others.

Voice 6: As we listen to your Son and obey His teaching,
Lord God,
help us to hear you say;
“These are my beloved children
with whom I am well pleased.” Amen.

Sunday 2

YC Sing: “I have decided to follow Jesus” (v1-2) M.P. 272 or
use no. 3 from end of Easter Experience.

Read: Mk 4 v1-20 - the parable of the sower. (Don't forget you can use a
bible story book.)

Pray: Dear God,
We pray that your words will grow in our lives,
just like these seeds will grow in the soil.
Amen.

Do: If you have time (and energy) plant a few cress seeds on
some potting compost, or cotton wool. (Make sure you
remember to water them!)



You could fold up the second foot of your calendar today.

OC Sing: "Majesty" M .P. 454 or use no. 4 from end of Easter Experience.

Read: Lk 4 v5-8

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,
sometimes we make other things
more important than you,
within ourselves we bow down
and worship them.

Voice 2: Sometimes we worship other people's opinions.
We say things,
and do things
which they want us to do,
not what you want us to do.

All: Father forgive us.

Voice 3: Sometimes we worship money and possessions.
Instead of spending time with you,
we invest too much of our
time and energy in our work,
and don't make you a priority.
Instead of giving generously to you,
we use our money only on ourselves.

All: Father forgive us.

Voice 4: Thank you that you died
so that our failures could be forgiven.
Please help us to be aware of temptation
when we meet it each day.
Give us the strength to say "No"
and



'to worship the Lord our God
and serve only Him.'

All: As a family we WILL
worship the Lord our God
and serve only Him.
Amen.

You could fold up the second foot of your calendar today.

Monday 2

YC Read: Lk 12 v13-21 - The parable of the rich fool.

Pray:

Leader: Dear God,
Help us to remember that
money doesn't buy happiness,
and it doesn't buy life.

All: Help us to find our life
and our happiness,
in following You together.

Amen.

OC Read: Lk 7 v36-50 (if you need a shorter reading, just read
v40-43.)

Think: Spend a short time in silence, each person thinking of all
the things God has forgiven them for. Big things and little
things - today, yesterday, last week and in the weeks and
years beyond that.

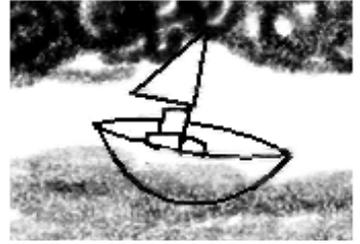
Leader: We thank you Heavenly Father
for your gift of free forgiveness.
Through the death of your Son
we can be made clean,
totally forgiven,
-as if we'd never sinned.
Help us to carry this joyful freedom



in our hearts today.
Amen.

Tuesday 2

YC Read: Matt 8 v23-27



Think: Are there any difficulties in your life at the moment?

○ Or things which make you unhappy? ○

Do you know someone else whose life is like a storm?

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,

Just as you calmed the stormy sea,
please calm _____ . (fill in your own ideas)

We need your help.

Amen.

OC Pray:

Voice 1: It's much easier God,
To hate those
who are horrible to us.

Voice 2: To 'hit back' at those
who attack us,
To make life difficult for those
who disturb our comfort.

Voice 3: To gossip about those
who say unkind things about us,
To turn our backs on those
who persecute us.

Read: Matt 5 v43-48.

Voice 4: O God,
Teach us to love others,
including our enemies,
in the same way that



you love them
- and us.
Amen.

Wednesday 3

YC Read: Lk 9 v10-17 - the feeding of the 5000.

Ask: How are we doing with our giving during Lent?
Are we reaching the goals we have set ourselves?
Is there anything special we could do for someone today or very soon?

Pray: Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the boy
who gave all his food to you.
Help us to give gladly
to other people.
Amen.

OC Read: Lk 6 v36-38

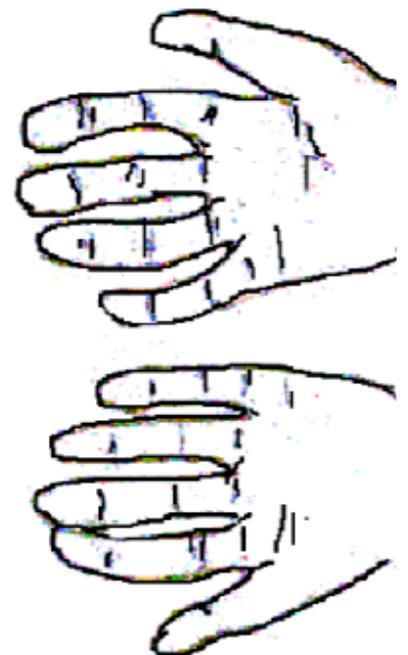
Ask: How are we doing with our giving during Lent?
Are we reaching the goals we have set ourselves?
Is there anything special we could do for someone today or very soon?

Pray:
Voice 1: When we give to others
it not only helps them,
it changes us.

Voice 2: It stops us being greedy
and selfish.

Voice 3: Instead of being inward looking,
we look at other's needs.

Voice 4: Instead of wanting more for
ourselves,
we learn to be content with less.



Voice 5: Thank you Lord God,
for the opportunity,
the desire,
and the willingness
to give generously
to others,
and to you.

Amen.

Thursday 3

YC Read: Matt 8 v28-34 - the man with many demons is
healed.

Pray: Lord Jesus,
You had time to help a man
who was very wild
and very unpopular.
Help us
find a way
to care for difficult
and unpopular people.
Amen.

OC Read: Matt 23 v1-11

Think: about verse 11 - is there some way you could serve one of
your family today, which nobody else will know about ?
Have a short silence while you think - these ideas might
help if you're stuck:
make your bed, tidy something up, offer to lay the table
or do a job, make a drink or special meal, sit and listen.

Pray: Dear Lord,
Help us to serve one another today.
Give us creative ideas
of things we can do,
and determination to carry out our ideas.
We pray that those we serve



will feel valued
and loved.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

(You may need pen and paper tomorrow).

Friday 3

YC Read: Matt 9 v18-26 - Jairus' daughter

Pray: Dear Lord,
Thank you that you cared for that little girl,
that you took time to heal her.
Thank you that you always have time for us,
and that you care for us. Amen.

OC Read: Lk 15 v11-20

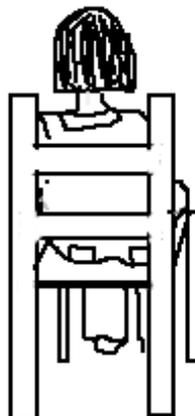
Pray: (Discuss briefly what voice 3 will say, try to be honest and grapple with the issues faced by both adults and children in your home. You could make a list of possible bad habits.)

Voice 1: Forgive us Lord God
When we wander away
from you.
When we don't have
time for you,
or we turn our back on you
and your teaching.



Voice 2: By your Holy Spirit
bring us to our senses,
and draw us close
to your side.

Voice 3: Sometimes we fall into ba
Like _____.



(fill in your own ideas.)

Voice 4: Give us the strength
and courage,
to turn away from
bad habits,
to hold firmly on to God
and the truth of His Word.
Amen.

Saturday 3

YC Read: Mk 6 v45-52 - Jesus walks on the water.

Pray: Lord Jesus,
you are amazing.
Help us always to trust your great power,
and never to doubt you,
so that you can do amazing things
in us and through us!
Amen.

OC Read: Col 3 v18-21 and then Lk 15 v11-13, 20-24, 28.

Think in silence for a moment:

How many breakdowns in your family relationships have you had today?
How many arguments, cross words, selfish acts or fights?
In which category would you put yourself?

- Dreadful!
- Not too bad.
- We've done quite/very well today, (or yesterday).

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,
It can be very hard to be a Christian,
and follow your teaching
at home.



Voice 2: Please forgive us,
for all that we've done and said today

which we shouldn't have done.
Please help us to forgive each other.

Voice 3: Forgive us
for missed opportunities to be kind.

Voice 4: Make us
quick to apologise when we have done wrong.

Read: Eph 4 v26-27

Perhaps you could agree to take this on as a family policy ?

Sunday 3

YC Read: Mk 9 v2-8 - the transfiguration

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We believe you are the Son of God,
please be the light in our lives,
and just as the light surrounded you on the mountain,
help us to share your light with others. Amen.

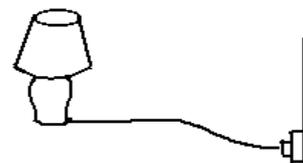
Sing: "O give thanks to the Lord" M.P. 497 or use no. 5 from end of Easter Experience.

You could turn up the third foot on your calendar today.

OC Read: Lk 4 v9-13

Pray: first for anyone you know, or any situation in your family
where there is suffering and sorrow.

Voice 1: In this country Lord God
we live such comfortable lives,
and we thank you for all the good gifts
you give us each day.



Voice 2: But perhaps being comfortable

makes us too cosy,
too dependant on
medicine and material possessions
to cushion us from
illness, death and hardship.



Voice 3 : Perhaps we believe that if we go to church,
read our bibles, pray
and try to do good,
that somehow we will be protected from
suffering and death, illness and hardship.

Voice 4 : Forgive us if we test you
by expecting protection
from all disaster and pain.
Forgive us when we question your power
and your love,
as we meet suffering in our lives. Amen.

Read: 1 Peter 5 v7

Sing: "Because He lives" M.P. 52 or use no. 6 from end of Easter Experience.

You could turn up the third foot on your calendar today.

Monday 3

YC Read: Lk 10 v29-37 - The good Samaritan.

Can you think of something kind to do for someone else today ?

Pray: Dear God,
Please help me to _____
for someone else today.
Amen.

OC Read: Lk 16 v19-26

Pray:

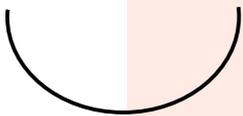
Voice 1: Thank you Heavenly Father,
that we know for certain
that having followed you through our whole life
we will join you in Heaven.

Voice 2: We pray that Heaven won't just be a shadowy place
in our minds -
filled with people in white clothes
playing harps.
Help it to be a real place
that we all long to go to.

Voice 3: We know that Jesus has gone ahead of us,
to get it all ready for us. (John 14 v1-3)
We know there won't be any more
death or mourning,
crying or pain
in heaven. (Rev 21 v4)



Voice 4: We know it will be a joyful celebration
'the wedding feast of the Lamb' (Rev 19 v9)
We ask you Lord God,
to give us a great desire to join you in heaven.
Amen.



Tuesday 3

YC Read: Lk. 10 v38-42 - Martha and Mary's home.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We are very sorry when
we argue
and fight with our brothers/sisters/friends.
Please forgive us
and help us to care for each other.
Amen.



OC Read: Lk 16 v27-31

Pray:

Voice 1: Heavenly Father

you give us different pictures of Hell in the bible.

A place of punishment,
of torment,
of fire,

and of destruction.

○ A place for those who don't worship and serve you. ○

Voice 2: Although we can't know for sure

what Hell will be like,

we do know that it will be a place without you,

and therefore

a place without your goodness,

your forgiveness,

your love,

and your healing.

Voice 3: Lord God,

help us to take seriously

our responsibility to share your truth with others,

and walking with them,

may we follow the path

that leads to you,

and to Heaven,

for ever.

Amen.

Wednesday 4

YC Read: Lk 15 v1-7 - The lost sheep.

Pray: Thank you Lord Jesus,
that you love us enough
to search for us.

Thank you that we are
safe with you now.

Amen.



OC Read: Lk 11 v14-23

Ask: Jesus had great power to heal and to cast out evil spirits.
How can you see this power in your family and church today? (Think about answered prayer, changed lives, the fruit of the Spirit.)

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
We are amazed by your great power.

Voice 2: We thank you that the power of your Holy Spirit is still available today.

Voice 3: Help us to see your power working in our family and our Church.

Voice 4: We pray, that as a family, we will be a powerful tool in your hand.

Voice 5: Read v23 again.

Voice 6: Help us, Lord God, always to work with you.
Amen.

Thursday 4

YC Read: Jn 11 v1-16 - Jesus' friend Lazarus dies.

Ask: Do you know anyone who has died?

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
Please be close to us or anyone we know, who is sad because of death.
Help us\them to feel comforted by you.
Amen.

OC Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,
We thank you that you have made us as we are,

we may not be perfect,
but we are wonderfully made.
We thank you for the talents you have given us,
and the gifts you have poured into us.
Thank you for giving us New Life
and calling us your sons and daughters.
Amen.



Read: Lk 18 v9-14

Voice 2: God have mercy on us,
for we so often sin against you.

Voice 3: Help us, Lord God
to have a right and balanced opinion of ourselves.
Not an opinion which puffs us up
and makes us compare ourselves with others,
pulling them down -
to lift ourselves up.

Voice 4: Nor do we want too low an opinion of ourselves
for we are your special creation !

Voice 1: Repeat first prayer.

Friday 4

YC Read: Jn 11 v38-44 - Jesus raises Lazarus.

Pray: Lord God,
We pray that you Holy Spirit will be in us,
as He was in Jesus,
the day he raised Lazarus from the dead.
Amen.

OC Read: Matt 7 v24-29

Pray:

Voice 1: We want to read and obey
the words you spoke Jesus,



but it's not always easy.

Voice 2: Sometimes life is so busy
-too busy to stop and listen to you.

Voice 3: Sometimes the Bible seems
dry and uninteresting.

Voice 4: Sometimes we're too tired
and reading the bible feels like hard work.

Voice 5: Sometimes we forget,
and do other things instead.

Voice 6: Lord Jesus,
Please forgive us.
Help us to remember that
your words give us eternal life.
To remember that
your words revive us when we're tired.
To remember that
your words bring: joy,
truth,
creativity,
power,
and new ideas
into our lives. Amen.

Saturday 4

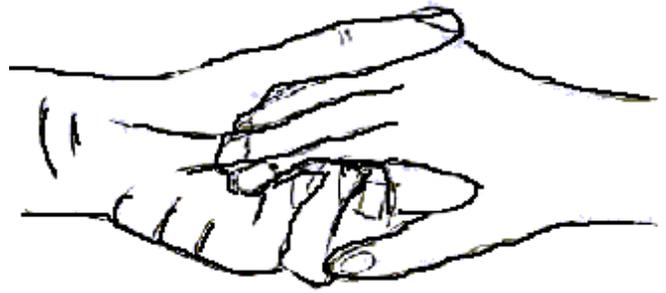
YC Read: Lk 17 v11-19 - Jesus heals ten men.

Ask: How do you think Jesus would have felt after he healed the
ten lepers and only one said "Thank you"?
What could you thank God for now?

Pray: Dear God,
Thank you for _____.
Amen.

Try to remember to thank people in the family today.

OC Read: John 5 v1-9a



Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,

You want all of us to be whole people,
physically, mentally and spiritually.

We know that you do heal people,
sometimes miraculously and immediately
and sometimes in heaven.

Voice 2: We know that your love
can heal scars in people's minds.

Voice 3: We know that as we get to know you better
you are making us whole spiritually.

Voice 4: We offer ourselves to You,
we ask you to continue to make us whole people,
and please would you use our family
to bring wholeness to other people.
Amen.

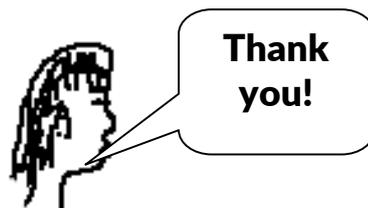
Sunday 4

YC Sing: "This is the day" (v1) M.P. 691 or say no. 7 from end of Easter Experience.

Read: Lk 13 v10-17 - a crippled woman healed on the sabbath.

Discuss: How do we make Sunday special in our family ?

Pray: Thank you for Sunday, Lord God,
for fun and worship and friendship.
Help us to make Sunday special.
Amen.



Don't forget to turn up the fourth foot.

OC Sing: "This is the day" M.P. 691 or say no. 7 from end of Easter Experience.

Read: Jn 5 v9b-15

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
you rose again on a Sunday and because of that
we made Sunday our holy day,
- a day set apart from the rest of the week,
- a different day,
- a special day.

Voice 2: We thank you for giving us Sunday,
help us to use it wisely :
- to worship you with the family of God,
- to rest and be re-created,
- to build our family life.
Amen.

Discuss:

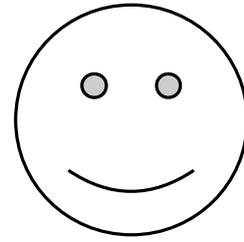
- 1) How do we make Sunday a special day?
How is it different from the rest of our week?
- 2) Checklist : What about worship?
What about rest?
What about building family life?
What about compassion?
What about fun and enjoyment?
- 3) Are there changes you need to make so that Sundays are
different and special?
Or what could you do as a 'one-off' next Sunday?

Don't forget to turn up the fourth foot.

Monday 4

YC Read: Lk 18 v15-17 - Little children and Jesus.

Pray: You love us so much, Lord Jesus,
we know we can always come to you
and you will welcome us,
with arms open wide,
and a smile just for us. Amen.



OC Read: Jn 8 v1-11

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,

If we had been in the temple courts that morning,
we would probably have stood with the crowd.

We confess to you that
it's much easier to look at the wrong in others
than to dwell on the sin in ourselves.

Voice 2: By drawing attention to other people's critical attitudes,

unkindness,

selfishness,

anger,

or bitterness,

we think we can hide our identical attitudes.

Voice 3: We feel better about ourselves,
when we highlight someone else's failings.

Voice 4: Forgive us Lord,
and be patient with us.

Help us to know ourselves,
the good

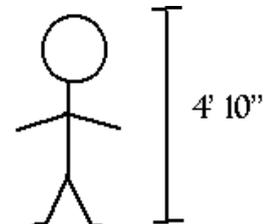
and the bad,

and help us not to build ourselves up
at others' expense.

Voice 5: Read again Jesus' words in v7 & 11.

Tuesday 4

YC Read: Lk 19 v 1-10 - Zacchaeus the tax collector.



(You could sing “Zacchaeus was a very little man”)

Pray: Today pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus as their friend, like Zacchaeus didn't. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them get to know Jesus.

OC Read: Jn 7 v30-32, 45-51

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,
Please help us to be like Nicodemus.

Voice 2: He came to you to ask about being born again,
he wanted to know you,
and follow you
so much.

Voice 3: The Chief priests and Pharisees
were very angry with Jesus,
they hated Him,
they longed to kill Him,
they sent the soldiers to arrest Him.

Voice 4: When the soldiers came back without Jesus,
the chief priests and Pharisees
jeered at them and mocked them.

Voice 5: And yet Nicodemus stood up for Jesus
in the face of their anger and scorn.

Voice 6: Give us the same determination and courage,
that Nicodemus had,
to follow you
and stand up for you,
whatever the cost.
Amen.

Wednesday 5



YC Use Psalm 23 as your reading and prayer. Get the rest of the family to shut their eyes or put their heads on their arms. As you read help them to imagine themselves on a journey with Jesus. Get them to begin by imagining themselves in a green field with Jesus.

At the end say: Thank you Lord that you walk with us through the whole of our life.

Amen.

OC Read: Mt 26 v6-13

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,

We might well have been just as cross as the disciples at seeing this waste.

Help us all to love you so much that we are willing to waste :

our time,
our energy,
our money,
our possessions
on You!

Amen.

Ask: As a family how could we "waste" something on Jesus today?

What can we give Him, that costs us something, but we give it simply because we love Him?

Try to decide and act today.

If you can't think of anything, ask God to show you - and look for His answer.

Thursday 5

YC Read: Lk 16 v19-31 - The Rich Man and Lazarus.

Think: Do you know anyone who is poor or has less than you do?
Or do you support a missionary society or charity?

Can you think of any way to help them?
Decide to do something today.

Pray: Lord God,
We thank you for all the good gifts you give us,
help us to share what we have with _____ today.
Amen.

OC Read: Jn 13 v1-5, 12-17 (You could read v1-17.)

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,
So often we try to get out of serving others.
We don't want to use our time
to do dirty or unpleasant jobs.
We ask, "Why should I have to do it ?"
We wait,
and hope that others will do the job instead of us.

Voice 2: Please forgive us Lord God.
Forgive our pride,
which will not serve our family.
Forgive our self-centredness,
which leaves jobs for others.
Forgive our laziness,
which excuses us from working.

Voice 3: Help us instead to follow your example,
to be willing to do the dirty jobs,
and to serve other people
because we love them
and because in loving them
we serve you. Amen.

Friday 5

YC Read: Matt 21 v28-32 - The parable of two sons.



Do: As you go outside today and over the weekend

look carefully at God's creation. Find something which teaches you more about God, or is a parable about God. When you meet together for a family meal - each of you can show or describe what you have seen and how this draws you closer to Jesus - the Son of God. You could read Psalm 8 v1, 3-5 too.

Pray: Dear God,
Help us to know that because we want you to live inside us,
we will live with you forever. Amen.

OC Read : Lk 23 v47
Mk 15 v37-39
Mt 27 v 51-54

Pray:
Voice 1: Lord Jesus Christ,
as a family we acknowledge
that you are the Son of God.

Voice 2: In these verses we see a Roman Centurion,
jolted into realising this truth
when he saw what accompanied your death.

Voice 3: The temple curtain tearing from top to bottom,
the ground shaking,
the rocks splitting,
and darkness falling,
- as though nature itself were in agony.

Voice 4: Open our eyes today
to see your power in the world around us.
Give us a sense of wonder,
as we delight in your creation. Amen.

Do: As you go outside today and over the weekend look carefully at God's creation. Find something which teaches you more about God or is a parable about God. When you meet together for a family meal - each of you can show or describe what you have seen and how this draws you closer to Jesus - the Son of God. You could read Psalm 8 v1, 3-5 too.



Saturday 5



YC Think: What are you good at doing ?

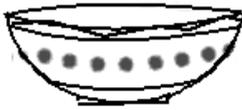
Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We thank you that we are
good at : _____
(fill in one idea for each person)

Help us to use these things for you.

Amen.

Read: Matt 25 v14-30 - The parable of the talents.

OC Read: Matt 27 v11-26 - you could have one person as Pilate, one as Jesus, one as Pilate's wife, a narrator and everyone as the crowd. As you read ask yourself what Pilate was guilty of, then make a list together to help you pray.



Pray: Pray your own prayer - asking God to help you all to avoid making the same mistakes that Pilate made.

Sunday 5

YC Sing: "Make Way" (v1) M.P. 457 or say no. 8 from end of Easter Experience.

Read: Mt 26 v6-13 - Jesus is anointed at Bethany.

Pray: Dear God,
Sometimes we can feel cross
when other people do good things
and are praised.
Please forgive us,
and help us to be glad when others
are made to feel special.
Amen.



Turn up the fifth foot on your calendar.

OC Read: Mk 14 v66-72

Sing: "Do not be afraid" (you could choose 3 verses.) M.P. 115
or use no.9 from end of Easter Experience.

Think: What are you most afraid of? (You'll need to use your ideas in the prayer time.)

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God.

Fear is a powerful emotion.

It was fear which stopped Peter saying he knew you,
fear made him lie,
fear made him angry,
fear made him curse and swear.

And then he went out and wept bitterly
knowing he had denied you.

Voice 2: We are afraid of _____.

(each person says what they are afraid of.)

We don't want to be controlled by our fears,
so we ask that you will either take away these fears,
or give us the courage to live with them,
and help us find creative ways of managing them.

Amen.

Turn up the fifth foot on your calendar.

Monday 5

YC Read: Jn 13 v1-17 - Jesus washes the disciple's feet.

Think: Can you think of something really special you could do for each other today?



Pray: Dear Jesus,
You knelt down
and washed your disciples' feet.
Help us to serve each other today.
Amen.

OC Read: Lk 22 v1-6

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Lord Jesus,
Judas had a choice,
- faithfulness to you,
or a bag of money.
He chose the money.
A few days afterwards he tried to choose differently,
he gave back the money,
but it was too late,
in his distress Judas killed himself.

Voice 2: We all have life-changing choices to make too,
often choices involving money.
Help us to have a right attitude to money,
enjoying what we have,
but not being greedy for more.

Voice 3: Help us to get our priorities in order,
not putting money above
time with You,
worship,
family life,
friends,
and compassion.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

(For tomorrow you will need a picture of Gethsamane or a Mediterranean olive grove.)

Tuesday 5

YC Read: Matt 21 v1-11 - Jesus enters Jerusalem.

If you have time choose a song to sing - something joyful. If you have instruments use those too.

Pray: Dear Jesus,

Everyone was so happy to welcome you that day,
may we welcome you,
in our lives,
every day.
Amen.

OC If you can, find a picture of the garden of Gethsamane to help you imagine the scene. (Any Mediterranean garden scene might help.)

Read: Mark 14 v32-42

Think: (possibly in silence)

- Remember a time when you felt very excited about following Jesus.
- A time when you really wanted to spend time reading your bible, praying and being with Jesus.
- Or a time you felt very happy about being one of Jesus' disciples.
- Then remember a time when you felt far away from God cut off from him.
- A time when you didn't feel like reading your bible, or praying, or going to church.

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
Just like the first disciples
we fall asleep.

We don't watch with you when you need us to.

Voice 2: In the garden of Gethsamane
you needed the support of your friends,
but they were sleeping.

You need us today, our friendship and support,
please forgive us when we too fall asleep.
When we can't be bothered to read our bibles and pray,

when going to Church seems dull,
when our ears don't hear the things you ask us to do.



Voice 3: Paul wrote to the Ephesians

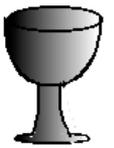
'Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

Voice 4: Please wake us up today Lord!

And over this Easter time,
may we experience once more
the joy and light,
of the risen Christ.
Amen.

Wednesday 6

YC Read: Luke 22 v7-13 -Preparing for the Passover/Last
Supper.



Pray: Lord Jesus,
Your disciples spent time preparing for the last supper.
Please help us to prepare carefully for Easter,
ourselves, our family and our homes. Amen.

Today would be a good time to look at the 'Preparation for Easter' sheet and plan what you will do.

OC Read: Matt 27 v27- 31

Pray:

Voice 1: O God,
If we had been one of the soldiers
what would we have done?

(Pause)

Voice 2: Lord God forgive us.
When we are in a crowd
it's very difficult not to be drawn along by the crowd,

it's hard to be different.

Voice 3: When a crowd of our friends
are laughing at someone,
or criticising others behind their backs,
or teasing a person nastily,
it's much easier to join in
or to stand with the crowd.

Voice 4: Help us to see
that when we stand with the crowd,
we stand with the soldiers who mocked,
and jeered,
and laughed,
and hurt You.
Give us the courage to walk away,
or to stand up for the victim.
Amen.

Today would be a good time to look at the 'Preparation for Easter' sheet and plan what you will do.

Planning for Easter

Here are some ideas you could use if you wanted to.

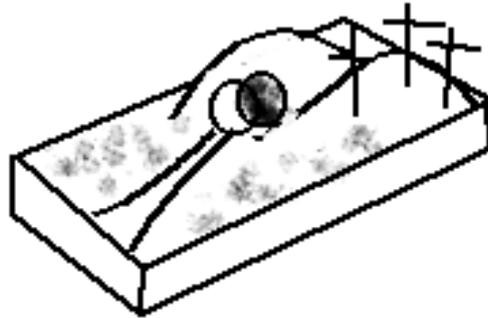
Palm Sunday

Decorate the house with budding twigs and pussy willow.

Maundy Thursday

- 1) If you have a cup and plate which look a bit like those Jesus may have used put them in a prominent place for today - you could put a roll on the plate and some wine, or ribena, in the cup.
- 2) You could share this bread and wine with your evening meal.
- 3) Make an Easter Garden. Take the largest seed tray or water tight container you have and fill it with sand and soil. Make a hill in one corner, with three crosses made out of twigs on it, and a tomb built out of stones in

another. Make a stone path and have some moss on the soil as grass. Make a figure for Jesus (pipe cleaners are useful), and two thieves, use scraps of material for clothes. On Maundy Thursday evening put Jesus praying in the garden. On Good Friday put Him and the thieves on the cross. On Easter Saturday put Him in the tomb - for Good Friday and Easter Saturday plant bare twigs in the garden. On Easter Sunday replace these with flowers. (Egg cups buried and filled with water keep them alive longer.) Stand Jesus in the garden with the stone rolled away.



Good Friday

- 1) If you have a video clip or CD about Holy week you could use this today.
- 2) Place a hammer, some nails and some thorns on a table today where everyone will see it. If you have a wooden cross use that too.
- 3) Good Friday is traditionally a fast day, you could have a very simple meal.
- 4) Eat hot cross buns.

Easter Saturday

- 1) In the evening you could decorate the house together - or perhaps the room where you eat.

Use - balloons and streamers
- flowers and branches.

- 4) You could decorate eggs and have them for breakfast.
- 5) Put a smile on your Lent Calendar.
- 6) Plan an Easter egg hunt round the house or garden.

7) Make, decorate and eat an Easter cake. Write on 'Jesus is alive' or 'He is risen.'

8) You might like to get some floating candles to use in the Easter Saturday liturgy.

Thursday 6

YC Read: Luke 22 v14-23 - The Last Supper.

Pray: Give each person a piece of roll or bread to hold as you pray.

Dear Jesus,
We remember your death on the cross for us.
You died,
so we can live forever.
May this bread remind us
that you died willingly for us
because you love us so much.
Amen.

OC Read: Matt 27 v32

Pray:

Voice 1: We thank you, Lord God, for Simon,
who took the weight of your cross,
carrying it in front of the crowd,
perhaps through hot, dusty streets,
and then up the hill.

Voice 2: It probably wasn't convenient for him
to carry the cross.

It certainly wasn't comfortable,
nor do we hear he was rewarded.

Voice 3: Read Gal 6 v2.

Voice 4: Dear Lord,
Help us to be willing to carry each other's burdens,
for those in our family,



for people in our church family
and for others we might meet.

Amen.

Ask: Is there a way you could be like Simon today - either
individually or as a family?

Friday 6

YC Read: Mark 14 v32-42 - Jesus in the garden of Gethsamane.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We feel sad that the disciples went to sleep
and left you on your own to pray.
Help us to spend time with you each day
so that you won't be on your own.
Amen.



OC Read: Luke 23 v48-49, 55-56.
Mark 15 v40-41.

Pray:

Voice 1: These women must have loved you very much,
Lord Jesus.

They had followed you and helped you
as you travelled the country.

Voice 2: Then as you hung on the cross,
they didn't want you to suffer or die alone,
so they stayed with you,
silently acknowledging their love for you.

Voice 3: When you had died,
they watched where you were laid,
and they went to prepare carefully
for your burial.

Voice 4: Mark 12 v28b-30.

Voice 5: Lord our God,
we want to love you with all our heart,
our soul,
our mind
and our strength.
We ask that our love for you will grow so much,
that all we do, and say,
all that we think and are,
wells up within us out of the depth
of our love and longing for you.
Amen.

Saturday 6

YC Read: Luke 22 v47-53 - Jesus is arrested.

Think: How have we let Jesus down today?

Pray: We are very sorry Lord Jesus,
when we betray you like Judas did.
Please help us not to _____.
(fill in your own ideas.)
Amen.

OC Read: Luke 23 v32-43 - The thief on the cross.

Think: How long did it take for the thief to be forgiven?

Pray:

Voice 1: Heavenly Father,
We thank you that your forgiveness
can happen in a moment
if we are sorry for what we've done.

Voice 2: We thank you that your forgiveness
is available to everyone,
however bad they have been.

Voice 3: Thank you that your forgiveness
is there at any time,
and in any place,
and at any stage of our life.



Voice 4: Ps 103v11-14

Voice 5: Help us to come to you each day
to receive your forgiveness,
to know ourselves made clean,
not because of our goodness,
but because of Jesus' life freely and lovingly
laid down for us.

Amen.

Act: Throughout today everytime you say or do something wrong,
imagine that for a moment you have turned your back on
God. In your imagination turn back to God, ask Him to
forgive you and hear Him say (with a smile) "You are
forgiven".

It's Palm Sunday tomorrow, could you get some catkins, pussy willow or
branches to decorate your house?

Palm Sunday

If you get palm crosses in church today put them on the table as you pray together.

YC Read: Mark 14 v66-72 - Peter denies Jesus
(you may want to remind your children of the Palm Sunday
story too.)

Ask: What are you frightened of?

Pray: Dear Lord God,
Peter was frightened of getting into trouble.
Sometimes we are frightened
especially of _____.
Help us to know you are always with us
so we won't be frightened anymore. Amen.

Choose a joyful song to sing, or say no. 8 again from end of Easter
Experience. You could wave your palm crosses as you sing or read.



Turn up the sixth foot on your lent Calendar.

If you get palm crosses in church today put them on the table as you pray together.

OC Read: Luke 19 v28-38

Choose a joyful song to sing, or say no. 5 from end of Easter Experience. You could wave your palm crosses as you sing or read.

Pray:

Voice 1: What a wonderful day
the first Palm Sunday
must have been, Lord Jesus!

Voice 2: So much excitement,
children laughing and playing,
adults chatting and smiling,
loud voices calling "Hosanna"
to welcome the King.

Voice 3: Colourful cloaks thrown on the ground,
clapping and cheering,
palm branches pulled down from trees
and waved high in the air.

Voice 4: It's hard to imagine that five days later
the excited crowd had become an angry crowd.
The laughing and the smiles
had become scowls and frowns.
The loud voices
now called "Crucify Him".

Voice 5: Where they had waved palm branches,
they now waved fists,
furiously punching the air.

Voice 6: Lord Jesus,
Through the excitement
and the anger
you passed calmly and gently
loving and serving those around you.

Help us to follow you,
not being over affected by life's changes,
enjoying our blessings
and accepting our hardships.
Amen.



Turn up the sixth foot on your lent Calendar.

Monday of Holy Week

YC Read: Matt 26 v57-68 - Jesus is questioned.

Pray: Dear God,
People were so unkind to Jesus,
but he managed not to be unkind back.
Sometimes others are unkind to us,
please help us to be like Jesus,
and not to be unkind back to them.
Amen.

OC Read: Luke 19 v37-44.

Pray:

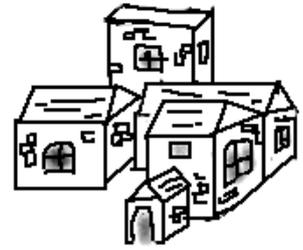
Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
On Palm Sunday,
lots of people cheered and praised God,
but the Pharisees were annoyed.
They wanted Jesus to silence his followers.

Voice 2: As you came closer to Jerusalem
you wept over that city, Lord Jesus,
you knew that because they had turned their back on you,
the city would be destroyed.

Voice 3: We pray for our family,
we dedicate ourselves to serving you for our whole lives,
help us to follow and obey you,
wherever you lead us.

Voice 4: We pray for our church,

that our commitment to loving You
and serving others
will never grow weak.



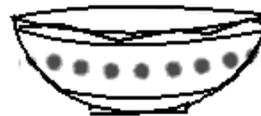
Voice 5: We pray for _____. (Name the place where you live.)
as a church help us to work hard
at helping others to know you.
That increasingly our community
will be a God-centred,
and God-serving
place to live.
Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week

YC Read: Mt 27 v11-26 - Pilate and Jesus.

Talk about: Pilate giving in and agreeing to do what the crowd told him, even though he knew it was wrong.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,
We are sorry when we do wrong things,
help us to do the things you want us to do.
Amen.



OC Read: Jn 2 v13-17 and 1 Cor 3 v16

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,
We are sorry for the things which we do
which damage or destroy our bodies,
or things which sadden the Holy Spirit
who lives in this temple, our body.

Ask: What things could we do which damage our bodies and sadden the Holy Spirit?

All: Father forgive us

and help us to say "No" to temptation.

Voice 3: See how valuable we are to God:

Read: 1 Cor 3 v17

(Everyone could join hands.)

Voice 4: Let us all agree together as a family
not to use our bodies wrongly,
to stand firm against temptation
and always to remember,
the Holy Spirit living within us. Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week

YC Ask: Can you remember a time when someone laughed at you? Or was unkind to you? How did you feel?

Read: Matt 27 v27-31 - the soldiers mock Jesus.

Pray: Dear God,
Jesus must have felt very unhappy
when the soldiers laughed at him.
Sometimes people laugh at us
and make us feel sad.
Help us never to be unkind or to laugh at others,
help us instead to say nice things to each other. Amen.

(You will need a nail for each person tomorrow.)

OC Leader: Lord Jesus,
Easter Sunday is drawing near,
the day when we celebrate your resurrection.

Help us together
to prepare our homes,
and our hearts,
to welcome again the Risen Christ.

Read: Luke 22 v7-13

Pray together: about your Easter Celebration, each person could pray about a different aspect.

- Good Friday - understanding what Jesus has done for us.
- Easter Saturday - preparing our home to celebrate.
- Easter Sunday - worshipping at church.
- Fun and enjoyment on the most important day of the year.
- Welcoming the Risen Lord into our hearts.

(You will need a roll for tomorrow.)

Maundy Thursday



YC Read: Matt 27 v32-44 - Jesus dies on the cro

Pray: Give each child a nail to hold as you pray. Either pray your own prayer about Jesus dying or :

Dear Lord Jesus,
When we feel how sharp the nails are,
we feel unhappy that you died.
But we know you died instead of us,
thank you that you love us so much.
Amen.

(You will need paper and pens tomorrow.)

Have a cup and plate with wine and bread on the table. Jesus would probably have used this passage on this morning so long ago.

OC Do: Stand up and say it together. It's called the Shema.

Shema

The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6 v4-9)

Read: Lk 22 v14-23

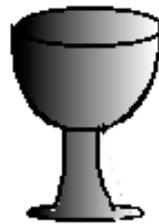
Pray: Take the roll and break it into enough pieces for your family - give each person a piece to hold.

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,
As we hold this bread in our hands,
we remember how you shared
the bread and wine
with your first disciples.

Voice 2: You told them to use the bread
to remind themselves of your death.
Your body,
broken on the cross,
for them.

Voice 3: We too are your disciples,
and you want us to remember
that you died in our place.

Voice 4: Whenever we see,
or handle,
or eat bread
in the next few days,
remind us, Lord Jesus,
that you died
so that we can have eternal life.



Voice 5: John 6 v35.

(You will need paper and pens tomorrow.)

Good Friday

Have either a wooden cross or cut out a paper cross. Either draw Jesus on the cross, or cut out a paper figure and put it on the wooden cross. Have available paper, pens, pins or blutak.

YC Read: Matt 27 v45-54 - Jesus dies.

Do: Each person could write or draw on a piece of paper a sin which they have committed. This can then be pinned on Jesus on the cross. As you do this either explain that Jesus carried all the wrong things we have done on the cross, or read Is 53 v3-9 as each person pins their sins to the cross.

Pray: Lord God,
Thank you that when we are sorry
for doing something wrong,
you always forgive us.
Amen.

Have either a wooden cross or cut out a paper cross. Either draw Jesus on the cross, or cut out a paper figure and put it on the wooden cross. Have available paper, pens, pins or blutak.

OC Read: Mark 15 v21-32

Do: Each person could write or draw on a piece of paper a sin which they have committed. This can then be pinned on Jesus on the cross, as you do this either explain that Jesus carried all the wrong things we have done on the cross, or read Is 53 v3-9 as each person pins their sins to the cross.

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Jesus,
We are sorry that you had to die
in our place.

Voice 2: We are sorry for the things we do wrong,
things which hurt you and others.

Voice 3: We thank you that
you loved us enough to die for us.

Voice 4: We thank you that we can enjoy
the freedom of total forgiveness.

Voice 5: Help us never to forget
the sacrifice you made for us,
your life given for our life.
Amen.



Easter Saturday

If you have made an Easter Garden you could meet round that today. Place an unlit - but partly burned candle beside the tomb. You could also use floating candles - you need one each.

YC Read: Luke 23 v50-56 - Jesus is buried.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,

Your disciples must have felt so upset
because you had died.

Thank you that it's Easter Day tomorrow,
when we feel upset
help us to remember you are alive
and close beside us.

Amen.

(You could light a floating candle at this point and put it on some water.)

If you have made an Easter Garden you could meet round that today. Place an unlit - but partly burned candle beside the tomb. You could also use floating candles - you need one each.

OC Read: Lk 23 v50-56

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,

What an awful day that must have been.
The only day in the whole of history
when the Light of the World
had gone out.

Voice 2: We can imagine, Lord Jesus,
how your enemies would have rejoiced.

And today your enemies
still rejoice when the light in us is faint or hidden.

All: Help our light to shine brightly in the world.

(Light your floating candles)

Voice 3: We can imagine the sorrow
and grief



of these who loved you.
And today as we meet those who sorrow and grieve,
help us to be your light
to cheer and warm their hearts.

(Float your candles on some water as you say this prayer.)

All: As a family
help us to carry your risen light
out into a hurt,
damaged
and suffering
world.
Amen.



Easter Sunday

Everyone uses the same worship today, but you could leave out the central prayer with younger children.

Light the candle beside the empty tomb.

YC/OC Leader: The Lord is Risen!

All: (shout) He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

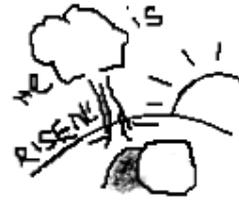
Sing: "Come on and Celebrate" M.P. 99 or say no. 10 at end of Easter Experience.

Read: Matt 28 v1-10 - Jesus lives!

Praise: What has been the most important part of Easter for you this year?
Each person could thank God for that aspect of Easter, using short one sentence prayers.

Pray:

Voice 1: Today is the Day of Resurrection,
the day forgiveness is complete,
the day of hope re-born,
the day when God's free gift of eternal life
became available to all.



Voice 2: We ask, Father God,
that our family will be full of resurrection hope.

Voice 3: Always aware that we live
in the freedom of your forgiveness,
bought for us by your death.

Voice 4: Carrying within us at all times,
the light of the Risen Christ.

Voice 5: And living in the certain hope
of life with You forever.
Amen.

All: Christ has died. (hold both arms straight out at sides forming a cross.)

Christ has risen. (hold arms out in front of you palms facing up.)

Christ will come again. (put both arms up in the air.)

You can turn up the last foot of your calander and put a smile on her face.

Words to use instead of Songs

These can be read aloud:

- by the whole family
- by one person
- an adult could read a line for a younger child to repeat.

- 1) Jesus has given us our family,
Jesus has given us our friends.
Jesus live within our family,
Jesus, my best friend.
- 2) Jesus the bread of life,
Satisfying hungry hearts.
Feeding on the word of God,
We fill our lives with Christ.
- 3) Come into my heart,
Come in today.
Come in and stay
Lord Jesus.
- 4) We worship you,
Eternal Lord of Lords,
Almighty God of gods.
All-knowing one,
All-hearing one,
All-seeing one,
Our Holy God.
- 5) Give thanks to God for His love,
Give praise to God for His goodness.
Shout with joy,
Dance with happiness,
For His love and goodness to me.
- 6) Sometimes sorrow fills our hearts,
Sometimes life seems dull and dark.
Turn your heart to Jesus' love,
Turn your eyes to Jesus' light.



7) Today is a new day,
God's day.
Our day
To use for God.
To worship and praise,
To do good,
To rest.
Today is a new day,
God's day,
Our day.

8) Get ready the flags,
Blow up the balloons,
Fling out the streamers.
Make ready for the Lord of lords,
Make ready for the King of Kings.
Jesus is coming!

9) Be strong and courageous,
Be ready and watch.
Stand firm and fight.
For God is our strength and courage,
Ready and watching in times of trouble.

10) New life for all
The saviour lives.
Forgiveness for the sinner,
Love for the unlovable,
Hope for the miserable,
Joy for the whole world.

AT HOME
WITH
GOD