

Easter Week 3

BIG IDEA: It was always God's special plan to send Jesus to die so sins could be forgiven. The way is open for people to be with God forever. To prove it, God raised Jesus to life, and *invites everyone* to trust Jesus ... even us!

SUNDAYS @ HOME YOUTUBE STORY:

The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross ("The curtain tore, God's wonderful place is open again! (recap) ... Jesus buried - end)

Discussion questions

All children

What happened after Jesus died?

His friends put him in a tomb

His friends were very sad

For 2 days nothing happened, then when his friends went to see the tomb, his body was gone!

Then Jesus showed up alive!!!!

A little later when all Jesus' friends were together, suddenly Jesus was there!!!

ALIVE!!!

His friends had been sad. Now they were so so happy!

Who brought Jesus back to life?

God

Did you notice - where does Jesus get to live after God brings him back to life?

In God's wonderful place for ever!!

What does Jesus do next?

He invites everyone to come and live with him forever!!!

What will it be like to live with God forever?

Like it was in the garden! This time forever!

Nothing bad, no one sad.

We will see God and speak to God and just enjoy being with God - just as he planned!

Extension questions for Older children

(Read the passage together even if you don't try the extension questions)

READ TOGETHER

Acts 2:22-24, 36-39 (ICB)

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus from Nazareth was a very special man. God clearly showed this to you by the miracles, wonders, and signs God did through him. You all know this, because it happened right here among you. ²³ Jesus was given to you, and you killed him. With the help of evil men you nailed him to a cross. But God knew all this would happen. This was God's plan which he had made long ago. ²⁴ God raised Jesus from death. God set him free from the pain of death. Death could not hold him ...

³⁶ “So, all the people of Israel should know this truly: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. He is the man you nailed to the cross!”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were sick at heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter said to them, “Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself.”

How can we know that Jesus was sent by God?

God shows it by the miracles, wonders and signs God did through him.
And by raising him to life!

Who killed Jesus?

!! Tricky question !! Discuss carefully ... this passage shows God holds people accountable who nailed Jesus to the cross, killing him ... but this was all part of God's plan. Jesus' death is no mistake.

(cf. John 10:17-18, 19:6-11)

God raised Jesus to life, Death could not hold him!

God's new way back to live with him forever is open through Jesus.

What does this passage teach us about how to respond to Jesus' amazing invitation?

Starts with a right grief in recognising our sin ... (people were 'sick at heart')

Repent (change your heart and lives) and be baptised for the forgiveness of your sins.

What might this look like practically ... can you describe it in your own words?

What does God do for us when we accept Jesus' invitation? (v.38-39)

Forgives sins

Gifts holy Spirit

Conclusion:

It was always God's special plan to send Jesus to die so sins could be forgiven.

The way is open for people to be with God forever.

To prove it, God raised Jesus to life, and he *invites everyone* to trust Jesus!

Pray

Father God,

Thanks that Jesus' death wasn't just the actions of people who didn't want you to be in charge ... thanks that Jesus' death was your perfect plan.

And thanks for raising him to life!

We say 'Thankyou Jesus!' We trust you to forgive our sins and bring us to live with God forever! Amen

*NB. It's worth taking time to ask kids if they want to pray on their own about the invitation to repent ... either as a first time receiving of Jesus' invitation ... or an ongoing repentance that acknowledges specific sin and rests in the forgiveness already won on the cross :)

Children's Construction idea

Things you'll need:

- Printed base sheet for week 3
- Things to decorate (pencils, cellophane, glitter, party stuff, bright shiny stuff!)
- Week one Curtain and Message from inside the envelope
- Glue

Instructions:

Step 1

Print out the base sheet for week 3

Step 2

Decorate the picture using very exciting shiny things!!! It's a celebration day!!!

Step 3

Get kids to collect the Week 1 envelope ...

Tear the curtain in half!!!!

Open the envelope to get the message "Its wonderful to live with God!"

Step 4

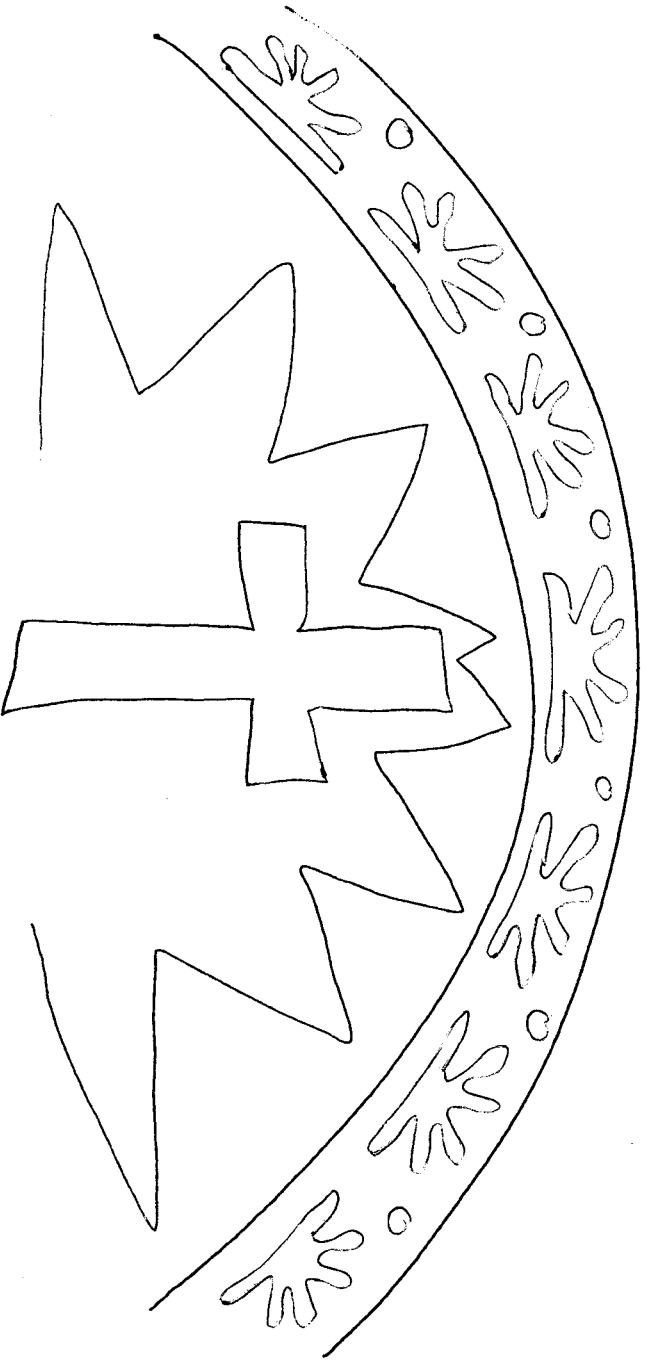
Stick the curtain halves on either side of base sheet for week 3

Stick the message in the middle of the picture!

Pray together :)

Easter Week 3 Acts 2:22-24, 36-39 (ICB)

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