

Rhythms of Grace • Easter Year 2

Theme: The Easter Story

Scripture: Combined readings: Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 13-20

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items Needed for this Session

Gathering: Kraft paper with large cross on it, washable paints, stamps of hearts (can be made by cutting out heart shape from kitchen sponges), towels and water to clean up, plastic sheets for table and floor

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, story script, set of plastic Easter eggs for storyteller filled with event “coins” (enough for each participant in each egg) supplied, large cross shaped colored construction paper for each participant, glue (see resources)

Responses:

Tissue Paper Flowers: variety of colored tissue paper, green chenille stems

Rolling the Stone from the Tomb: large ball for stone, large box (refrig/stove) to be the tomb, bench/low table with long cloth draped

Planting Marigold seeds: toilet paper rolls, soil, seeds, paper towels, large spoon, plastic for table and floor

Yoga- Sun Salutation, (see resources)

Regathering: Jesu, Jesu, tissue paper flowers from activity, a large cross, favorite Easter hymn

Eucharist: Eucharist prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see Book 1 p.99), Bible, Jesus doll, altar table, and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

The Easter Story • Year 2

Gathering: Using kraft paper with a large cross drawn on it participants will stamp hearts inside the cross with washable paints.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, Using a set of 12 eggs filled with an event coin (enough for all participants) for you to use to tell the story) see storytelling.

Response Activities:

Tissue Paper Flowers: Cut tissue paper into 8 inch squares. Participants take 2-3 squares place on top of each other. Accordion fold the tissue and wrap stem around center.

Planting Marigold seeds: Using toilet paper rolls. Cap one end with masking tape, fill with soil and plant seeds to take home. Paper is biodegradable. Remove masking tape and put whole toilet paper rolls in ground when ready to plant.

Rolling the stone from the tomb: Using a large ball participants will roll the large stone away from the tomb to find it empty except for the cloth.

Yoga-Sun Salutation, Lead participants in a sequence of the Sun Salutation yoga positions. (see resources for positions)

Regathering: Participants will take flowers from the above activity and “flower the cross” as a favorite Easter hymn is sung or begin *Jesu, Jesu* and have participants bring Eucharistic elements to the Celebrant then sit in a circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: *Sing: Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,
Celebrant provides the blessing:
Celebrant: “Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.”
Participant: “Thanks be to God!”

Story Telling • The Easter Story • Year 2

Place the bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller. Hand out construction paper crosses and glue sticks. (See resources)
The storyteller, using a set of eggs (each egg is filled with an event coin (enough coins for each egg for all participants) . Tell the Easter story using all or parts of the script below depending on your group's ability to sit and listen. As you open eggs and tell each section give each participant an event coin that is inside your egg. Participants will glue coins on their large construction paper cross.(see diagram in resources)

“Today our story is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people... of Jesus, (*show Jesus doll*) God's son...and of how much God loves us. (*place hands over heart.*)

When Jesus was alive he always tried to help people understand how much he loved them and wanted to help them. Lots of people had started to follow Jesus because they could sense there was something special about him. The way he spoke and what he spoke about captured everyone's attention.... But there were others that did not understand Jesus and were afraid of the attention and the amount of people who were listening to him and following him. Today's story begins with a celebration, it then has a very sad part but it has a very happy and exciting ending.

Our story begins when Jesus travels to Jerusalem, the holy city for the Jewish people (remember Jesus was Jewish). It was the time of a great holiday for the Jewish people called Passover and Jesus and his disciples were on their way to celebrate. Many of the people who followed Jesus heard that he was on his way and began to gather just outside the city walls. They had cut down palm branches to wave to welcome Him. As he rode into the city on a donkey the people waved their palms and laid down their coats to honor him like they would a king. (*hand out the #1 egg's donkey coin*) This was a happy time for those around Jesus but Jesus knew his time was short. Although there were many who loved him there were also many who were afraid of him and didn't understand him.

On the holiday of Passover, Jesus led the Passover meal remembering the story of Moses and the people of God leaving Egypt. As the meal ended Jesus told the disciples that one of them would help those who hated him to find him and capture him. Judas left the table and went to those who wanted to hurt Jesus. He promised to help them for 30 silver coins. (*hand out #2 egg's silver coins*) While Judas was plotting against Jesus he, Jesus, was offering to the rest of his disciples the cup of wine and bread as a way to remember him when they gathered. He told them that he would be with them when they shared this meal (*hand out #3 egg's cup of wine*).

Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray (*hand out #4 praying hands*) and as he was leaving the soldiers arrested him. He was convicted of saying he was equal to God and sentenced to death. The soldiers whipped him (*hand out #5 whip*) and placed a crown of thorns on his head (*hand out #6 crown*). Jesus had to carry his cross to the hill where he was nailed to the cross (*hand out #7 nails*) and left to die. The soldiers played a game of dice to win Jesus's clothes. (*hand out #8, dice*) The soldiers pierced his side with a spear to make sure he had died. (*hand out #9, spear*) Jesus's friends took him down from the cross and wrapped his body in linen cloth (*hand out #10 cloth*). They placed his body in a cave and rolled a large rock in front of it to close it. (*hand out #11 rock*) His friends went home. They waited... On the third day they went to the tomb and an amazing, wonderful, joyful thing had happened. The rock was rolled away and the tomb was empty. (*hand out #12 empty tomb*) God and Jesus had done the impossible. Jesus had risen from the dead!

Amen

Continue by explaining the activities