

# What do Christians do at Easter and why is it important to them ?

## Learning Pack

This learning Pack has been produced by the Methodist Church Religious Education Resources Project for children in Key Stage 1 who are studying Unit 1.1 of the current Agreed Redbridge RE Syllabus (*What do Christians do at Easter and why is it important to them?*) It can be issued to children at home due to the coronavirus restrictions. Children can read through it on their own or together with parents, thinking about the questions in red and maybe respond by email directly to the key schools worker below or back to a teacher.

Hi Everyone,

My name is Carol Dawson and I work for the Methodist Churches in Ilford speaking to children about my religion, Christianity. I would normally come into your school now and we would talk about Easter but I am sending this to you so you can learn about it at home instead. When I visit your classes we usually have lots of discussion where we share ideas but this is difficult now, so I have included some questions in red. You can share your ideas or answer the questions by emailing me direct at

[info@rerp-methodist-church.org.uk](mailto:info@rerp-methodist-church.org.uk) Please remember to include your name and which school you are from. I will reply to everyone but this will not be a group chat so no one else will be able to see your questions. If you prefer you can email them to your teacher as well. Looking forward to hearing from you.



Carol Dawson (Methodist Church Schools Worker)

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## Unit (1.1) What do Christians do at Easter and why is it important to them?

Easter is a very special time for Christians when they remember the last week in the life of Jesus and their most important belief—that he came alive again after his death. This brought us forgiveness with God so we could feel together with God again.

This is a very hard thing to imagine but Christians feel that only Jesus could bring everyone close to God again because he himself was so close to God.

That means that when he died on the cross it is both a sad time for Christians but also a time to be thankful and joyful for the chance to be close to God again.

The week before Easter Sunday is called **Holy Week** and the Bible tells us that many things happened to Jesus on that week. Christians remember these days (the main ones are below) and do special things on those days, some are sad days and some are joyful days.

**Palm Sunday**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Good Friday**

**Holy Saturday**

**Easter Sunday**

Let's recap on the Bible Easter story to help us -



Jesus arrives at Jerusalem.  
(Palm Sunday)

People were happy on that day. They knew Jesus was coming to the city to talk about God. They waved palm branches to welcome him. There was lots of excitement.

*I wonder how many people turned up that day to see Jesus?*



He tells the dishonest people at the temple to leave.

On the Monday Jesus visited the temple to pray but noticed traders selling and exchanging money dishonestly. He was cross and told them to leave—the temple should have been a place to pray not to trade. This made the priests who ran the temple angry and they thought Jesus was a troublemaker. They complained to the Romans that he should be stopped.



He speaks to many people about God.

On the Tuesday Jesus spoke to many people about God. This was called the Sermon on the Mount

There is nothing about what he did on the Wednesday. It is thought he rested so this is sometimes called 'Sleeping Wednesday'

*I wonder what Jesus did on the Wednesday?*

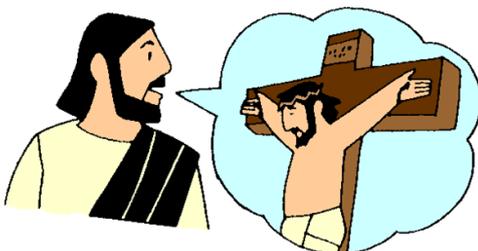


He shares a last meal with his friends.  
(Maundy Thursday)

On the Thursday he shared a meal with his 12 friends the Disciples. This is called the Last Supper or Maundy Thursday. The word Maundy means 'commandment' as it was here that Jesus commanded or told his friends to 'love one another as I have loved you'.

At the last Supper Jesus tells them he thinks he will die on a cross.

*How do you think that made his Disciples feel?*



He tells them he will die on a cross.



Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus is very scared at this time and he goes into the garden to pray hoping that his friends can stay awake with him.



Jesus is arrested by the Romans.

The Roman soldiers come to take him away and he is arrested for upsetting the temple priests

Can you remember what Jesus did in the temple on the Monday of this week?



The Roman Governor Pontius Pilate thinks about what to do with Jesus

The Governor in charge of Jerusalem did not know what to do about Jesus, he had only been teaching about God but had upset a lot of important people. In the end he decided to put Jesus to death on the cross.

Why do you think he decided to do this?



He is put on a cross to die.  
(Good Friday)

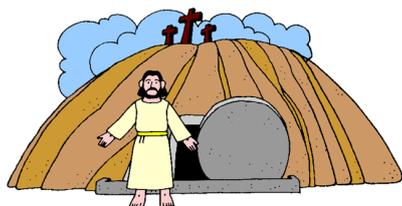
Christians remember this day as a sad day but call it 'Good Friday' because they believe Jesus' death brought people closer to God.



At the tomb an angel appears to the women.  
(Easter Sunday)

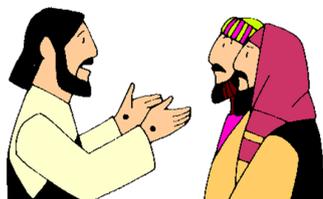
The Bible story says that Jesus' body was put into a tomb and a large stone was put in place over the opening. Women went to the tomb on the Sunday to pray but found it open and an angel there telling them that Jesus was alive.

He is seen alive by more people.



Jesus is seen alive.

Some of them are not sure it is Jesus until he shows them his wounds.



He shows his friends his wounds.

Why did showing them his wounds help them understand it was Jesus?



Later he rises up to Heaven.

Jesus goes up to Heaven to be with God afterwards but tells his Disciples that God will help them when he is gone.

So that is the main Easter story in the bible. As you can see lots of different feelings are involved with some happy days and some sad and some both happy and sad at the same time.

What sorts of feelings do you think people felt during that week?

Write a list and see how many you have.

So now we have revised the Bible Easter story and learnt the hard bit about what Christians believe

we can now go on to looking at how Christians remember the days of Holy Week.....

**Hard Bit**



**Hmmmmmm!**  
Why is this story so important to Christians?

Christians believe that when Jesus died he took the blame for all the bad things people had done so that they might be close to God again.



Sometimes people make an Easter garden with living plants. This tells the whole of the Easter story in a living decoration.

Go to <https://www.mybaba.com/nanny-anitas-easter-garden/>

to find out what to put in an Easter garden and what the things mean.

**Why not make one at home, take a picture of it and send it to your teacher or me, I would love to see it.**



To remember the happy time of Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, Christians make crosses from palm leaves to give out on this day.



To remember the Thursday Last Supper of Jesus, Christians have a little piece of bread and wine (or fruit juice in my church). They call this Communion or Mass. It is very special to them. Some churches have Mass each week or each month not just at Easter. It is because at the Last Supper Jesus said 'do this to remember me.'



This lady is remembering the night of the Last Supper when Jesus stayed awake in the garden and was frightened waiting for the Romans to come for him. She is staying awake all night to think about Jesus at this frightening time for him. It is said that Jesus' friends could not keep awake for him. Staying awake to remember is called a vigil.

**Could you stay awake all night on a vigil? It would be very hard.**



These people are walking in a procession to a church on the day Jesus had to carry his cross before he was put to death. It is called a Walk of Witness (witness means *I know what happened or I saw it*) and it is the saddest day in Holy Week.

Can you remember what day that was?



These people have got up very early (at sunrise) to pray and celebrate the happiest day (Easter Sunday). They are remembering that it was early in the morning when the angel appeared to the women outside the tomb to say Jesus was alive. Someone is reading from the Bible to them.

They are wrapped up warm because it is early in the day and have some food with them. I wonder what they have brought to eat?



On Easter Sunday in some churches everyone brings one flower to decorate a cross and it is put outside for everyone to see. It is a day for celebration.

Can you remember why Christians celebrate on Easter Sunday?

I hope you have had fun learning about Easter. If you are out and about on Easter Sunday look out for Easter flower crosses outside churches as there are many in the Ilford area who do this. Don't forget to email your answers to myself or your teacher it would be lovely to hear from you and see pictures of your Easter gardens.

Take care.

Carol Dawson (Methodist Church Schools Worker)