



Key Stage 1: Easter Triduum

Page 1: About this Lesson Plan

Page 2 & 3: Lesson Plan

Page 4: Lesson Plan – Conclusion & Extra Time

Page 5 - 7: Children's readings

Requirements:

- between 3 to 10 pieces of card depending how small you want the groups.
- pens/paints/art equipment – depending on your preference.
- pages 5, 6 and 7 printed off for children to read from.
- meditative music (optional).

Preparation:

- Decide how many groups you may have
- Make sure you have at least enough card for each group
- Print off the readings (pages 5, 6 and 7) and make sure you have enough so each group has a copy of the reading they chose.
- Prepare a set of art equipment for each group
- Have some meditative music prepared

Duration: 1 or 2 lessons.

Objective: To learn more about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. To listen to the readings, think about them and think about what they mean to each child personally.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the Easter Story more comprehensively
- See how each of the 3 days of the Triduum connect together
- Relate these 3 passages to the Easter Triduum celebrated in the Catholic Church
- Understand that different parts of the story will stand out to each person
- Learn about what stands out to other people
- Be able to picture the story in their own way
- Be able to put that picture onto paper and then present it and explain it to a class.

Don't forget your paper is packed full of FUN, PUZZLES and lots to think about!



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Lesson Plan

Overview:

Explain that you will be looking at the 3 days around Easter:

- Maundy Thursday – the day that Jesus had his last supper and afterwards was arrested
- Good Friday – the day when Jesus died
- Easter Sunday – the day when Jesus came back to life – also known as the resurrection

Ask 3 children to read out the Easter passages in class – readings are on the Readings Pages below.

Either: Split the class into 3 groups one for Bible passage.

Or: Ask the children to think about which passage means the most to them and then split them into groups based on that.

Tip: Depending on the number in the class you could split each of the 3 groups into smaller working groups.

Tell the class that you want them to work together in their group to create a picture based on their passage.

Sit them quietly in their groups. *Optional: play some meditative music.*

One person from each group should quietly read their passage to their group whilst the music is still playing.

Once they have read the passage, sit quietly for a few moments and think about their passage.

Someone from each group should read the passage again and sit and think about what it means to them.

Ask them to quietly share with their group anything that struck them about the passage they heard.

Ask them to work out how they could put their all the ideas in their group into one picture.

Tip: They could just do a separate pictures on the piece of card or you could encourage them to come up with a single picture that includes all their ideas and then draw it together.

Once they have finished their artwork they will need to present it to the rest of the class.

Give them a few minutes to work out whether one person will present it, in which case they need to include everyone's ideas, or each person in the group can explain their own section.

Ask the Maundy Thursday group(s) to present their picture. Then Good Friday. Then Easter Sunday.

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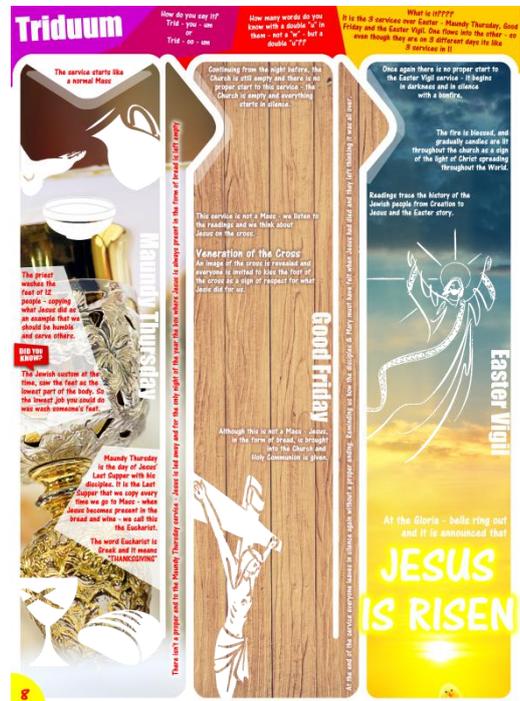


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Conclusion

- These 3 days are remembered in the Church by 3 separate services. But together they are called the Triduum. Although they are 3 services on 3 different days, one runs into the next one. So:
 - o Maundy Thursday has no proper end, everyone just leaves in silence
 - o Good Friday has no proper beginning and end people just enter and leave in silence.
 - o Easter Vigil (usually celebrated on the Saturday night) starts in silence.

Use the Spring edition of *Your Reach* and turn to page 8 which shows how one day of the Triduum flows into the next. Get the children to trace how the days flow from one to another – starting at the top of Maundy Thursday, working down to the bottom and then back up to the top to the start of Good Friday etc. Talk about the pictures and symbols they pass as they trace their way through the page and see how they relate to the pictures the children created.



Time Left Over

- Mention anything that you think is important about any of the days, that was not said
- Ask if people have learnt a bit more about the passage they chose
- Ask if anyone has learnt anything about one of the passages they did not choose
- Would any of them change which passage they relate to the most?

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Readings for the Children

Maundy Thursday:

Jesus poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

Jesus said: "I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "Take and eat it," he said; "this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it, all of you," he said; "this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins".

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Good Friday:

They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left.

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

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Readings for the Children

Easter:

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it.

The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has been raised, just as He said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you."

So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

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