

Do you recognise that face?

**The story of Easter
and the Emmaus Road**

KS1-2

NOTES

Aim: To tell children the story of Easter and to focus on the Emmaus Road story from Luke 24:13-33

To understand how we recognise each other.

Notes give a guide to:

1. Telling the Easter story with illustrations by Alida Massari from the Meaningful Chocolate Company's Easter booklet. This includes the Emmaus Road story.
2. Understanding how birds, animals and people recognise each other
3. Why Jesus' friends might not have recognised Him.

Resources provided:

Notes and PowerPoint resources

You will also need:

- an Easter egg (unwrapped and on a tray)
- a person to lead the assembly
- an assistant (possibly dressed in a lab coat)
- and advanced CRB checked volunteer*

** This needs to be a person that most of the children will have seen but you are putting into an entirely different context. For example, you may like to ask someone like a school cleaner, someone who the children will have seen around in the background, to dress differently to how the children will have seen them on a day to day basis.*

Illustrations are from the Meaningful Chocolate Company's Easter booklet 2017 and by Alida Massari.

Additional images are provided by www.freeimages.com – Little Sparrow by Hajnalka Ardai Mrs, Dog Peeing by Farquois, Eyes by Helmut Gevert, Easter Egg pieces by Ryan Smart

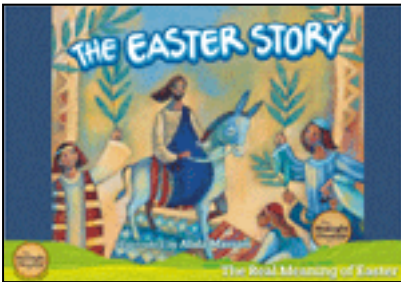


Opening slide

Introduction



It's almost Easter. Here's what you think of when you think of Easter (have an unwrapped Easter egg on a tray). Be honest! But Easter is really about the last week in the life of Jesus. Easter is really a countdown to His death and the celebration of Him coming alive again.



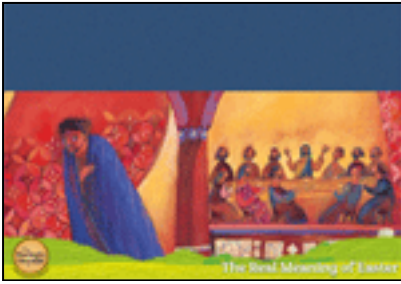
So, let me tell you the true story. 2000 years ago, a man called Jesus brought a message of hope and love to the world. He was a great teacher and many people followed his teaching and believed He was the one who would be the king of the whole world.



This is what happened in the last week of His life. When Jesus visited the city of Jerusalem people celebrated, waving palm branches in the air. But some people wanted to get rid of Him.



Later in the week Jesus brought His friends together to have a last supper with them. Before eating He washed their feet to teach them that they should serve and help others.



At supper, He shared a cup of wine and a piece of bread, telling His friends to 'do this to remember me'. During the supper, a man called Judas slipped out. He was going to tell Jesus' enemies where Jesus was going to be that night.



Later that night, Jesus and His friends went to an olive orchard and Judas led the soldiers to Him and He was arrested.



On the Friday, a man called Pilate put Jesus on trial and Jesus was handed over to be killed. The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of sharp thorns on His head and led Him away.



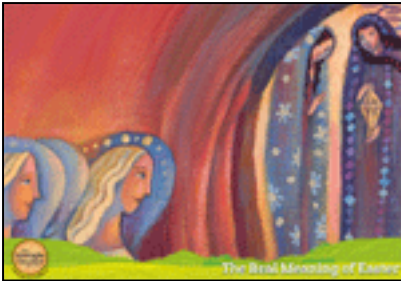
Jesus had to carry His cross through the streets of Jerusalem.



The soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two thieves. When Jesus died, there was an earthquake and darkness fell. Mary, the mother of Jesus was very sad.



The body of Jesus was taken off the cross and placed in a tomb. They rolled a large stone over the entrance to keep the body of Jesus safe.



Early on Sunday, the women went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away from the entrance. Suddenly, two men in bright, shining clothes stood by them. They asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for One who is alive. He is not here. He has been raised.'



Jesus had risen from the dead to meet His friends again. That seems impossible doesn't it?

But what happens after that? Well, it gets stranger and stranger because first of all, a few people meet Jesus... and then finally hundreds.

Some of the first people to see Jesus were two men walking from Jerusalem to a nearby village. The road was called the Emmaus Road and the story is told in the Bible. The two men had heard the news and were very upset that their best friend was dead. But even stranger, they had heard that some of the women had seen Jesus alive. They didn't know what to believe.

As they are talking about it, another man meets them and joins in the conversation. He asks 'What are you talking about?' They couldn't think how anyone could possibly not have heard the news about Jesus.

Now who do you think the man might be?

Jesus? If it wasn't Jesus who was it? Why didn't they recognise him? Why was that?

Do you think it was a trick? What might have happened? Let's see what science says about recognition.



The Experiment

How do we recognise each other?



Birds recognise each other by their calls.



Lots of animals recognise each other by their smell!



How do we recognise each other?

Now we are going to try an experiment. I am going to invite someone into the room (this is your prearranged volunteer). I want you to work out who they are and where you usually see them. *Do the children recognise the person? How quickly do they recognise them? The research is detailed here: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/11/131113080123.htm>*

Who has worked it out? Was it hard? *Introduce the person.* Here's the science behind it. Have you seen how computer programmes do facial recognition? They use maths. But our brains work very differently. Our brains take in not just the face, but where people are and what they are wearing. We learn where a person belongs so their surroundings help us to recognise them. So when we see someone we know in a different place than normal, sometimes it takes us a long time to recognise them.



Now, with that in mind, we'll go back to the story of the 2 people on the Emmaus Road who are walking and talking with a stranger that they don't recognise. This man teaches them *just like Jesus!* Deep down there was something they recognised about this man. They just didn't know what it was.

So when they arrived at their destination and asked Jesus to stay for a meal... what happened?

He did what he had always done; started to break bread and give thanks for it. **(Break the Easter egg into pieces)** and the travellers recognised Him. The Bible describes how 'their eyes were opened'. They were absolutely certain it was Jesus.

And then He disappeared. Just like that. But over the following days many more people said that they had seen and spoken with Jesus.

Imagine you woke up looking and sounding differently. How would people recognise you? Through your sense of humour? What you eat? What else can you think of? Perhaps, it would be how you treat others?

Now think about all of those people who have never met you. What would they think about who you are? What sort of person would they recognise? Would they see someone who is kind and loving? Would they see a person who tries to be honest and generous?

It's important to understand that how you act and what you say tells everyone who you really are deep inside. We would like to think that in this school we encourage and support you to be the best that you can be. It's not how you look which is important. Our appearance changes all the time. It is through our behaviour and how we treat people that we are recognised throughout our lives.

Reflection



One of the ways people can recognise that we are celebrating Easter is because we give each other eggs. But why eggs? For some people they are a sign of new life and hope, others think they represent the stone that was rolled across the tomb.

Some time ago people used to give up eggs and meat at Lent (the forty days before Easter) so an Easter egg is a great way to celebrate the end of Lent at Easter. But we all remember, as we share our eggs, that when Jesus came back to life it gave people the chance to recognise God in a new way and to tell everyone about His love. Billions of people around the world follow Jesus' example and try to love and care for our world. Let's join in!!

Prayer

Dear God

Please help me to recognise you in a new way, in the person of Jesus.

Help me to understand what really happened at Easter and why Jesus died and came back to life again. Please help me to understand myself and why I need to act like Jesus.

Give me the courage to follow Jesus' example and change the world.

Amen

You may like to distribute pieces of chocolate egg!