

Meaningful Chocolate
Resources for Easter 2017

Trick or Transformation?

– the resurrection

KS3-4

NOTES

Aim: To give children an overview of the Easter story and to focus on the resurrection and the Emmaus Road experience from Luke 24: 13-33

To understand the concept of transformation and that we all experience transformation.

Notes give a guide to:

1. An overview of the Easter story as a timeline
2. The concept of transformation through age and life experiences
3. A dramatic reading of the Emmaus Road story
4. A guessing game identifying some members of staff from childhood photos
5. Reflecting on how the influences of education and upbringing transform our lives – and the possibility of making our own word cloud of transformation influences
6. To understand how seeing people in a different context can ‘trick’ our own minds
7. To explore the Emmaus story
8. To reflect on the possibility that Jesus’ presence and power are still at work today through a series of images

Resources provided:

Notes and PowerPoint resources

You will also need:

- an Easter egg (unwrapped and on a tray)

- photos from 3 members of the school staff, as children and as adults which need to be added to the PowerPoint slideshow
- props and volunteers for the Emmaus Road report
- an Easter song to play at the end as part of the reflection – one suggestion is ‘Outrageous love’ by Noel Robinson

Technical:

Please familiarise yourself with the presentation beforehand and make any adjustments necessary. The fonts used are Arial, Arial Rounded or Helvetica.

Photo credits:

The following photographs are all from freeimages.com.

Edible Bunny by aschaeffer, Autumn Leaf by Claudia Meyer, Flowers Everywhere by Edith Anne Oliveira Santos, Water in Glass by Mateusz Baran, Motherly Love by Júlia Tan, Highlander by Marleen Mvg, Countryside 1 by MailSparky, Make Poverty History by Ashley Flood, Freedom 4 by Tolga Kostak, Sleeping Baby by s s, Helping the Elderly by Melodi2, Hands by Michael Illuchine, Helping hands by Miranda McCarty, Little Sparrow by Hajnalka Ar dai Mrs, Time Heals All Wounds by Tim Ambler, Raised Hands by Christopher Bruno, I Love You by Tomasz A. Poszwa

The Easter Story images are illustrations are by Alida Massari and from the 2017 booklet produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company.

Trick or transformation



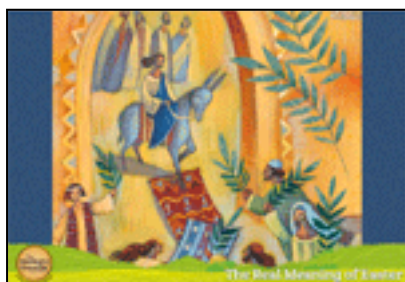
Opening slide

Introduction:



It's Easter. Here's what you think of when you think of Easter (have an unwrapped Easter egg on a tray). Be honest!

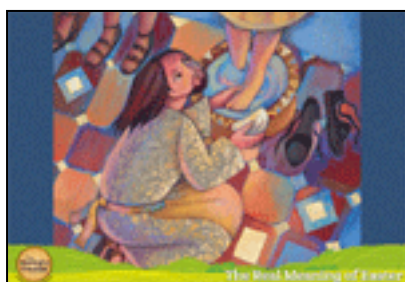
But Easter is about the last week in the life of Jesus. Easter is really a countdown to His death and the celebration of Him coming alive again or the correct term, resurrected.



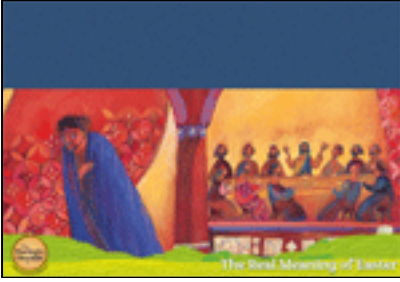
I think it is important that we get a brief overview of the story to remind us.

This is an important week in the Jewish calendar – the week when Jewish people prepare for The Passover. At the beginning of the week Jesus enters Jerusalem and people hail Him as a

King waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna.



Jerusalem was a dangerous place to be and the chief priests and teachers of the Jewish religion were out to get Jesus. On Thursday we read that Jesus continues to teach His disciples by washing their feet to show that true leadership is loving and serving others.



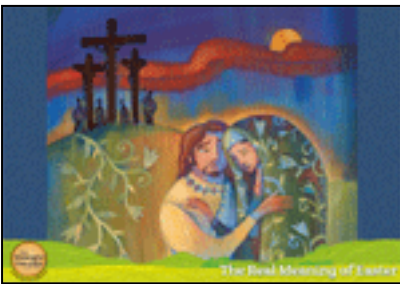
He has a last supper with his friends where he shares wine and breaks bread as a token of remembrance of what is about to happen.

Whilst this is happening Judas, one of the disciples, prepares to betray Jesus to the Jewish leaders.



As Jesus and the rest of the disciples meet in the olive gardens of Gethsemene, they are ambushed and arrested.

Very early the following morning, Jesus is tried and condemned to death and forced to carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem



The soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two thieves. When Jesus died, the Bible says that there was an earthquake and darkness fell. The mother of Jesus was one of the onlookers.

Jesus' body was taken off the cross and placed in a tomb. They rolled a large stone over the entrance to secure the body.



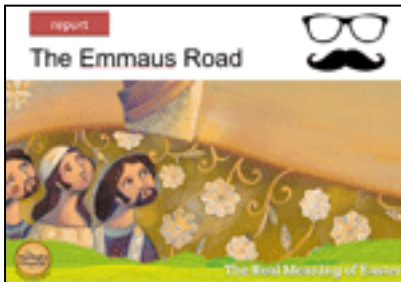
Early on Sunday, the women went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away from the entrance. Suddenly, two men in bright, shining clothes stood by them. They asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for One who is alive. He is not here. He has been raised."



Now the whole story seems supernatural and miraculous but have you ever thought it strange that the Bible tells us that when Jesus reappeared people didn't recognise Him. Why?

This is a short dramatic reading for two people. You can use costume if you want. You could also present this as an interview.

One of the first encounters with the risen Jesus is described in the Bible. Here's how it happened:



DISCIPLE ONE

This sounds pretty mad but I swear, it's true. Me and my friend Cleopas – were walking to a village seven miles out of the city of Jerusalem.

I'll tell you what we were talking about. We were followers of the teacher Jesus. I can't explain how His life and His friendship, His closeness to God, His understanding of Scriptures had transformed our lives. He isn't like any other rabbi we knew. When he was here he was dynamic in what he said and did. Jesus is the real deal.

But then we heard Jesus had been falsely accused, put through a trial and crucified.

So, as we were walking, we were beside ourselves. I was shouting, "SO WHY DID HE GET HIMSELF KILLED?" Why did He have to risk His life? And we were deep in conversation. Question after question. We just couldn't believe what had happened. What were we supposed to do now? What were we we supposed to believe?



DISCIPLE TWO

And this guy just joins us on our walk, like he came out of nowhere and he asks 'What are you talking about?' We couldn't believe that anyone could have missed the events of the last few days. It was headline news.

I was a bit short with the guy and told him what had happened to Jesus and that we really believed that He was the ONE who would rule and change our world and now... we had heard that his body had gone missing. It had been three days and some of our women thought he had come back from the dead. We just didn't know what to believe.

We didn't expect the guy to say 'Are you *that* thick? Don't you understand what has happened?'



DISCIPLE ONE

And then he started talking about the Scriptures and prophecy and how it all pointed towards God revealing himself through Jesus.

Our hearts were on fire! You have no idea. The guy wanted to travel on but we said he could stay with us and have something to eat. He took the bread we gave him, thanked God and began to pass it around. That's when we recognised him: it was Jesus. I know. It doesn't make sense. But it was definitely Jesus. And then he disappeared.

(Notes: now the teacher leads the assembly after the drama.)



7. How is it they didn't recognise Jesus at first? Was it some sort of trick? How can someone transform?

There's the growing up sort of transformation

We all transform by growing up!



8. To prove that your teachers all grew up, I've persuaded some of them to provide some proof. See if you can identify who is who from these pictures of your teachers as babies.



9. Then there's the disguise transformation

Have you ever been in a place and you spot someone and there is something familiar about them. You think you've met them before but you can't work out where. You cautiously look their way and try to work out where you've seen them before. You're panicking a bit because they may know who you are! You are thinking 'Where have I seen them before? What's changed? Do they usually wear a uniform? Have they grown taller, changed their hairstyle, wear glasses or contact lenses? Are they wearing a wig? Sometimes you work it out days after! What gives it away? Is it that at some point, they will do, say or act somehow, in a way that will put you both back into the situation which you are both familiar meeting in?

(You may like to give an example of this from your own life)

Could it be partly why Jesus wasn't recognised? He didn't need a disguise. His disciples didn't expect to see him. It couldn't be Jesus! He was dead and in the grave. He was entirely out of context. We know that on the Emmaus Road, the two travellers didn't recognise Jesus until He broke bread but as they were walking something kept tugging at their emotions and their minds. But it was when he broke the bread that they recognised him. I think it could be that simple.

There could be another reason. Transformation through things that happen in our lives.

Life throws all sorts of things at us. For example, success and wealth can change the way we live, the way we look and the way we act, and similarly illness, suffering and deep unhappiness can change people inside and out.

Perhaps it was the pain and aftermath of the cross that made Jesus look so different.

Perhaps.



10. Here's something you might like to try for yourself. I started to make a list of things that have transformed me and I made it into a word cloud. www.wordclouds.com

Teacher Notes: You will need to prepare this in advance. You could use a questionnaire with a specific year group on

transformation and feed the results into the cloud using our questions as your guide. Each question needs several one or two word answers.

1. Influences that changed me
2. Things that I learned that helped me
3. Things that I realised were important to me.
4. Good things that happened that changed me
5. Not so nice things that happened that changed me

This is what I got! (Easter cross) Faith faith faith Mother father brothers sister love family laughter support stability relationships truth honesty loyalty faith reading music sport creativity design writing computers Faith faith faith Mother father brothers sister love family laughter support stability relationships truth honesty loyalty faith reading music sport creativity design writing computers Faith faith faith Mother father brothers sister love family laughter support stability relationships truth honesty loyalty faith reading music sport creativity design writing computers Mother father brothers sister love family laughter support stability relationships truth honesty loyalty faith reading music sport creativity design writing computers travel patience humility integrity love forgiveness joy encouragement persistence positive patience humility integrity love forgiveness joy encouragement persistence positive

How do we recognise the real Jesus?



12. Christians believe that His presence and power are with us still and that we can still see Jesus at work in our world.

At Emmaus, despite all the change he had gone through. Jesus was recognised through a simple act: sharing bread. When you

come to break your egg this Easter (break egg up; perhaps give some out) remember that we are one of the ways that people can recognise Jesus at work in the world today. With Jesus as our example, we can transform the world around us.

For the next few minutes we are going to play a contemporary Christian song (a suggestion is 'Outrageous love' by Noel Robinson) and ask ourselves 'Do we see Jesus in our world?'

(Click slowly to move through the image sequence)