



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

EASTER

These assembly scripts can work for one or two “hosts” – it is formatted so that you can either read the lines solo, or assign lines to two people... and feel free to reword the lines in ways that suit you. There are suggestions in blue dotted through the script of setting, tone and ways to film, but these are only suggestions – the most important things are that you are confident and relaxed as you film.

If you are having a hard time visualizing the script, please watch our video and read along to give you a clearer idea.

I suggest for this video, you adopt a different style and tell the story in a more direct way. Seeing the impact of the programme “Easter Journey” every year has really convinced me to largely stay away from talking about eggs, chocolates and bunnies, as these are just distractions from what is a very powerful and engaging story at any age. They’ll get plenty of eggs and rabbits at school, so this is our opportunity to do something different.



SCRIPT

The Easter story is amazing, and we’d love to tell it to you today. The story doesn’t just happen on one day, though, it’s a story that unfolds over one very important week. Sometimes Christians call it “Holy Week” because of how many special and important things happen that week. So why don’t we start at the beginning, one week before Easter day, on Palm Sunday.

(Palm Sunday - is there a main road you can film on? Try and choose a time and place to film that won’t be too busy with traffic or pedestrians. You could hold a palm branch of some kind as you tell the story, if you like)

The week starts with Jesus and his disciples - his friends and followers - arriving in Jerusalem. Jesus rides on a donkey, and as they get closer and closer, crowds of people begin greeting Jesus and shouting for him! They’ve heard about the amazing things he has done and are so excited to see him.

As he arrives in the city, the people begin laying their coats down to make a royal road, and waving palm branches, shouting “Hosannah!” which means “save us!” They were greeting Jesus like a conquering king... and many of them did want Jesus to be their king.

But as you can imagine, the leaders there did not like the sound of that. They were not happy to see Jesus and were not happy about how many people were following Him. So rather than celebrating, they started to plot how they could arrest Jesus, and get rid of him for good.

(We have a short palm branch craft here, which you are welcome to use or recreate... or include your own short reflection or activity relating to Palm Sunday)

(Passover - at a kitchen table or any set table – make it look a bit special.)

On Thursday that week, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his friends. This was the big celebration they'd come to Jerusalem for, and it was a holiday and very special meal they celebrated every year... but this time Jesus did something totally new, and unexpected. He wanted to show them the new thing that God was going to do through Him.

He took the bread that was on the table, handed it to his friends and said "this is my body, which is going to be broken for you." Then he took the cup of wine on the table, handed it around, and said "this is my blood, which is going to be poured out for you." The disciples didn't understand at all, but Jesus was showing them that He was going to die, and He wanted them to remember this dinner.

This meal is called Jesus "Last Supper" because it was his last meal, His last time with his disciples before his death. Jesus' death was a part of God's plan, it was why He had come, and this meal and what Jesus said was a way for the disciples, and for all of us to remember and know what God was doing for us.

(Garden of Gethsemane – we have used an audio clip here that allows kids to "listen in" on what happens in the Garden, without directly telling the story. This is a very engaging activity, and we would encourage you to either use our clip, or we have made the sound recording available on the [Must Know Bible Stories resource page](#))

(Good Friday – film yourself by a cross, if you're able, or if you are feeling bold you could film in a graveyard. Good Friday is all about Jesus' death, and we need not shy away from that)

After their special meal, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Well, it was unexpected for his friends, the disciples, but the Bible tells us Jesus knew what was going to happen.

After He was arrested, the leaders in Jerusalem held a secret midnight trial and - even though Jesus wasn't a criminal and hadn't done anything wrong - they quickly sentenced him to death. He was beaten and taken to a cross and nailed to it, and that's where He died.

Christians believe there was a lot more to it than that... because remember, Jesus knew he was going to be arrested and killed, he even told his friends it was going to happen. But he chose to stay in Jerusalem anyway, chose to go to the cross. Because it was part of God's big plan.

(Here we've included a reflection on crosses and why the cross is the symbol of Christianity. Shouldn't a cross make Christians sad, if that's where Jesus died? Feel free to reuse our clip, or insert a short reflection of your own, possibly using photos of crosses from your community: crosses on churches, in graveyards, cross jewelry, or anything else you can find)

(Easter Sunday – film in a garden, if you can)

Three days after Jesus died, His friends and followers were feeling scared. Some were in hiding, afraid they would be arrested too, but a few others were preparing for Jesus funeral. Some of his followers went to where his body was - in a tomb covered by a large stone, to get ready for the funeral. But when they got there, the tomb was open. His body was gone!

Then, things really start to happen. An angel appears who tells them that Jesus isn't here, he's alive. Not long after, in that same garden, they see Jesus. He walks up to them, and they can't believe it. They had all seen Jesus' dead body three days ago. Soon more and more of Jesus' followers were seeing him: some saw Jesus at home, some walking down the road, some of them by the lake... and Jesus would eat with them and explain why he had to die... and why he rose again. Soon over 500 people had seen Jesus alive again.

(Conclusion – possibly in or by a church)

As the news spread, pretty soon all of Jerusalem was talking about how Jesus had come alive again. It wasn't a secret! And as the news spread, and as more people saw Him... more and more people started believing in Jesus, believing it was all true.

And not just in Jerusalem, but the news started spreading to the countryside... and across the border to other countries... and then all around the Roman Empire! Some of the first Christians were actually ancient Romans. But it didn't stop there, soon people were believing in Jesus all over the world... and from Jerusalem, to Rome, all the way to Scotland in 2020... there are around 2.3 billion Christians in the world today – including me!

That's 2.3 billion people celebrating Easter, celebrating "Holy Week" and remembering how Jesus died and came back to life all those years ago... and I hope you enjoy celebrating Easter too.

