



Easter Day

Welcome to this Easter edition of 'Together, Apart', intergenerational resources to help us be church together while we're keeping each other safe.

All the sections explore the same Bible passage in a range of creative ways. Choose whichever parts work best for you. You can use the resources on-line or print whichever pages of the PDF you need.

You can find lots more free resources like this at www.reflectionary.org

Here is what you will find in each week's post:



A Word in Your Ear

A Bible passage that we can all learn from together, whatever our age.



Food for Thought

Aimed at adults and teens, some thoughts and questions on the passage.



Inner Space

A blank space for you to record your thoughts.



Looking Closer

A creative and interactive look at the Bible passage. Great for older children and anyone who likes a creative approach.



I Wonder...

An imaginative style of Bible study, perfect for younger children and those who like to immerse themselves in the Bible world.



Take a Break

A chill-out zone, with meditative colouring for adults and children, and links to audio recordings of the passage so that you can listen while resting your eyes.



Creation Station

A craft for children (or young-at-heart adults!)



Outside In

Suggestions for activities throughout the week that link with the Bible passage.



High 5

Suggestions for spending time with God.



A Word in Your Ear

Take your time reading this passage from The Bible. Ask God to help you hear. You can decorate the space around the words if you like.

John 20:1, 11-16

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').

(NIV)



Food for Thought

John's account of the first Easter is full of personal detail, as we'd expect from a first-hand witness.

Mary and some other women (named in the other gospels, but just implied here) arrive at first light. Finding the tomb open and fearing grave robbers, they dash off and meet Peter and John. The two men immediately race to the tomb and John, arriving first, peers inside. He sees strips of linen. But he does not see.

Then Peter arrives and steps into the tomb. He sees Jesus' burial cloths, still lying in place: the body cloths where his body had been and the head wrapping where his head had been. But Peter, like John, did not see.

Q: The women's first reaction is that someone has moved Jesus' body. What does the linen, lying in place, tell us about that? What would you have thought?

Finally, John steps into the tomb and sees. He really sees. Not quite fully, not yet, but he 'saw and believed'. Fascinatingly, when John wrote his gospel, he used three completely different 'see' words in these few verses. When John first peered inside, he just saw, he looked at, the photons hit his retina. For Peter, John chose a word meaning to contemplate or experience, to gaze upon. When John stepped into the tomb, he described it with a word meaning see-and-know, realise, come to understand.

Q: Why do you think John used different words for 'see'? What does this tell us?

After this, the other disciples go home and Mary stands alone, weeping. She repeats her heart-broken lament to two angels, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Turning around, Mary sees, she supposes, the gardener. "He must have moved the body", she reasons, and she is right, but not as she imagines. He softly questions her tears, and she asks for the body of her beloved master. Then comes a quite word louder than a thunderclap. "Mary". Mary turns and immediately recognises her Lord. "Rabbouni!"

A couple of unusual things: did you notice that Mary 'turns' to Jesus twice? The word means to turn your body around, or to turn your life around.

Also, the New Testament was written in Greek, a widely understood language, but two words in this passage are in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples spoke. The two words are 'Mary' and 'Rabbouni'.

Q: Why did John record these two words in Aramaic, do you think, and why does John have Mary turning to Jesus twice?



Inner Space

What's going round your head? Here is a space for you to put your thoughts on paper. You can write, draw ... whatever you like. What will you put here?



Looking Closer

Follow this link for printable [Puzzle Pages for Easter Day](#).

Easter Sunday – the day when everything changed! You can read more of the story in John 20 and the other gospel accounts. They all record different details, because everyone remembers different important bits.

It's like at Christmas – if you asked everyone in your family to describe Christmas, they'd all talk about different bits, depending on what meant the most to them.

All the gospels agree on the main parts though – that Jesus was alive – and everyone was changed by it.

What do you think are the most important parts of the Easter story?

Write or draw them here.

When Mary first saw Jesus, she did not recognise him. She thought he was the gardener! I wonder why Mary did not recognise Jesus at first. I wonder what changed when she heard Jesus speak her name.

Jesus described himself as The Good Shepherd and said, "My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27 Message)

What would you say if Jesus spoke your name to you, right now?

Draw some speech bubbles in this box.

Put Jesus speaking your name it the first one, and your reply in the next.

What happens next?



I Wonder...

Try to picture yourself in the story.

I wonder where you are in this story. Can you draw the scene?

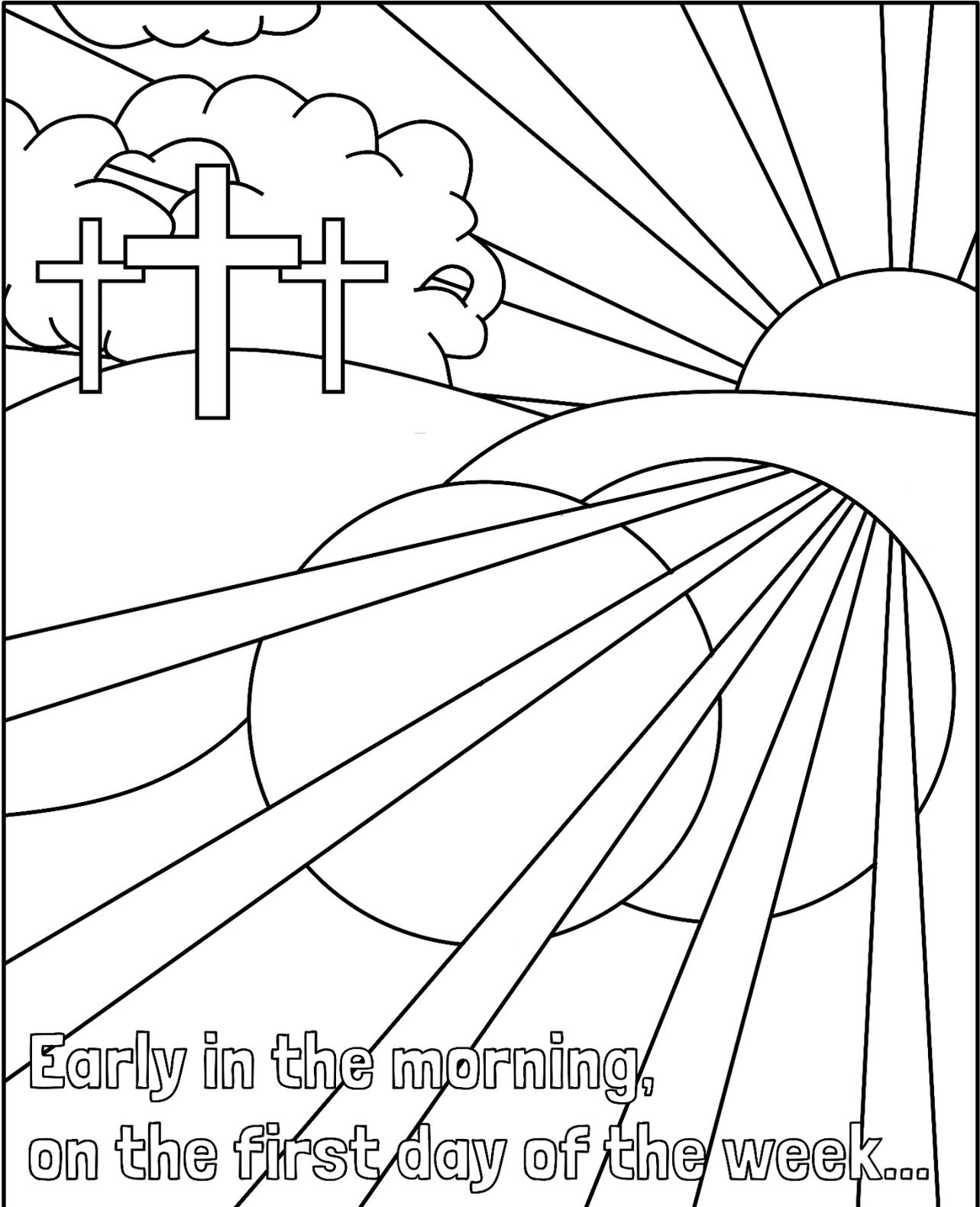
I wonder what happened before Mary arrived. What do you think?



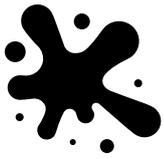
Take a Break

Put on some music, or listen to the passage being read out while you simply sit and be. You can colour the picture below, or fill it with zentangles, or you can just spend the time breathing.

John 20 on Bible Gateway audio [ESV](#) – [Message](#) – [NIV \(Dramatised\)](#) – [NIV \(Suchet\)](#)



Early in the morning,
on the first day of the week...



Creation Station – Easter Sunday Basket

This paper plate Easter basket depicts the garden, empty tomb and Easter morning sunrise. [More pictures at The Reflectionary.](#)

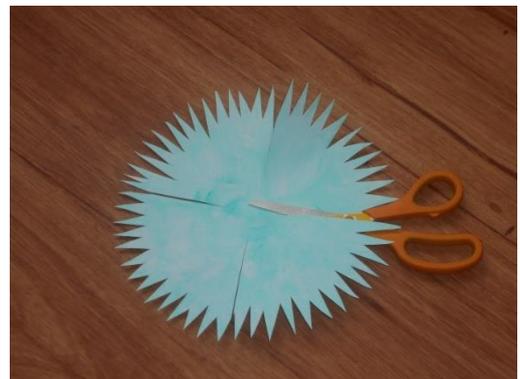
You will need:

- 1½ paper plates for each basket
- Paints in green, brown and orange/yellow
- Sponges or brushes
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Metallic marker pen
- Decorations, shredded paper and eggs



What to do:

1. Cut the half plate along the rim. This will give you an arch shape and a semicircle.
2. Paint the whole plate green, the arch brown, and the semicircle yellow or orange, all on both sides. Leave them to dry.
3. Cut zig-zags all around the green plate to look like grass, and make four large cuts, at 3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock to about 5cm from the middle. The uncut square is the base of the basket.
4. Overlap the plate on either side of a cut and staple the layers together. Do the same on the opposite side.
5. Use a metallic pen to write an Easter message on the arch, which forms the handle and the empty tomb. I used 'Hallelujah, He is Risen!'
6. Staple the arch to the basket, securing the two unstapled sides. The arch will lean over so that the writing is uppermost.
7. Finally, cut a circular sun from the orange card, bend over the bottom and staple it under the handle so that the sun is rising above the tomb.
8. Decorate your basket and fill it with shredded paper and Easter goodies!





Creation Station – Empty Tomb Treats

These home-made croissants tell us the Easter story – delicious too!

The marshmallow stands for Jesus' body and the spices and oil reminded us that he was prepared for burial. The pastry represents the cloth that he was wrapped in, and afterwards, the empty tomb. [More pictures at The Reflectionary.](#)

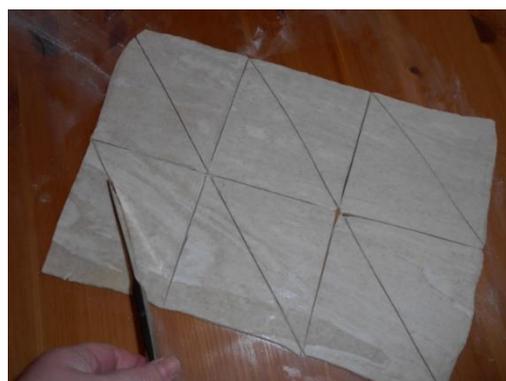
You will need:

- 500g puff-pastry block (makes 18) **or**
- 320g ready-rolled puff-pastry sheet (makes 12)
- Marshmallows
- Sweet spices, (eg cinnamon and nutmeg)
- A little oil or melted butter
- A little brown sugar
- 1 egg (beaten)



What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C / 400°F / Gas mark 6.
2. If using 500g block, roll out to about a 40cm (15") square and cut into nine squares.
3. If using 320g ready-rolled sheet, roll out to about 40cm x 25cm (15" x 10") and cut into six squares.
4. Cut each square in half diagonally, and stretch the triangles slightly so that they are tall. Make a small slit in the shortest side of each triangle, opposite the sharp point
5. Dip a marshmallow in melted butter then roll it in spices so that it is heavily coated.
6. Place the marshmallow in the middle of a triangle and fold the slit end of pastry over.
7. Dampen and pinch the pastry on both sides to stop the marshmallow oozing out, then roll it up.
8. Pull the sides of the roll out and curve them to form the crescent shape.
9. Place your croissants on a greased baking sheet, brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with a little brown sugar.
10. Bake for 15 mins until golden and yummy and - like the garden tomb on Easter Sunday morning - empty inside!





Outside In

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

Jesus spoke her name, and everything changed. Weeping changed to wonder, anguish to hope, darkness to morning, and ending to start.

It's good to get outdoors if you can do so safely, being sure to follow physical distancing rules. If you can't get out, try bringing the outside in. Here are some ideas for celebrating the new start and new hope of Easter.

- Tie together two twigs (or chopsticks if you cannot go out) to make an Easter cross. You can decorate it with colourful yarns or strips of fabric, with marker pens or paints, with sequins, pom-poms or flowers. How will you decorate yours?
- Make your room as dark as possible. You could even try eating a meal in the darkness. Then suddenly make it as bright as you can. Wow! What a difference!
- Pick some wild flowers, perhaps daisies from the grass. Tie them together with some yarn or a strip of fabric and make a posy. You can put in an eggcup of water.
- Make your name from whatever craft things you have. As you make it, imagine that Jesus is speaking your name to you, like he spoke Mary's name to her.
 - Draw your name in blocky letters on cereal packet card and cut it out. Wrap the letters in silver foil and use permanent marker pens to decorate them.
 - Spell out your name with pasta, beads, coins, buttons or whatever you have.
 - Cut your name from two or three layers of thick cardboard. Use watered-down PVA to cover it with torn up tissue paper or paper napkins.
 - Twist some pipe cleaners to spell your name and dip it in a strong salt solution. As it dries, your name will be made of sparkly crystals!
- Make a den in your living room with blankets and chairs. Put a big cushion over the entrance, like the stone that blocked the entrance to Jesus' tomb. Now act out the first Easter, with the disciples running in, and Mary seeing Jesus.

What else can you think of?

My ideas:

Which will you do this week?



High 5

Spend five minutes talking and listening with God. Here is one way:

SONrise Prayers

For each letter of SON rise, make a short prayer starting with that letter.

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