

Explore It FOR LEADERS



GOOD FRIDAY

Mark 15:33-41 The death of Jesus

Each child will need:

- A hot cross bun
- Building blocks
- Soap and a bowl of water

You will need:

- A hot cross bun

Start It

Ask the children to have their hot cross bun ready.

Have a chat about hot cross buns while the group eats them.

- Who does and doesn't enjoy eating them?
- Do you prefer them hot or cold?
- With or without butter?
- Does anyone put another topping on them?
- What other flavours of hot cross bun have they tried? Chocolate? Apple? Some shops have cheesy Marmite ones or with chilli!
- Does anyone know what is in a traditional hot cross bun?

🗨 **Say:** Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten by Christians on Good Friday. They have a long history going back hundreds of years and at one time you could only sell them at Easter, Christmas or at burials. But nowadays lots of shops sell them all year round. But why does a hot cross bun have a cross on top and why are there lots of tasty spices in the ingredients? It is generally thought today that the cross on the top is a symbol of the cross on which Jesus died, and the spices are a reminder of the spices used in his burial.

Sing It

This song – and actions – reminds us that God is our King!

'Here is our King' by Summit Creative Company

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cCyVFAU-mw>

Tell It

Share screen and watch a video, *The Story of Jesus on Trial* Bible Story by Kids on the Move:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h6J_BOTqQA

Ask:

- What do you notice about the story?

→ Do you have any questions?

Read Matthew 15:33-41

Discuss the story in more depth.

Ask:

I wonder ...

- why darkness came over the whole land?
- what was going through Jesus' mind when he said, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
- what made the centurion think Jesus was the son of God?
- how the disciples felt?
- why did Jesus die?
- how do you feel about Jesus dying for you?

Action It

- **Say:** Jesus sent prophets to tell people about God but the people did not listen. Something needed to change because our sin was separating us from God and we couldn't fix it. But God could. He sent Jesus to take the sin of the world – for all people, for you and me.
- **Say:** Out of love, Jesus took our place. So how do we respond to this act? We can respond by thanking Jesus for what he did, believe he is the Son of God and invite him into our lives.
- **Say:** After the death of Jesus, the disciples were still. They must have been feeling a range of emotions given everything Jesus had said to them and what had happened. They took time to be still, to listen, and to reflect on the impact Jesus had on their lives.
- **Say:** Over the next few days, try taking some time to be still, to listen, and to look for Jesus working in your life.

Ask the children to build a cross with their building blocks. Ask them to put it in a special place where, over the next couple of days, they can go to and practise being still.

Pray It

Ask: What are the sins that Jesus died for?

- **Say:** When Jesus died, he 'washed away' the sins so we can be close to God.

When we do and say things which make others sad, this makes God sad too. So we say sorry and ask for forgiveness for the things we still get wrong, to be friends with God and others.

Ask: Are there things which you know you need to say sorry for?

- **Say:** Using the soap and water, as you wash your hands, share the things with God you want to put right in your life.

Close in prayer.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.