

Praying Together Resources (PTR017)

“EggLent” Calendar:



“Who do you say I am?”

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“EggLent” Calendar: “Who do you say I am?”

A Daily journey through Lent for families.

Introduction

The “EggLent Calendar” is a 5-10 mins daily family devotional from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday focused around the opening of a large plastic egg. Each day there is a different item in the egg to explore, a simple Bible reading and a prayer to help explore Jesus’ question: “Who do you say I am?”

Its purpose is simply to enable families to grow in their relationship with Jesus during Lent. It has been designed for families where at least one child is between the ages of 5-11yrs.

What is inside the egg?

Inside the egg is a different item each day that will be used in a short activity, and a piece of paper on which is the reading and prayer for the day. The daily readings are based on the Church of England’s Common Worship Lectionary A. An older child / adult may wish to read the whole reading for the day, which is found at the top of each day’s devotion.

What do I have to do?

- 1) Purchase a large plastic egg¹. You could either purchase one egg which you refill each day, or seven eggs and fill them once a week.
- 2) Place the egg(s) somewhere prominent in the home.
- 3) Cut up the sheet containing the readings and prayers (see Appendix 1) and ask different members of the family to read them each day.
- 4) Read the instruction sheet for each day at least the day before and fill the egg with the appropriate items, and the reading and prayer.
- 5) Choose a time when your family meets together each day for 5-10 mins and enjoy using the “EggLent Calendar.”

Note: I have labelled the days of Lent as follows: Day 1 – Day 40 and the 7 Sundays during Lent as 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.

¹ You can purchase large plastic eggs on Ebay (www.ebay.co.uk) or Jell plastics at: www.jellplastics.co.uk that are approximately 19cm high and 35cm wide. Put in the search bar: “Large plastic Easter egg.” If you cannot source a large plastic egg, find a box with a lid and draw a large Easter egg on the outside of the box.

What item do I need for each day? (apart from the large egg, reading and prayer)

- Day 1: A large stone
- Day 2: A straw for each member of the family. A small glass of water for each member of the family.
- Day 3: Seven Scrabble letters: D, H,O,M,E,G,T or seven cards with the letters D, H,O,M,E,G,T written on them. Pencil and paper
- Day 4: Thermometer (to take a person's temperature)
- 1st Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each.
- Day 5: Ball of string and pair of scissors
- Day 6: Pieces of Duplo, Lego, wooden/plastic bricks or something else with which to construct a simple bridge. Two pieces of string approximately 30cm long.
- Day 7: Two pieces of white paper, pencil and sellotape. A small magnifying glass if you have one (but this isn't essential).
- Day 8: Tin of sardines, a piece of bread.
- Day 9: Some playdough, Plasticine or clay and a piece of blue paper or material.
- Day 10: A large bread roll
- 2nd Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each.
- Day 11: Picture of vase and faces. (See Day 11 page for this picture)
- Day 12: A £1 coin wrapped up in wrapping paper for each member of the family
- Day 13: Two different flavoured packets of crisps and an envelope that says "Choices" on the outside and inside is a piece of paper with questions on it. (See Day 13 page for the questions)

- Day 14: A small torch. Three apples hidden in three different dark places.
- Day 15: An egg, small plastic bag with some flour, small plastic bag with some sugar, small plastic bag with some pickle, and a banana, spoon, enough paper cake cases for each member of the family to have one. A mixing bowl
- Day 16: Pieces of paper inside an envelope (enough pieces for one each). On one piece of paper is written the letter H.
- 3rd Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each.
- Day 17: A list of everyone in the family's names and what they mean. (See Day 17 page for more details)
- Day 18: An apple, small bottle of food colouring and a large bowl of water.
- Day 19: A candle and matches
- Day 20: About 20 coloured strips of paper that are an inch wide for making a paper chain and sellotape.
- Day 21: A small clock or a watch
- Day 22: 21 matches
- 4th Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each.
- Day 23: A scarf for a blindfold
- Day 24: Picture of an open gate. (See Day 24 page for this picture)
- Day 25: A sheep template for each member of the family. A pen, some cotton wool and a glue stick. (See Day 25 page for the sheep template)
- Day 26: An envelope that is labelled "Simon says" game. Inside is a piece of paper with the game details. (See Day 26 page for the game details.)

- Day 27: Matchbox inside of which is a dead insect of some sort eg woodlouse, ladybird, fly, ant etc
- Day 28: A packet of mustard and cress seeds emptied into a small plastic bag and a washed-out yoghurt pot. In the yoghurt pot is some crunched up kitchen roll and on top of that is a layer of cotton wool. Small jug of water
- 5th Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each.
- Day 29: As much of a toilet roll that you can fit inside the egg..... enough to wrap around a child to make them into a mummy!
- Day 30: An envelope that is labelled, "Who would you save?" (See Day 30 page for the details of what is inside)
- Day 31: A bottle of perfume
- Day 32: A simple crown made out of paper
- Day 33: A small packet of sweets for everyone
- Day 34: Three photographs of members of your family / friends
- Palm Sunday: Mini chocolate eggs, enough for each member of the family to have one each and the pots of mustard & cress from Day 28
- Day 35: A road map
- Day 36: A torch and the battery that you have removed from it and put inside a sealed envelope.
- Day 37: A bag containing 6 identical clothes pegs, one of which has a small black ink mark on it and a teaspoon, a knife, a fork, a spoon and a potato peeler.
- Day 38: A clean tea-towel and a large bowl of water
- Day 39: Some twigs, string, scissors. Tray with soil in it.
- Day 40: Five flat stones for making a tomb, (or a bread roll and a small cookie) and a small piece of kitchen roll.
- Easter Day: The egg is empty! Large Easter egg for everyone.

Day 1 (ASH WEDNESDAY): John 8:1-11

Item inside egg: A large stone

Parent: Today we begin our EggLent Calendar. Each day we will look inside our egg(s) and find something to do, something to read from the Bible and something to pray as we journey towards Easter together.

What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the stone)* This stone reminds us of a day when a woman who had done something very wrong was brought before Jesus. The Pharisees (religious leaders) wanted to stone her and they asked Jesus what He would do. Let's read what Jesus said to them:

Reading: *"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."* (John 8:7b NIV)

Parent: Nobody threw a stone at the woman because they all realised that they did wrong things too. When the people had all walked away Jesus said to the woman that he didn't condemn her, but that she was to stop sinning.

Activity: Pick up the stone and hold it. As you hold it, think of someone you know who has done something wrong. They may have done something wrong at school or at work or in your family. Are you tempted to judge them? *(Pass the stone round so each member of the family is able to do the same thing)*

Together answer the questions:

- 1) *"Am I any different from N (the name of the person you are thinking of)?"*
- 2) *"Don't I do wrong things too?"*

Even though we do wrong things like the woman in the Bible story, Jesus doesn't condemn us either. Jesus tells us to stop doing wrong things too.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus please forgive us for criticizing and judging other people when they do wrong things, forgetting that we do wrong things too. Thank you that you don't condemn us. Amen"*

Day 2: John 4:1-26

Items inside egg: A straw for each member of the family. Outside of the egg have enough small glasses of water so that each member of the family has a glass.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the straws)* We are going to have a competition. Take a straw and in a moment we are going to see who can drink their glass of water the fastest. I wonder who is the thirstiest. *(Pass around the small glasses of water so each person has one)* Ready, steady, go....and N (name) is the winner. They were the thirstiest.

Parent: Water, although it might seem very ordinary to us is a very precious gift from God. What can you see around you today, or what can you think of, that needs water to keep it alive? (Eg. people, birds, animals, flowers, trees etc). Without water these things would die wouldn't they?

One day Jesus was thirsty and he sat down by a well. When a Samaritan woman came to the well Jesus asked her for a drink and then starting talking with her about her life. Let's read something that Jesus said to the woman.

Reading: Jesus said: *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."* (John 4:13-14a NIV)

Parent: I wonder what Jesus meant when He said that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst? What do you think? It sounds to me like Jesus has something that He wants to give each one of us that we need even more than water. I wonder if we are thirsty for what Jesus wants to give us.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus please make us thirsty for your living water so that we come to you and ask you for it. Amen"*

Day 3: John 4:27-42

Items inside egg: Seven Scrabble letters: D, H,O,M,E,G,T or seven cards with the letters D, H,O,M,E,G,T written on them. Pencil and paper

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the scrabble letters, pencil and paper).*
Let's see how many words we can make out of the 7 letters in two minutes.
(There are over 20 words possible)

Parent: We have made lots of words from the 7 letters. Words are actually really powerful things. When we speak, our words can be used in really good ways to help other people or they can be used in bad ways to harm other people. Jesus' words are the most powerful words of all.

Yesterday we heard how Jesus had a conversation with a woman at a well. After Jesus had finished talking with her, the woman went and told all her friends about Jesus. They came and listened to Jesus' words for themselves and this is what they said about Jesus.

Reading: *"The people said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world." (John 4:42 NIV)*

Parent: After listening to Jesus' powerful and good words the people believed that Jesus was the Saviour of the world. We can hear Jesus' words too by reading the Bible. When you listen to Jesus' words, I wonder who you think Jesus is.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, help us listen to your words and believe that you are the Saviour of the World. Amen"*

Day 4: John 4:43-end

Item inside egg: Thermometer (to take a person's temperature)

Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the thermometer*) Who would like to have their temperature taken? Can anyone remember what our temperature should normally be? (36.5°C-37.5°C) So if your temperature is higher than 37.5°C you would have a fever and we might call the doctor.

Parent: A very important man came to see Jesus one day. He was a royal official and his son was very ill. The boy had a fever and in those days there weren't antibiotics, so he was close to death. Let's hear what happened when the important man spoke to Jesus.

Reading: *"The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the Father realised that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. (John 4:49-53 NIV)*

Parent: Jesus had the power to make the boy better. When the boy's family saw what Jesus had done they all believed that He was the Son of God. What things help us to believe that Jesus is God's Son?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus open our eyes to see the wonderful things that you have done and believe that you are the Son of God. Amen"*

1st SUNDAY OF LENT: Psalm 32:1-2

Items inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of the stone, straws, scrabble letters and thermometer to help remind people).* Who do we say Jesus is? Today we are going to read some words from a Psalm.

Reading: *“What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.”* (Psalm 32:1-2 – Living Bible)

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you are the one who forgives our sins. Amen”*

Day 5: John 5:1-18

Items inside egg: Ball of string and a pair of scissors.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the ball of string and a pair of scissors).* Today we are going to read about a man whose legs hadn't worked normally for 38 years, and who had spent every day lying on a mat near a special pool in Jerusalem, hoping that he would one day get better. To help us imagine what that must have been like for him one of us is going to pretend to be that man. *(Wrap the ball of string round and round someone's legs so that they cannot walk and they can only lie down on the floor)*

As we look at *N* lying there.....what are they not able to do now? Remember that in Jesus' day, before wheelchairs, not being able to walk meant that the man could not move around at all. *(Draw out the fact that they have lost their freedom to work, to look after themselves, to go out with friends to have fun, to live life to the full etc).* One day Jesus met the man with the legs that didn't work, lying by the pool. Listen to what Jesus said to him.

Reading: *"Then Jesus said to the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked."*
(John 5:8-9 NIV)

Parent: Jesus gave the man new freedom, didn't he? Let's show that by cutting the strings from around *N's* legs. *(Cut away the string wrapped around N's legs).* What can the man do now that he couldn't do before?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that you give people new freedom to live. Amen"*

Day 6: John 5:19-29

Items inside egg: Pieces of duplo, lego, wooden/plastic bricks or something else with which to construct a simple bridge. Two pieces of string, approximately 30cm long.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the bricks and the string)* I want you to imagine that between these 2 pieces of string *(Lay the pieces of string about 30cm apart)* is a very wide and deep cavern. It is over 100 metres wide and at least 500 metres deep and no-one can possibly cross it. What could we build to help us get across? *(Lead the conversation towards the need to build a bridge.)* Let's build a bridge together using all of the bricks we have.

Parent: Jesus said something about a very important bridge. Listen carefully and see if you can spot it.

Reading: *"What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. They will not be judged. They have crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24 – NIRV)*

Parent: Jesus said that there is a type of bridge that we can walk over that helps us to cross over from death on one side to life on the other side. What did Jesus say that bridge is? *(Belief and trust in God)* So if we put our trust in God, we can have eternal life.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus help us to listen to your words and believe and trust in what you say so that we might have eternal life. Amen"*

Day 7: John 5:30-end

Items inside egg: Two pieces of white paper, pencil (preferably HB) and sellotape. A small magnifying glass if you have one (but this isn't essential).

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the two pieces of white paper, pencil, sellotape and small magnifying glass)* I want you to imagine that you are in court. In front of you is somebody who has been accused of robbing a bank but they say that they are not guilty. How are you going to find out if they are telling the truth or not? You need evidence don't you? Fingerprints left at the scene of a crime is a great piece of evidence, because every single person who lives on earth has different ones. Let's look at our different thumbprints. *(Create an "ink" pad by rubbing pencil all over a small piece of paper. Press a person's thumb onto the pencilled area then press their thumb against a piece of sellotape to lift the print off the thumb. Now stick the sellotape onto the other piece of white paper to transfer the print. Label it then begin again.....creating a new "ink" pad for the next member of the family. Look at the fingerprints either with your eyes or using a magnifying glass to see the differences between them.)*

Parent: Fingerprints can be used as evidence to help find out if someone is telling the truth or not, but there are other things that can be used as evidence too. When Jesus walked the earth many people didn't think he was telling the truth about being God's Son. Listen to the reading and see if you can hear what evidence Jesus gave those people to say that He was telling the truth.

Reading: *"But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me."* (John 5:26b – New Living Translation)

Parent: What evidence did Jesus give the people to show that He was telling the truth? *(His teaching and His miracles. Also, what John had said about Him)*

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus help us to look at the evidence and to believe that you are the Son of God. Amen"*

Day 8: John 6:1-15

Items inside egg: Tin of sardines, a piece of bread.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the tin of sardines and the bread*). If I told you that this is what we are having for our tea tonight, how many hungry people do you think it would feed? If we needed to feed 10 hungry people how many more tins of sardines and pieces of bread would we need? How about if we were to feed 50 people? What about 5000 people? That would cost a lot wouldn't it?

Parent: One day a lot of people were with Jesus and they were getting very hungry. There weren't any shops nearby to buy food to eat. A little boy had five small loaves of bread and two small fish with him, and he offered them to Jesus. Let's hear what happened.

Reading: *"The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat."* (John 6:10-11 CEV)

Parent: Jesus fed all of the people from five small loaves of bread and two small fish and everyone had enough to eat. What would be impossible for us to do is possible for Jesus. What could you offer to Jesus today?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that nothing is impossible for you. Thank you that you can take the small things that we offer you and do something wonderful with them. Amen"*

Day 9: John 6:16-27

Items inside egg: Some playdough, plasticine or clay and a piece of blue paper or material.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the playdough/plasticine/clay and divide into a few portions)* Who would like to make a boat? *(Someone makes a little boat)* Who would like to make some tiny disciples to go into the boat? *(Someone makes a couple of tiny disciples)* Who would like to make Jesus? *(Someone makes Jesus)*

Parent: After Jesus had fed the 5000 people His disciples got into a boat to go back to Capernaum whilst Jesus went up a mountainside to pray. *(Lay out blue paper or material and place the boat on top of it with the disciples inside it).* Let's hear what happened next.

Reading: *"A strong wind was blowing, and the water became rough. They rowed about three or four miles. Then they saw Jesus coming toward the boat. (Walk your clay Jesus towards the boat) He was walking on the water. They were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid." Then they agreed to take him into the boat. (Place Jesus inside the boat) Right away the boat reached the shore where they were heading." (Move the boat off the blue paper / material)* (John 6:18-21 NIRV)

Parent: I wonder what things frighten you the most. When the disciples were frightened of Jesus walking on the water, thinking that he was a ghost, Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid" and He says that to us too. When Jesus got into the disciples' boat, the boat landed in a safe place. When we invite Jesus into the "boat" of our lives, He will keep us safe for all eternity. Now imagine that the clay boat is your life. Where do you want to place the figure Jesus? Inside the boat? On the water? Far away from you or nearby?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus when we are afraid, help us to remember that you are with us. Amen"*

Day 10: John 6:27-40

Item inside egg: A large bread roll

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the bread-roll)* Is anyone hungry? Would you like a piece? *(Share about half of the bread roll)* Bread can satisfy our hunger can't it? In Jesus' day it was a very important part of people's diets. In our reading today Jesus said something very interesting about bread.

Reading: *"Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*
(John 6:35 NIV)

Parent: What do you think Jesus meant when he said "I am the bread of life?" *(Share ideas)* Jesus offers to satisfy us in a much deeper way than anything else can if we come to Him. It is like we have a God shaped hole inside us that only Jesus can fill. Now if people don't satisfy their God shaped hole with Jesus, what other things do you think they try instead?

Activity: *(Give out the rest of the bread roll)* As you eat this piece of bread think about Jesus saying that He is the bread of life.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life. Thank you that you alone can satisfy my hunger for life. Amen"*

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT: John 3:1-17

Items inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of ball and string and scissors, 2 pieces of string and constructed bridge, paper with finger-prints on it, tin of sardines and piece of bread, playdough boat and disciples on blue paper, bread roll to help remind people).*

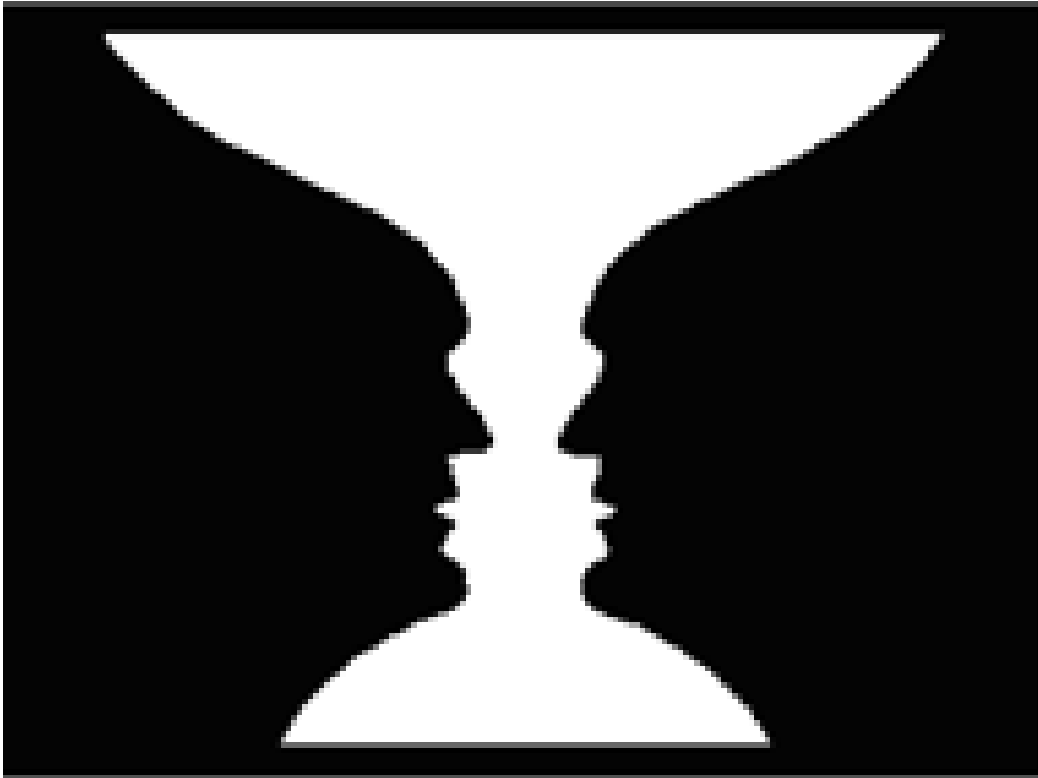
Who do we say Jesus is?

Reading: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)*

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you are the One who gives us life. Amen”*

Day 11: John 6:41-51

Item inside egg: This picture.



Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the picture above*). When you look at this picture what do you see? Who sees a vase? Who sees faces? Sometimes when we look at something or someone, different people see different things. That's what happened when people looked at Jesus. Listen to this:

Reading: *"The Jews said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"* (John 6:42 NIV)

Parent: Some of the people believed that Jesus was the Son of God whereas other people said that He was just Joseph's son.....an ordinary man. It is the same today. Some people look at Jesus and see an ordinary man whereas others see Him as the Son of God. Jesus says that people can only see the truth about Him and come to Him if the Father draws them. (John 6:44 NIV)

Prayer: *"Father please help us to see Jesus as He truly is. Amen"*

Day 12: John 6:51-59

Item inside egg: A £1 coin wrapped up in wrapping paper for each member of the family

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the gift wrapped £1 coins and give one to each member of the family)* I have a gift for each one of you today. You can unwrap it if you like. *(People unwrap their coins.)* What are you going to do with your £1 coin?

Parent: Giving somebody a gift is a way of showing love isn't it? But giving a gift always costs something to the person who gives. It might cost them money or time or effort. Jesus offers us the greatest gift of all. He offers us the gift of eternal life.....a life lived in relationship with Him and with other members of His family. But this wonderful gift of eternal life cost Jesus a lot. As we listen to our reading, see if you can work out what it cost Jesus.

Reading: *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."* (John 6:51 NIV)

Parent: What did it cost Jesus to give us eternal life? That's right it cost Him His life and we will hear more about that during Lent. Now imagine if when I gave you the gift of the £1 coin you chose not to open it. How do you think I would have felt? How do you think Jesus feels when people don't want the gift of eternal life that He offers us?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you for the gift of eternal life that you offer us. Help us to receive it gratefully. Amen."*

Day 13: John 6:60-end

Item inside egg: Two different flavoured packets of crisps and an envelope that says “Choices” on the outside and inside is a piece of paper with the following questions on it:

- 1) Would you rather brush your teeth or take a shower/bath?
- 2) Would you rather have a ride on a camel or on a giraffe?
- 3) Would you rather jump into a pool of custard or a pool of mud?
- 4) Would you rather live in a zoo or in a theme park?
- 5) Would you rather have a pet pig or a pet snake?
- 6) Would you rather fly an aeroplane or drive a racing car?

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the bags of crisps and the envelope)*
Choose which flavour of crisps you would like and you can have a few. *(Hand out the crisps)* As you eat your chosen crisps you have six other choices to make. *(Open the envelope and to through the questions together?)*

Parent: Every day we have to make lots of different choices don't we? Some are simple choices like what colour socks we will choose to wear. Others are harder choices like whether we will say something nasty back to someone who has been horrid to us. The biggest choice we will ever have to make is whether we choose to follow Jesus or not. Listen to this:

Reading: *“From this time on, many of Jesus’ disciples turned back. They no longer followed him. “You don’t want to leave also, do you?” Jesus asked the twelve disciples. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.””* (John 6:66-69 NIRV)

Parent: Some of Jesus’ followers chose not to follow Him anymore because they found it too hard. Others knew that Jesus was the Son of God and so chose to keep on following Him. I wonder what you will choose to do.

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus help us to choose to follow You. Amen”*

Day 14: John 7:1-13

Item inside egg: A small torch. Outside the egg three apples are hidden in three different dark places.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the torch)* I have hidden three apples in three different dark places around our home. Can you see if you can find them? You will need the torch to help you to shine light into the dark places. You have two minutes starting from now. *(Apple hunt commences)*

Parent: We need light to see things hidden in dark places don't we? Sometimes insects hide in dark places so that they cannot be seen. If you go outside and turn over some big stones, you may find ants and beetles hiding under those stones. As soon as they see the light they run away.

We can be a bit like insects hiding in dark places. We don't want the bad things we think or say or do to be seen by other people do we? But there is one person we cannot hide from and that is Jesus. In His light everything in our lives can be seen and some people hate that. Listen to this.

Reading: *Jesus said: "The people of this world cannot hate you. They hate me, because I tell them that they do evil things."* (John 7:7 CEV)

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus help us not to hide away or hate you when we do bad things. Help us to come to you and ask you to forgive us. Amen"*

Day 15: John 7:14-24

Item inside egg: An egg, small plastic bag with some flour, small plastic bag with some sugar, small plastic bag with some pickle, and a banana, spoon, enough paper cake cases for each member of the family to have one. Outside the egg have a mixing bowl.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the egg, plastic bags with flour, sugar, pickle and banana)* Let's have a go at making some fairy cakes shall we? *(Drop the egg into the bowl so that it smashes and stir it around mixing the shell in with the egg)* Who would like to add the flour? And the sugar? And the pickle? And the banana? Let's mix that up and divide it into the cake cases. *(Divide into the cake cases and give one to each member of the family.)* Enjoy!

Why aren't you eating my cakes? Why don't they look like fairy cakes? We didn't bother to follow the instructions for making fairy cakes did we? I just made up the recipe as I went along and it was a disaster wasn't it?

Parent: Following instructions is really important if things are going to work. It is the same with our lives. If our lives are going to work well we need to follow God's instructions. Let's listen to what Jesus says about that.

Reading: *"So Jesus told them, "I'm not teaching you my own thoughts, but those of God who sent me. If any of you really determines to do God's will, then you will certainly know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own." (John 7:16-17 Living Bible)*

Parent: Jesus told the people that He wasn't simply teaching them His own thoughts about life but God's. If the people followed God's instructions, they would find that they worked. Are we willing to do the same?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that we can trust your teaching. Please help us to follow your instructions so that our lives can work well. Amen"*

Day 16: John 7:25-36

Item inside egg: Pieces of paper inside an envelope (enough for one each). On one piece of paper is written the letter H.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the envelope with the papers inside it)*
We are going to have a game of hide and seek. The person who pulls out the paper with the letter H on it is going to hide, then the rest of us will look for them. *(Play hide and seek)*

Parent: Jesus knew that the Pharisees and the teachers of the law didn't like what He was teaching and who He claimed to be. He also knew that they were plotting to kill Him. Listen to what He said to them:

Reading: *"Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time. Then I will go to the one who sent me. You will look for me, but you won't find me. You can't come where I am going.""* (John 7:33-34 NIRV)

Parent: Jesus said that in a short time people would look for Him but that they wouldn't find Him.....unlike our game of hide and seek earlier. Where did Jesus say that He was going? Jesus was going back to His father in heaven but before that, He knew that He was going to die.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus how hard it must have been for you when people plotted to kill you. Thank you that you came to earth to look for us. Amen."*

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT: Romans 5.1-11 or John 4.5-42

Item inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of Picture of vase and faces, £1 coin wrapped up in wrapping paper, packet of crisps and choices envelope, torch, "fairy cake" in cake case, envelope with hide and seek papers..... to help remind people).*

Who do we say Jesus is?

Reading: *"But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8 NIRV)

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you for showing us your love by dying for us. Amen"*

Day 17: Matthew 1:18-25

Item inside egg: A list of everyone in the family's names and what they mean. (To discover their meaning have a look at the following websites: www.ohbabynames.com/ or www.babynames.co.uk/)

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(A list of names and their meanings)*

Who would like to know what their name means? *(Go through each member of the family and tell them what their names mean)*

Parent: Before Jesus was even born an angel told Joseph that Mary's baby was going to be a boy and that he, Joseph was to give Him the name Jesus. Can anyone have a guess as to what the name Jesus means? Let's see if we can find out from our reading.

Reading: *"Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21 NIV)

Parent: Who thinks they might know what the name Jesus means? Jesus means "the Lord saves." The reason that Jesus came to earth was to save us from our sins.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you for coming to save us from our sins. Amen"*

Day 18: John 7:53-8:11

Item inside egg: An apple, small bottle of food colouring. Outside of the egg is a large bowl of water.

Parent: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the apple and the food colouring)*

Can anyone remember a story in the Bible that involved fruit?

The story is right at the beginning of the Bible and is about the first man and woman that God made. God gave these people everything good that they needed, but he had said that there was one thing that they mustn't do. They mustn't eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve however, chose to disobey God and one day they picked a piece of fruit and ate it. *(Take a bite out of the apple)* Ever since that day every single person that has ever lived has disobeyed God and has broken his laws of loving Him and loving others. The Bible calls this SIN.

Activity: So why does sin matter? Let me show you. Imagine this bowl of water is the life that God has given you. One day you choose to tell a lie. Look what happens. *(Put a few drops of colouring into the water)* Another day you choose to punch your brother/sister. *(Put a few drops of colouring into the water.)* Another day you choose to ignore God, *(Put a few drops of colouring into the water)* and another day you are rude to a teacher. *(Put a few drops of colouring into the water)* What has happened to the water? It has gone all dirty hasn't it and that is what sin does to our hearts? We cannot see it, but God can. The problem is that because God is holy we cannot have the friendship with Him that He made us for while our hearts are dirty. We need to be cleaned up from our sin which is what Jesus came to do. When Jesus met a woman who had done something very wrong this is what He said to her:

Reading: *"Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."* (John 8:11 The Message)

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus we admit that we need your help with our sin. Amen"*

Day 19: John 8:12-30

Item inside egg: A candle and matches.

Parent: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the candle and the matches)* Imagine for a moment that you went into a completely dark room that had no windows, what would happen if you turned on the light switch? Would the darkness stay? It wouldn't would it, as light is more powerful than darkness? Light also helps us to see things as they really are. So if your room was messy we wouldn't see it if the room was in darkness but we would when the light went on. Light also shows us the safe path. In the dark it is easy to get lost, but when we carry a light we can see the way. Jesus said something interesting about light.

Reading: *"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12 NIV)

Parent: Jesus said that He is the light of the world. I wonder what you think that means. Do you think it might mean that Jesus is more powerful than anything that is bad? Do you think it might mean that Jesus helps us see things in life as they really are? Do you think it might mean that Jesus can keep us on the safe path?

Activity: Who would like to light the candle? *(Light the candle)* The candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. As you look at the candle quietly let's think about what that means.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that you came to be the light of the world. Help us to follow your light and keep on the safe path. Amen."*

Day 20: John 8:31-47

Item inside egg: About 20 coloured strips of paper that are an inch wide for making a paper chain and sellotape.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the pieces of paper, sellotape and pens)* Let's make a paper chain. *(Construct a simple paper chain)*

Parent: Jesus said something about sin taking away our freedom.

Reading: *"Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin.""* (John 8:34 Good News Translation)

Activity: A slave is someone who isn't free, so who would like to be our slave today? *(Wrap the paper chain around them)* Jesus says that sin takes away our freedom. Sometimes when we do something wrong like lying, it feels like we can't get free doesn't it...because one lie leads to another and to another and then we don't know what to do. Jesus says that He is the one who can set us free from sin. Listen to this:

Reading: *"If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free."* (John 8:36 Good News Translation)

Activity: Let's set our slave free shall we? *(Break off the paper chains)*

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that you can set us free from the chains of sin. Amen."*

Day 21: John 8:48-end**Item inside egg:** A small clock or a watch**Activity:** What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the clock*) We are going to have a quiz on time now.....let's see how much you know about time.

- 1) How many seconds are there in two minutes? (120)
- 2) How many minutes are there in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour? (45)
- 3) Is 20.45 in the morning or in the evening? (evening)
- 4) How many days are there in December? (31)
- 5) How many weeks are there in half a year? (26)
- 6) How old would somebody be today, the 24th March 2017, if they were born on 1st January 1960? (57 years old)

Parent: Time is a really important measure for us isn't it? It measures how long things last, how long it takes to do something and how old people are. Our last quiz question worked out how old somebody was, who was born in 1960. Now there is one person in the whole of the universe who we can't work out how old they are.....and that is because they are timeless; they are outside of time. Can anyone guess who that is? That's right it is God..... There has never been a time when God has not existed. He has always been and will always be. Now listen to something that Jesus said to the Pharisees.

Reading: *““Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!””* (John 8:58 NIV)

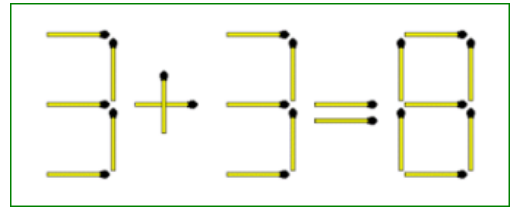
Parent: “I am” was the name that God gave Himself when Moses asked Him who He was. So when Jesus said *“before Abraham was born, I am,”* He was claiming to be God. So in Jesus we see not simply a man who came to earth doing and saying wonderful things, but we see the timeless God showing Himself to us. We need to listen to what He says don't we?

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus we praise you that you are God. Help us to listen to what you say. Amen”*

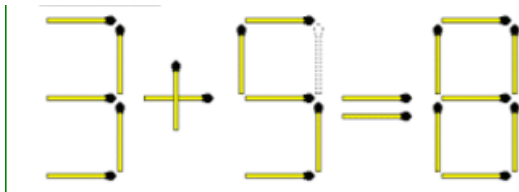
Day 22: Luke 1.26-38

Item inside egg: 21 matches

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the matches)*. I am going to set you a difficult puzzle which I want you to try and work out. *(Set up the matches to make the equation $3+3=8$)*



You are allowed to move one match to make this sum right. Which match will you move?



(Solution: Move a match top right on the number three to the top left to create a number five)

Parent: Some puzzles are really easy to solve aren't they, whereas others are almost impossible to solve. God the Father had an impossible puzzle to solve. The people He had made for relationship with Himself had rejected Him and so were separated from Him. Because of God's holiness there was nothing that anyone could do to put the relationship right again. So God came up with an amazing way of solving the puzzle. He would come to earth Himself, clothing Himself in human flesh and being born as a baby to rescue the people and sort out the mess that they were in. He sent an angel to Mary to announce His plan:

Reading: *"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35 (Good News Translation)*

Parent: Nothing is impossible for God.....He solved an impossible puzzle and we will find out over the next few days how He sorted out the mess that we are all in.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus it is hard for us to understand how you could leave the glory of heaven and come to earth as a baby. Thank you for coming. Amen"*

4th SUNDAY OF LENT - MOTHERING SUNDAY: Luke 2:33-35 or John 9:25-27

Item inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of the list of names and meanings, apple and bowl of coloured water, candle, paper chain pieces, clock, 21 matches laid out as the puzzle to help remind people).*
Who do we say Jesus is?

Parent: Today is Mothering Sunday when we remember the love our mothers have shown us. Let's hear what Simeon said to Jesus' mother when He was only a few days old.

Reading: *"Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart." (Luke 2:34-35 Good News Translation)*

Parent: Simeon told Jesus' mother that God had sent Jesus into the world but that it was going to be very hard for her.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you for our mothers and for their love for us. Amen"*

Day 23: John 9:18-end

Item inside egg: A scarf for a blindfold. Lay out a very simple obstacle course with chairs etc from one side of a room to the other.

Activity: Who would like to try my simple obstacle course? It looks very easy doesn't it? *(Explain what they have to do eg climb over a chair, under a table etc)* But before you try the obstacle course let's see what is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the scarf)* It's a blindfold, so N's challenge is to do the obstacle course without being able to see! *(Put blindfold on N and then let them have a go at doing the obstacle course.)*

Parent: What looks really easy to do when you can see is much much harder to do when you are blind. Let's all shut our eyes and imagine getting to school or college or work without being able to see where we were going. It would be very hard wouldn't it?

One day Jesus met a man who had been blind since he was born. Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva and put it on the man's eyes and then told the man to wash in the pool of Siloam. When the man did what Jesus told him to do, all of a sudden he was able to see again. The Pharisees were not at all happy with Jesus for doing this because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath, which was a day when you weren't meant to do any work. They couldn't see who Jesus really was. Later on Jesus found the man and asked him a question:

Reading: *"Jesus said: Do you believe in the Son of Man?"* (John 10:35 NIV)

Parent: The man replied to Jesus, *"Lord I believe"* (John 10:38). Believing in Jesus is like seeing with our inner eyes. Those who don't believe are spiritually blind.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus so often we are spiritually blind and cannot see that you are the Son of God. Please heal our spiritual blindness so that we can believe in you. Amen"*

Day 24: John 10:1-10

Item inside egg: Picture of an open gate



Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the picture)* You can see that this is a picture of an open gate. What is good about this picture? How would you feel if the gates were closed and you couldn't get in?

Jesus said something about gates.

Reading: *"Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.""*
(John 10:7 NIV)

Parent: What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "I am the gate?" A gate can let you into a good place can't it? Jesus is claiming that He alone can open the way into God's good kingdom where we can know God as our Father and enjoy life in all its fullness. Before Jesus came, the gates into God's good kingdom were closed. However through Jesus' death on the cross the gates to God's good kingdom are now open to us all. All we have to do is believe and walk through them.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus we praise you that you are the gate into God's good kingdom. Amen"*

Day 25: John 10:11-21

Item inside egg: A sheep template for each member of the family. A pen, some cotton wool and a glue stick.

Parent: What is inside our egg today?
(Pull out the pictures of the sheep, pen, cotton wool and glue stick) We have some sheep. Let's listen to something Jesus said about sheep.

Reading: *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep"* (John 10:14 NIV)

Parent: Jesus says that He is the good shepherd. Who then are the sheep? What sorts of things do you think an ordinary shepherd does to look after his sheep? (Finds them food to eat and water to drink, leads them on safe paths, reassures them when they are scared, finds them shelter, looks after them when they are sick and protects them from wild animals.) Jesus says that He cares for us like that. In fact Jesus says that His love for His sheep is so great that He is willing to lay down His life for them.

In Jesus' day the shepherds knew each one of their sheep by name. Jesus knows each one of us by name.

Activity: Let's add some wool to our sheep. *(Stick cotton wool onto the sheep)*
 As we write our name on our sheep, let's remember that Jesus knows our name amongst all the billions of other people on this planet and that He loves us so much that He is willing to lay down His life for us.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus we thank you that you are the good shepherd and that you were willing to lay down your life for us. Amen"*



Day 26: John 10:22-end

Item inside egg: An envelope that is labelled “Simon says” game. Inside is a piece of paper with the following:

- 1) Simon says raise your hands in the air and give them a shake.
- 2) Simon says clap your hands. Simon says stop clapping your hands.
- 3) Peter says stick out your tongue at everyone in the room.
- 4) Emily says lie on the floor and shout, “I want sweets, “I want sweets”
- 5) Simon says shake hands with the person next to you
- 6) Holly says run into the road
- 7) Simon says have a group hug.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the envelope)* Today we are going to play a game called “Simon says....” When I say Simon says to do something you do it, OK? So for example if Simon says shut your eyes, you shut your eyes. If someone else tells you do something you don’t do it, OK? Let’s see how well you can listen and follow? *(Play the “Simon says” game)*

Parent: The things that Simon told us to do were all good things and safe things weren’t they? What about the things that the other people told us to do? Were they good things and safe things? You know it is really important that we listen to the right voices during our life, and follow what the right voices tell us to do. Yesterday Jesus said that He is the good shepherd and that we are His sheep. There is only one thing that we, the sheep, need to do. Let’s see what that is.

Reading: *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28 NIV)*

Parent: So what one thing do the sheep need to do? Listen and follow the shepherd. Why? So that they are kept safe.

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus help us to listen to you and follow you. Amen.”*

Day 27: John 11:1-16

Item inside egg: Matchbox inside of which is a dead insect of some sort eg woodlouse, ladybird, fly, ant etc

Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the matchbox*) Who would like to see what is inside my matchbox? (*Someone opens matchbox*) It's an insect. Oh no, it looks dead.....how sad. It was alive and now it is dead.

Parent: Death is a very sad thing. It is especially sad when we lose someone that we love isn't it? One day one of Jesus' friends called Lazarus was very very sick. Lazarus had two sisters called Martha and Mary and they sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was very sick. Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus very much but He stayed where He was for two more days before He set off to visit them. Listen to what Jesus said to His disciples.

Reading: *"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."* (John 11:11b NIV)

Parent: When Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was asleep, He meant that Lazarus was dead. So when Jesus said that He was going to wake Him up, He was expecting to bring Lazarus, a dead man, back to life. Do you think that is possible? Do you think Jesus has the power to do that, to give life again to someone who has died?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, we praise you for your love. We praise you that you have the power over life and death. Amen"*

Day 28: John 11:17-27

Item inside egg: A packet of mustard and cress seeds (from a local garden centre or online) emptied into a small plastic bag and a washed out yoghurt pot. In the yoghurt pot is some scrunched up kitchen roll and on top of that is a layer of cotton wool. Outside the egg is a small jug of water.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Pull out the seeds and the yoghurt pot containing kitchen roll and cotton wool*) It is some seeds. Take one and put it in your hand. This seed looks pretty dead doesn't it? Can you see it moving at all? When you prod it with your finger, can you get it to move? It isn't doing anything at all is it? There isn't any life in it. It is dead.

Parent: When Jesus arrived at his friend's house in Bethany, He found that Lazarus had been dead for four days and he had been buried in a tomb. Everybody was very sad especially his sisters Martha and Mary and they were all crying. Martha said to Jesus, *"If you had been here, my brother would not have died."* (John 11:22 NIV) Jesus said something very interesting to her.

Reading: *"Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord!" she replied. "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world."* (John 11:25-27 CEV)

Parent: So Jesus says that death is not the end. He says that those who believe in Him will have life after they die. They will be raised from the dead to new life.

Activity: Let's plant our dead seeds on top of the cotton wool and see what happens over the next few days shall we? First we need to dampen the cotton wool with some water and then we lay the seeds on top. (*plant seeds*)

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus help us to be like Martha and to believe that you are the one who raises the dead to life. Amen"*

5th SUNDAY OF LENT: John 11:1-45

Item inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of the blindfold, the picture of the open gate, a sheep, "Simon says" game, matchbox with dead insect, seed planted in yoghurt pot to help remind people).*

Who do we say Jesus is?

Reading: Martha said to Jesus, *"I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."* Jesus said to her, *"Your brother will rise again"* (John 11:22-23 NIV)

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you do such amazing things. Amen"*

Day 29: John 11:28-44

Item inside egg: A very long piece of white toilet tissue.....enough to wrap around a child to make them into a mummy! You could have the rest of the roll nearby ready to use if you need more paper.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the long piece of white toilet tissue)*
 For the last couple of days we have been following the story of Lazarus, a friend of Jesus who became very ill and then died. When a person died in Jesus' day, they would be wrapped up in strips of cloth and then laid in a tomb. So who would like to play the part of Lazarus? We are going to pretend that you have died and will wrap you up in the grave clothes. *(Wrap your volunteer up in the white toilet tissue until they resemble a mummy)* Let's create a tomb around you with chairs and cushions. *(Create a "tomb" around your volunteer with chairs and cushions)*

Parent: So Lazarus is in the tomb and Jesus has arrived. Having talked with both Martha and Mary Jesus then went to Lazarus' tomb, which was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Jesus was so sad that He wept. He then told the people to take away the stone, which they did and then this is what He said:

Reading: *"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."* (John 11:43b-44 NIV)

Parent: Let's shout together, *"Lazarus, come out!"* and Lazarus I want you to come out of your tomb. Ready? *"Lazarus, come out!"* *(Lazarus comes out of their tomb)* Let's take off the grave clothes now shall we? *(Remove all of the toilet tissue from your Lazarus)* What a shock it must have been for people when Lazarus was raised from the dead. The Bible tells us that many people saw what Jesus did and put their faith in Him. Who, apart from God, could give new life to someone who was dead?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing Lazarus new life. Help us believe that you are the Son of God. Amen"*

Day 30: John 11:45-end

Item inside egg: An envelope that is labelled, “Who would you save?”

Inside is a piece of paper with the following problem: A large boat is shipwrecked and six people find themselves together in a lifeboat. The lifeboat is sinking fast because it can only hold 5 people. If one person isn't thrown overboard soon, everyone will die. Choose who you would throw overboard.

1. A doctor who knows what to do when someone gets ill
2. A vicar who can help people stay calm and pray for help
3. A boy who has lots of energy
4. A teacher who is good at making things
5. A chef who can make feed people out of seafood
6. A baby who has their whole life in front of them

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the envelope with the problem inside it)* We have a problem to solve. *(Read out the problem)* We need to throw one person out of the lifeboat to save everyone else. Who will you choose to throw overboard so that the other five people are saved and why?

Parent: After Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life the chief priests and the Pharisees were very worried and called a special meeting.

Reading: *“One of the council members was Caiaphas, who was also high priest that year. He spoke up and said, “You people don't have any sense at all! Don't you know it is better for one person to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed?” (John 11:49-50 CEV)*

Parent: Caiaphas knew that once people heard about Jesus raising Lazarus back to life, there could be a mini-revolution and then the Romans would come and destroy their Jewish nation. He thought that it would be best if Jesus died so that the Jewish nation could be saved from that fate. What he didn't realise is that the whole world needs saving because of sin. Jesus was the One chosen to die so that we might all be saved.

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus thank you for dying so that we might be saved. Amen”*

Day 31: John 12:1-11

Item inside egg: A bottle of perfume

Parent: What is your most precious possession? If I said that you were going to have to leave this house and you could only take one thing with you, what would it be? Why? *(Discuss together)* Is there anyone that you would be willing to give your most precious possession to? Who?

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the bottle of perfume)*

Parent: Mary, the sister of Lazarus was a great friend of Jesus. Six days before the Passover feast in Jerusalem Jesus went to Mary and Martha's home. Mary took the most precious thing that she had, which was a very expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus' feet, then wiped His feet with her hair. The whole house was filled with the smell of the perfume. *(Squirt some of the perfume you have around the room)* Judas was very cross with Mary because he thought that it was a waste of money to pour expensive perfume over Jesus. Listen to what Jesus said:

Reading: "Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honouring the day of my burial." (John 12:7 The Message)

Parent: It might seem a very odd thing that Mary poured perfume over Jesus' feet, but it was an act of very generous love. She was willing to give her most precious possession to Jesus. Jesus saw that although Mary didn't know it, she was preparing Him for His burial by anointing His body, because He knew that He was going to die soon.

Would you be willing to give your most precious possession to Jesus like Mary did?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help us to love you like Mary did in generous ways. Amen."

Day 32: John 12:12-19

Item inside egg: A simple crown made out of paper (like out of a cracker)

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the paper crown)* What's this? It's a crown. Kings wear crowns don't they? It is a sign that they are the boss! Today whoever is wearing the crown in this family is the King and can make all of the decisions. As we pass the crown around each one of us, when you are wearing it you need to answer the question: "What would I change in my family if I were king?" You might want to change what we eat, or bedtimes, or something else altogether. *(Pass around the crown)* This time we pass around the crown I want you to answer the question, "What would I change in my school or place of work if I were king?" *(Pass around the crown)*

Parent: The day after Mary had poured perfume over Jesus' feet Jesus made His way towards Jerusalem riding a young donkey. The crowd who were also going to Jerusalem for the great feast of the Passover took palm branches and went out to meet Him. Listen to what they shouted:

Reading: *"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"* (John 12:13 NIV)

Parent: I wonder what sort of king the people thought Jesus was going to be? Some of them thought that He was going to be a warrior king and fight the Romans who they hated. But Jesus didn't ride a horse into Jerusalem; He rode a donkey, the animal of a man of peace. The only crown that Jesus would ever wear would be a crown of thorns when they crucified Him a few days later. Jesus came as a servant king, to serve us.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus we are in awe that although you are the Son of God, you came to earth as our servant King. Help us to learn how to serve too. Amen"*

Day 33: John 12: 20-36a

Item inside egg: A small packet of sweets for everyone.

Parent: I wonder what you think makes someone's life truly great. Do you think someone is truly great if:

- 1) Their record gets to No.1 in the charts?
- 2) They are No.1 in the tennis rankings? *(or other sport your family likes)*
- 3) They are the No.1 most handsome/beautiful person in the world?
- 4) They are the world's No.1 most powerful person.
- 5) They are the world's No.1 richest person.
- 6) They are the world's No.1 cleverest person?

Jesus told the disciples that He was about to be glorified.....in other words honoured and praised. How?

Reading: *"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."* (John 12:24-25 The Message)

Parent: Jesus gives us a clue in our reading about how He is going to be glorified. How is Jesus going to be glorified? By giving up His life, in a great gesture of love. Jesus calls His followers to give up their lives too..... by choosing to let go of wanting to be Number 1 and by choosing to put God and the needs of others first. That is the path to true greatness.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the sweets and give a packet to everyone)* I have a challenge for each one of us. How many different people can you give a sweet to today? How many can you give away?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that you were willing to give up your life for us. Help us to follow your example and put other people's needs first. Amen."*

Day 34: John 12:36b-end

Item inside egg: Three photographs of members of your family / friends

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the photographs)* We have some family photographs to look at today. When we look at these pictures we can see what the person looks like can't we? Not only can we see what they look like but we can also think about what the person is really like as we remember them. So what good things do you see in *N*? *(go through the three people on the photos)*

Parent: Jesus said something very interesting about Himself:

Reading: *"Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only. They also believe in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me sees the one who sent me. (John 12:44-45 NIRV)*

Parent: Jesus says that when we look at Him, we also see Father God. We don't have a photograph of Jesus but we have heard over the last few weeks all about what Jesus is really like haven't we? What words would we use to describe what Jesus is like? *(Discuss together)* All the things that you have just said are true about Father God too.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you for showing us that when we believe in you we are also believing in our Heavenly Father, and when we see what you are like, we are also seeing what our Heavenly Father is like too. Amen"*

PALM SUNDAY: Matthew 21:1-11

Item inside egg: Mini chocolate eggs....enough for each member of the family to have one each.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the mini-eggs)*

As we eat our chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? *(Produce the prompts of a very long piece of white toilet tissue, an envelope that is labelled, "Who would you save,?" a bottle of perfume, a simple crown, a small packet of sweets and three photographs of family members to help remind people).*

Who do we say Jesus is?

Parent: Last Saturday we planted some seeds didn't we? Let's have a look at them. Are they still dead? No they aren't are they? Life has come in the form of mustard and cress. Do you remember me telling you that Jesus says that death is not the end? He says that those who believe in Him will have life after they die. They will be raised from the dead to new life. As we follow Jesus into this Holy Week, let's see what happens. Today Jesus enters Jerusalem as King on a donkey.

Reading: *"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee" (Matthew 21:10-11 NIV)*

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. As we enter Holy Week, help us walk closely with you. Amen."*

Day 35: John 14:1-14

Item inside egg: A road map

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the map)* I want you to imagine that we are going on a journey from City 1 *(Choose a city on the map)* to City 2 *(Choose another city on the map that is a good distance away from City 1)* Let's find a way from City 1 to City 2 and trace a route on the map.

Parent: The disciples were getting very worried because they knew that Jesus had a lot of enemies who were very angry with Him. They had also heard Jesus talking about His own death. Jesus spoke to them and told them not to worry but to trust. He said that He would be going away soon to prepare a place for them in His father's house and that they knew the way to the place where He was going. Thomas, one of the disciples said, *"Lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"* (John 14:5) This is what Jesus said to him:

Reading: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6 NIV)

Parent: Jesus says to His disciples that following Him and His teaching is the way to His Father's house. He says the same to us too. Jesus is the way to Father God. If we choose to follow Jesus in this life, He will lead us home to live with our Heavenly Father for all eternity.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, we praise you that you are the way and the truth and the life. Help us to keep following you until the day you take us home to live with you forever. Amen"*

Day 36: John 14:15-end

Item inside egg: A torch and the battery that you have removed from it and put inside a sealed envelope.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the torch and the sealed envelope containing the torch battery)* Who would like to switch my torch on? *(Someone tries to switch on the torch)* It doesn't work does it? Why not? It doesn't have any power inside it, does it? Let's see what is inside the envelope. *(Open the envelope and pull out the battery)* Let's put the battery inside the torch and see if it will work now. *(Put battery into the torch and switch on.)* Now the torch has power, it works.

Parent: Jesus knew that it would be very hard for His followers to keep following Him in their own strength when He went back to live with His Heavenly Father. So Jesus made a promise to His disciples that when He left them, He would send them someone to help them. Listen to this:

Reading: *"Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. (John 14:15-17 CEV)*

Parent: Jesus said that one day the Holy Spirit would actually live inside believers to help them follow Him. The Holy Spirit is like the battery in our torch.....He gives us the power to live the Jesus way. The Holy Spirit is the power of God!

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you for your promise of sending the Holy Spirit to your followers, to help us walk in your ways. Amen"*

Day 37: John 13:21-32

Item inside egg: A bag containing 6 identical clothes pegs, one of which has a small black ink mark on it and a teaspoon, a knife, a fork, a spoon and a potato peeler.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the teaspoon, knife, fork, spoon, potato peeler, and the bag containing the 6 pegs)* We are going to play a game of “Odd one out.” So which is the odd one out between the teaspoon, knife, fork, spoon and peeler? It is the potato peeler, as everything else is used for eating a meal. Now look at these pegs. *(Empty the pegs out of the bag)* They all look the same don’t they, but which one is the odd one out? *(People look at the pegs until the odd one is found)*

Parent: Jesus had twelve very close followers. They all loved Him and followed Him, or did they? Were they all the same in their love for Jesus or was there an odd one out.....one who looked like he was the same as the others but actually had something different in his heart?

It was while they were all having a meal together, celebrating the Passover that it became obvious that there was an odd one out amongst the disciples. Jesus knew it and this is what He said:

Reading: *“What I’m about to tell you is true. One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies.”* (John 13:21b NIRV)

Parent: Jesus knew that one of His very closest friends, Judas Iscariot, was going to hand Him over to His enemies. Judas was the odd one out. Judas turned against Jesus because Jesus wasn’t the kind of Messiah that he had hoped for. He betrayed Jesus to the chief priests and they paid him thirty silver coins for his information. Sometimes we can turn against Jesus too because we don’t want to do things His way but we want to go our own way instead. When we do that we need to come and say sorry to Jesus.

Prayer: *“Lord Jesus please forgive us when we turn against you too. Amen”*

Day 38 (MAUNDY THURSDAY): John 13:1-17,31b-35

Item inside egg: Small clean tea-towel. Outside the egg is a large bowl of water.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the tea-towel)* I wonder what we will need this for. Who would like to play the part of Jesus and wash some of our feet? *(Choose a volunteer)* The rest of us need to take off our shoes and socks. *(Remove shoes and socks)*

Parent: Yesterday we talked about Jesus having a special meal with His disciples and it was actually the last meal that He would have with them. As the meal was being served Jesus got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing and wrapped a towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin and then washed His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. So *N* would you like to go round and carefully wash each person's feet and dry them with your towel? *(N washes and dries feet)* Washing dirty feet was actually the servant's job in Jesus' day as people's feet got very mucky wearing sandals on dirty streets. But Jesus told His disciples that He had set them an example to follow. They were to go and serve other people.....because serving shows people that they are loved. Listen to what Jesus said:

Reading: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."* (John 13:34-35 NIRV)

Parent: It has probably felt quite odd having your feet washed today. So how can we serve each other nowadays? What sorts of things can we do to follow Jesus' example of serving?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you that you were willing to serve your disciples by washing their feet. Help us to follow your example and serve other people too. Amen"*

Day 39 (GOOD FRIDAY): John 18:1 – 19:42

Item inside egg: Some twigs, string, scissors. Outside the egg is a small tray with some soil in it.

Parent: At the end of the meal we heard about yesterday, Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While they were there, Judas appeared, bringing with him some soldiers and officials, who then arrested Jesus, even though Jesus had done nothing wrong. Jesus was bound and taken to the high priest who questioned Him about His teaching. The high priest didn't like the answers that Jesus gave to his questions so he sent Him to the Roman governor called Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus some questions too and found that Jesus had done nothing wrong. Because Pilate was a weak man and the crowd were shouting for Jesus to be crucified, he gave into the crowd and handed Jesus over to them. Jesus had to carry His cross to the "place of the skull" where they nailed Him to it. Fastened to the cross was a sign that said, "Jesus of Nazareth: The king of the Jews." Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother and other women who loved Him and they were very sad. After Jesus had hung on the cross for six long hours He was thirsty and was offered a drink of wine vinegar on the end of a sponge.

Reading: *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* (John 19:30 NIV)

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the twigs, string and scissors)*

Today as we remember Jesus giving up His life for us, we are going to make some crosses from the twigs and the string. *(Once the crosses are made, make a little hill out of the soil on the tray and stick the crosses into the hill.)* So why did Jesus have to die when He had done nothing wrong? The Bible tells us that Jesus paid the price for our sins.....the wrong things that we have done when He died on the cross. When Jesus said, "it is finished," it is like He said: "Sins paid for!" (1Peter 2:24) That is why we call it "Good Friday?"

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus thank you so much for paying for my sins. Amen"*

Day 40: John 19:38-42

Item inside egg: Five flat stones for making a tomb, (or a bread roll and a small cookie) and a small piece of kitchen roll.

Parent: Yesterday we heard how Jesus was crucified on a cross and died. Later on in the day a man called Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus' body. He was a secret follower of Jesus. Joseph and another disciple, Nicodemus prepared Jesus' body for burial.

Reading: *"Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no-one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there."* (John 19:40-42 NIV)

Activity: What is inside our egg today? *(Pull out the stones or the bread roll and cookie)* Let's make a small tomb for Jesus' body. *(Make a small tomb from 4 of the stones and place on the tray with the crosses. Place the piece of kitchen roll inside the tomb. Alternatively make a tomb by scooping out the middle of a bread roll)* A stone was rolled across the entrance of the tomb to stop anyone going in or going out. *(Place a stone across the entrance of the tomb or alternatively use a small cookie.)* You may like to collect a few flowers later on to put in this Easter garden.

Parent: How do you think the disciples must have felt the day after Jesus had died? As well as very sad that everything seemed to have gone wrong, I think they were also very afraid that they might be arrested too. I wonder if any of them remembered what Jesus had said about the grain of wheat being buried in the ground and then coming to life? Do you think that this is the end of Jesus' life? Is this the end of the story.....?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus it is hard to know what to say when you are lying dead in a tomb, and yet we have a glimmer of hope that maybe your story hasn't ended but is just about to begin! Amen"*

EASTER SUNDAY: John 20:1-18

Item inside egg: Nothing. Outside the egg are your large Easter eggs. Before you get together, ROLL ASIDE THE STONE in the Easter garden.

Activity: What is inside our egg today? (*Open it and discover that there is nothing inside it*) Nothing.....nothing at all. That is what Mary Magdalene, Peter and James found when they went to Jesus' tomb early in the morning.

Parent: What a shock it must have been for them. Jesus' body had gone from the tomb. So where had Jesus gone? Who had moved away the stone from the entrance to the tomb? Later on that morning Mary stood outside the tomb crying when Jesus appeared to her. He called her name saying "Mary" and immediately she realised that it was Jesus, now raised from the dead! Mary ran back to the other disciples to tell them the good news.

Reading: *"Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"* (John 20:18 NIV)

Activity: To celebrate that Jesus is alive we have your larger Easter eggs to eat today. As we eat a chocolate egg what good things have we learnt about Jesus this week? (*Produce the prompts of the map, battery and torch, 6 pegs, tea-towel, Easter garden with crosses and tomb to help remind people*).

Today is the day we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead. Who do we now say that Jesus is?

Parent: Jesus rising from the dead proves that He is who He said He is, the Son of God. If we put our trust in Him, not only will He forgive us our sins but He will give us the gift of eternal life. That is really good news.

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this Lent. Thank you that you are alive today. Help us to follow you every day and to enjoy your gift of eternal life. Amen."*

APPENDIX 1

“EggLent Calendar” Readings and Prayers

(Cut up the readings and prayers for each day and insert into the egg with the other item(s) needed)

✂.....

Day 1 Reading:

“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”
(John 8:7b NIV)

Day 1 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus please forgive us for criticizing and judging other people when they do wrong things, forgetting that we do wrong things too. Thank you that you don’t condemn us. Amen”

✂.....

Day 2 Reading:

Jesus said: *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.”* (John 4:13-14a NIV)

Day 2 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus please make us thirsty for your living water so that we come to you and ask you for it. Amen”

✂.....

Day 3 Reading:

“The people said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.” (John 4:42 NIV)

Day 3 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, help us listen to your words and believe that you are the Saviour of the World. Amen”

✂.....

Day 4 Reading:

“The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.” Then the Father realised that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. (John 4:49-53 NIV)

Day 4 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus open our eyes to see the wonderful things that you have done and believe that you are the Son of God. Amen”

✂.....

1st Sunday Reading:

“What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.” (Psalm 32:1-2 – Living Bible)

1st Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you are the one who forgives our sins. Amen”

✂.....

Day 5 Reading:

“Then Jesus said to the man, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.” (John 5:8-9 NIV)

Day 5 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that you give people new life. Amen”

✂.....

Day 6 Reading:

“What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. They will not be judged. They have crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24 NIRV)

Day 6 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus help us to listen to your words and believe and trust in what you say so that we might have eternal life. Amen”

✂.....

Day 7 Reading:

“But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.” (John 5:26b – New Living Translation)

Day 7 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus help us to look at the evidence and to believe that you are the Son of God. Amen”

✂.....

Day 8 Reading:

“The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat.” (John 6:10-11 CEV)

Day 8 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that nothing is impossible for you. Thank you that you can take the little we offer you and do something wonderful with it. Amen”

✂.....

Day 9 Reading:

“A strong wind was blowing, and the water became rough. They rowed about three or four miles. Then they saw Jesus coming toward the boat.

(Walk your clay Jesus towards the boat)

He was walking on the water. They were frightened. But he said to them, “It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then they agreed to take him into the boat. (Place Jesus inside the boat)

Right away the boat reached the shore where they were heading.” (Move the boat off the blue paper / material) (John 6:18-21 NIRV)

Day 9 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus when we are afraid, help us to remember that you, who have the power to walk on water, are with us. Amen”

**Day 10 Reading:**

“Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35 NIV)

Day 10 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life. Thank you that you alone can satisfy my hunger for life. Amen”

**2nd Sunday Reading:**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

2nd Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you are the One who gives us life. Amen”



Day 11 Reading:

“The Jews said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?” (John 6:42 NIV)

Day 11 Prayer:

“Father please help us to see Jesus as He truly is. Amen”



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Day 12 Reading:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” (John 6:51 NIV)

Day 12 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for the gift of eternal life that you offer us. Help us to receive it gratefully. Amen.”



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Day 13 Reading:

“From this time on, many of Jesus’ disciples turned back. They no longer followed him. “You don’t want to leave also, do you?” Jesus asked the twelve disciples. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”” (John 6:66-69 NIRV)

Day 13 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus help us to choose to follow You. Amen”



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Day 14 Reading:

Jesus said: "The people of this world cannot hate you. They hate me, because I tell them that they do evil things." (John 7:7 CEV)

Day 14 Prayer:

"Lord Jesus help us not to hide away or hate you when we do bad things. Help us to come to you and ask you to forgive us. Amen"

✂.....

Day 15 Reading:

"So Jesus told them, "I'm not teaching you my own thoughts, but those of God who sent me. If any of you really determines to do God's will, then you will certainly know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own." (John 7:16-17 Living Bible)

Day 15 Prayer:

"Lord Jesus thank you that we can trust your teaching. Please help us to follow your instructions so that our lives can work well. Amen"

✂.....

Day 16 Reading:

"Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time. Then I will go to the one who sent me. You will look for me, but you won't find me. You can't come where I am going." (John 7:33-34 NIRV)

Day 16 Prayer:

"Lord Jesus how hard it must have been for you when people plotted to kill you. Thank you that you came to earth to look for us. Amen."

✂.....

3rd Sunday Reading:

“But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 NIRV)

3rd Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you for showing us your love by dying for us. Amen”

✂.....

Day 17 Reading:

“Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 NIV)

Day 17 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for coming to save us from our sins. Amen”

✂.....

Day 18 Reading:

“Go on your way. From now on, don’t sin.” (John 8:11 The Message)

Day 18 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus we admit that we need your help with our sin. Amen”

✂.....

Day 19 Reading:

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12 NIV)

Day 19 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that you came to be the light of the world. Help us to follow your light and keep on the safe path. Amen.

✂.....

Day 20 Reading:

“Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin.”” (John 8:34 Good News Translation)

“If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.” (John 8:36 Good News Translation)

Day 20 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that you can set us free from the chains of sin. Amen.”

**Day 21 Reading:**

““Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”” (John 8:58 NIV)

Day 21 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus we praise you that you are God. Help us to listen to what you say. Amen”

**Day 22 Reading:**

“The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35 Good News Translation)

Day 22 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus it is hard for us to understand how you could leave the glory of heaven and come to earth as a baby. Thank you for coming. Amen”



4th Sunday Reading:

“Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.” (Luke 2:34-35 Good News Translation)

4th Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you for our mothers and for their love for us. Amen”

✂.....

Day 23 Reading:

“Jesus said: Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (John 10:35 NIV)

Day 23 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus so often we are blind and cannot see that you are the Son of God. Please heal our blindness so that we can believe in you. Amen”

✂.....

Day 24 Reading:

“Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.”” (John 10:7 NIV)

Day 24 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus we praise you that you are the gate into God’s good kingdom. Amen

✂.....

Day 25 Reading:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep” (John 10:14 NIV)

Day 25 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus we thank you that you are the good shepherd and that you were willing to lay down your life for us. Amen”

✂.....

Day 26 Reading:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28 NIV)

Day 26 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus help us to listen to you and follow you. Amen.”



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Day 27 Reading:

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” (John 11:11b NIV)

Day 27 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, we praise you for your love. We praise you that you have the power over life and death. Amen”



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Day 28 Reading:

“Jesus then said, “I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord!” she replied. “I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world.” (John 11:25-27 CEV)

Day 28 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus help us to be like Martha and to believe that you are the one who raises the dead to life. Amen”



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5th Sunday Reading:

Martha said to Jesus, *“I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”* Jesus said to her, *“Your brother will rise again”* (John 11:22-23 NIV)

5th Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you do such amazing things. Amen”

✂.....

Day 29 Reading:

“Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*” (John 11:43b-44 NIV)

Day 29 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing Lazarus new life. Help us believe that you are the Son of God. Amen”

✂.....

Day 30 Reading:

“One of the council members was Caiaphas, who was also high priest that year. He spoke up and said, “You people don’t have any sense at all! Don’t you know it is better for one person to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed?” (John 11:49-50 CEV)

Day 30 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for dying so that we might be saved. Amen”

✂.....

Day 31 Reading:

“Jesus said, “Let her alone. She’s anticipating and honouring the day of my burial.” (John 12:7 The Message)

Day 31 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, help us to love you like Mary did in generous ways. Amen.”

✂.....

Day 32 Reading:

“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” (John 12:13 NIV)

Day 32 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus we are in awe that although you are the Son of God, you came to earth as our servant King. Help us to learn how to serve too. Amen”

✂.....

Day 33 Reading:

“Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you’ll have it forever, real and eternal.” (John 12:24-25 The Message)

Day 33 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that you were willing to give up your life for us. Help us to follow your example and give up our lives for your glory. Amen.”

✂.....

Day 34 Reading:

“Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only. They also believe in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me sees the one who sent me. (John 12:44-45 NIRV)

Day 34 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for showing us that when we believe in you we are also believing in our Heavenly Father, and when we see you, we are also seeing our Heavenly Father. Amen”

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Palm Sunday Reading:

“When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee” (Matthew 21:10-11 NIV)

Palm Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. As we enter Holy Week, help us walk closely with you. Amen.”

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Day 35 Reading:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 NIV)

Day 35 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, we praise you that you are the way and the truth and the life. Help us to keep following you until the day you take us home to live with you forever. Amen”

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Day 36 Reading:

“Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don’t see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. (John 14:15-17 CEV)

Day 36 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for your promise of sending the Holy Spirit to your followers, to help them walk in your ways. Amen”

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Day 37 Reading:

“What I’m about to tell you is true. One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies.”” (John 13:21b NIRV)

Day 37 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus please forgive us when we turn against you too. Amen”

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Day 38 Reading:

“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.” (John 13:34-35 NIRV)

Day 38 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you that you were willing to serve your disciples by washing their feet. Help us to follow your example and serve other people too. Amen”

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Day 39 Reading:

“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, He bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30 NIV)

Day 39 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you so much for paying for my sins. Amen”

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Day 40 Reading:

“Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no-one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.” (John 19:40-42 NIV)

Day 40 Prayer:

“Lord Jesus it is hard to know what to say when you are lying dead in a tomb, and yet we have a glimmer of hope that maybe your story hasn’t ended but is just about to begin! Amen”

**Easter Sunday Reading:**

“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:18 NIV)

Easter Sunday Prayer:

“Lord Jesus thank you for all the good things that we have learnt about you this week. Thank you that you are alive today. Help us to follow you every day and to enjoy your gift of eternal life. Amen.”

