

All Age Worship at Home

(AAWH041)

The Big Story of God 41: “Crucified” Good Friday

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THE BIG STORY OF GOD 41

“Crucified” – Good Friday

Introduction:

This short act of worship has been prepared for people of all ages to take part in at home. Below you will find instructions and the things that you will need to collect beforehand in order to take part. Adapt the script as is suitable for your situation and the age of those taking part.

Through this Coronavirus outbreak, we are seeing “the story” of a pandemic and how it is affecting the nations. But above this story is God’s big story; His story of Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration that continues until the end of time.

These short acts of worship have been written to follow the major themes of “The Big Story of God”. There will be 53 themes taking us through a year beginning with Palm Sunday.

In order to accommodate the church’s festivals, you may find that some of the themes don’t run in a chronological order, but where it is possible, they will.

Instructions:

1. Find a place where you can gather together without interruption. You may choose to sit around a table or sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Choose one of you to read out the leader’s which are in black type. **Everyone** reads the words in **black bolded type**. Instructions are in purple type.
3. This Good Friday act of worship has a different format from the other ones in the series. There will be a number of Bible Reading and “Activity” sections and so it is longer.

Aim of act of worship:

To re-tell the events of Jesus’ arrest up to His death and burial.

What you will need to collect beforehand:

- A copy of the complete act of worship for the person leading and a copy of the **Appendix 1** of this act of worship for each person taking part (who is able to read.)
- A way for people to watch YouTube worship videos eg. Smart phone, tablet, laptop...
- A candle that is placed in the centre of the group and a way to light it.
- A Bible.
- Make a very simple cross out of paper or kitchen roll that will be laid on the table or on the floor where you are gathering.
- Print off the 2 pictures (ie the question mark and the “no entry” sign) in **Appendix 2** and cut along the dotted lines to separate them, or alternatively draw them yourself.
- A large nail, a small bowl of water, a bramble with thorns on it, an eraser, a small piece of paper, a pencil, a small card crown, a stone.
- Materials to make a simple tomb at the very end of the act of worship. (See page 9)

“Crucified” – Good Friday

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

We light this candle to remember that Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”* (Matthew 18:20)

**Lord Jesus,
We have come to worship You today.
Open our eyes afresh
to see what you went through for us.
Melt our hearts with your love
that we might love you more
Amen.**

During our time together we are going to re-tell the events of Jesus’ arrest up to His death and burial. Today is a day that is called Good Friday and yet lots of bad and sad things happened to Jesus. At the end of our worship time together, I wonder if you can tell me why today is called **Good** Friday, and not **Bad** or **Sad** Friday.

Song:

Choose a worship song that you enjoy singing together. Below are some ideas of YouTube songs with lyrics that you can sing along to:

1. “How deep the Father’s love for us” (Stuart Townend)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSWC7XozVgY>
2. “God so loved” (Ben Cantelon)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXFWYlwx_9c
3. “For God so loved” (John Hardwick – children’s song)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axvzjy8LjoA>

Opening thought:

When people love you, they give to you in all sorts of different ways.

- They may give you presents, or they may encourage you, or listen to you or help you when you are in difficulty.
- What do you think is the biggest gift that someone could give you?

Today we are going to be thinking about the biggest gift ever given by someone.

- The giver is Father God.
- The gift is His perfect Son Jesus, who laid down His life for us all.
- This happened on the very first good Friday in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago.

Lay out the simple paper cross on the table or floor where you are all sitting.

As we go through the story of what happened, we will put some items on our cross.

- At the end of our time together, we will see if you can tell me what each thing reminds you of.

As we lay things on the cross I will say:

“This is how we know what love is” and you will reply:

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Yesterday, we followed Jesus having a last meal with His disciples and then going into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

After Jesus had prayed, a large crowd came into the garden.

- Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples came up to Jesus and betrayed Him with a kiss.
- Jesus was arrested and all of his disciples ran away.

Jesus was taken to the house of the High Priest and Peter followed at a distance.

- As Jesus said he would, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.

Bible Reading 1:

You will need the ? mark picture.

The words below are a summary of the questions that the Chief Priests asked Jesus.

The chief Priests asked Jesus lots of questions.

- “Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” (Matthew 26:63)
- “Are you then the Son of God?” (Luke 22:70)
- but the sad thing is that they didn’t really want to hear Jesus’ answers, even though He told them the truth about who He was.
- They wanted to believe that Jesus was lying.

Let’s put our ? mark picture onto our cross to remind us that the Chief Priests asked Jesus lots of questions.

“This is how we know what love is”

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Bible Reading 2:

The second Bible reading is a compilation of **Matthew 27:11-26, Mark 15:2-15, Luke 23:1-25 and John 18:28-40** when Jesus stood before Pilate and Herod Antipas.

Scroll through the pictures that you will find in the website below, one picture at a time. You will find the words of the story to read at the bottom of each picture:

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-pilate/>

Exploring the Bible Reading 1:

You will need the large nail and the small bowl of water

a) Reflecting together

- Can you remember the name of the man who the crowds asked Pilate to release? (Barabbas)
- What bad thing had he done? (Murdered people)
- Why do you think the crowd wanted to release Barabbas and not Jesus?

b) Responding together

Shut your eyes for a moment and imagine that you are Barabbas, a very bad man.

- You have been sent to prison.

- You are waiting to be put to death on a cross, which is a terrible way to die.
- How are you feeling?

Now imagine that one day, the door of your prison is opened.

- A soldier comes in and tells you that the crowd outside have chosen you to be released instead of a man called Jesus.
- Jesus is going to be put to death and you're not.
- How do you feel now?

Open your eyes.

- Barabbas' punishment for the wrong things he had done was death.
- He was very fortunate that the crowd chose for him to be released.

The Bible tells us that we have all done wrong things. (Romans 3:23)

- We don't like to think about punishment do we?
- But the truth is that because we have done wrong things, we are separated from our Holy God.

When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for all the wrong things that we have done. He took our place.

- Let's put our nail on the cross to remind us that Jesus took our punishment.

"This is how we know what love is"

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Now, I wonder who the bowl of water reminds us of.

- Who washed their hands in the story?

Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd saying that he was innocent of putting Jesus to death.

- Do you think he was innocent?

Pilate thought that he could wash away his guilt with water, but that isn't possible.

- People cannot wash away their own sin and guilt.....only Jesus can do that.
- Let's put our bowl of water on the cross to remind us of Pilate trying to wash away his sin himself.

"This is how we know what love is"

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Song:

Choose a worship song that you enjoy singing together. Below are three ideas of YouTube songs with lyrics that you can sing along to:

1. "Amazing grace – my chains have gone" (Chris Tomlin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrwkCOUOiiI>

2. "What can wash away my sins?" (Robert Lowry and Beth Croft)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYjhGeAIG6k&list=RDBYjhGeAIG6k&start_radio=1

3. "The story of the cross" (Rend Collective kids)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1dmm9N-6bl&list=PLAx5Gc51ltaUusUdYK_rA98Rr6fP4Cd-Z&index=9

Bible Reading 3:

You will need the bramble with thorns on it.

The words below are a summary of what the soldiers did to Jesus recorded in **Matthew 27:27-31**

The soldiers took Jesus and put a scarlet robe on Him, because that was the colour worn by a king. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They mocked Jesus saying, "*Hail, king of the Jews!*"

As we pass this bramble around, feel how sharp the thorns are.

- Imagine how painful that must have been for Jesus to wear a crown made from thorns.
- Let's place the bramble on the cross to remind us that the soldiers put a crown of thorns upon Jesus' head.

"This is how we know what love is"

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Bible Reading 4:

The Bible reading is **Luke 23:32-34**. Begin with the words:

Jesus was led out to be crucified.

Exploring the Bible Reading 2:

You will need an eraser, a small piece of paper and a pencil.

While Jesus was hanging on the cross, He prayed an amazing prayer. He prayed: "*Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.*"

- Let's write down on this piece of paper (with pencil) all the people who had sinned against Jesus in our story so far.
 - Disciples *abandoning*,
 - Judas *betraying*,
 - Peter *denying*,
 - chief priests *lying*,
 - soldiers *mocking*,
 - Pilate *crucifying*
- When Jesus said, "Father forgive them" it was like He took out a great big eraser and rubbed out all the wrong things that they had done against Him.

Using the eraser, rub out what has been written on the paper

Jesus not only forgave the people all those years ago who had sinned against Him. He forgives us too.

- When we say sorry, it is like Jesus gets His big eraser out and rubs out our sins and gives us a fresh start.

Let's put our eraser on the cross to remind us that Jesus forgives us.

"This is how we know what love is"

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Shut your eyes for a moment. Imagine Jesus standing in front of you now.

- Is there anything that you have done that you need to say sorry to Him for?
- Is there anything that you have said that you need to say sorry to Him for?
- Hear Jesus say to you: "*I forgive you.*"

Bible Reading 5:

The Bible reading is **Luke 23:38-43**.

Scroll through the pictures that you will find in the website below, one picture at a time. You will find the words of the next part of the story to read at the bottom of each picture:

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-thief-cross/>

One of the thieves believed that Jesus was who He said He was, the Messiah, God's King.

- Because He believed, Jesus said that He could come into His Kingdom.
- Let's put our crown on the cross to remind us that Jesus welcomes believers into His kingdom.

"This is how we know what love is"

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Song to think about:

Use the song "At the cross" to give time to think about what Jesus did for us. The YouTube link is below:

"At the cross" (Chris Tomlin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ONVG8DaREA>

Bible Reading 6:

The words below are a summary of Jesus' last hours on the cross and His death. (**Matthew 27:51-52, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-30**)

After a few hours of hanging on the cross, darkness came over the land. Jesus said: "*I am thirsty.*" (John 19:28) After Jesus had received a drink He said, "*It is finished.*" (John 19:30) and then He died. **Blow out the candle you lit at the beginning of this act of worship.**

At the moment that Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Exploring the Bible Reading 3:

You will need the picture of the "no entry" sign and the stone

Can anyone tell me what this road sign means?

- It means, "No entry"
- What could happen if someone ignored this sign and drove down a road?

In the temple where the Jewish people worshipped God, there was a very big curtain, behind which was a room called the Holy of Holies.

The curtain was like a big “no entry” sign, stopping people from going into the very holy presence of God, where they couldn’t enter.

- When Jesus died on the cross the curtain in the temple was ripped in two from top to bottom.

Because Jesus had paid for sin on the cross, people could now go into Father God’s holy and loving presence without fear, simply by trusting in the name of Jesus.

- Isn’t that wonderful?

Let’s put the no-entry sign on the cross to remind us that the curtain in the temple was ripped in two and we can come into Father God’s holy presence.

“This is how we know what love is”

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

After Jesus had died, His body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in cloths and placed in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb.

Let’s put the stone on our cross to remind us that Jesus’ body was put in a tomb with a stone rolled in front of the entrance.

“This is how we know what love is”

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Memory Game:

We have put a lot of things on our cross today as we have told the story of what happened to Jesus on the first Good Friday. Let’s see if we can remember what these different things remind us of.

- 1) The ? mark picture reminds us that the Chief Priests asked Jesus lots of questions.
- 2) The nail reminds us that Jesus took our punishment.
- 3) The bowl of water reminds us of Pilate trying to wash away his sin himself.
- 4) The bramble reminds us that the soldiers put a crown of thorns upon Jesus’ head.
- 5) The eraser reminds us that Jesus forgives us.
- 6) The crown reminds us that Jesus welcomes believers into His kingdom.
- 7) The no-entry sign reminds us that the curtain in the temple was ripped in two and we can come into Father God’s holy presence.
- 8) The stone reminds us that Jesus’ body was put in a tomb with a stone rolled in front of the entrance.

“This is how we know what love is”

Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

So, can you tell me why today is called **Good** Friday, and not **Bad** or **Sad** Friday?

Prayers:

Let's pray and thank Jesus for what He has done for us:

Thank you Jesus for loving me.

Thank you that You gave up Your life for me.

Thank you for forgiving me for all the wrong things I have done.

Thank you that You welcome me into Your kingdom.

Thank you that I can know God as my Heavenly Father and come into His presence every day.

Amen.

Song:

Choose a song to finish with. Below are a few suggestions:

1. "When I survey" (Isaac Watts)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPdmzRHIMA>
2. "Man of sorrows" (Hillsong)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7ZJ5D5q54g>
3. "I love you" (Duggie Dug Dug)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlezMDAEuj4&list=RDje66ti1DQRk&index=2>

Activity:

Make a simple tomb (cave) out of Lego, Duplo, cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots etc. The tomb needs to be put on the table / floor where you will meet for worship on Easter Sunday.

Wrap up a peg with white kitchen roll and place it inside the tomb to represent Jesus' body. Put a large stone in front of the tomb's entrance. The stone could be either a real stone, or made from card, Lego, Duplo etc.

Appendix 1 – Words for everyone taking part “Crucified” – Good Friday

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

We light this candle to remember that Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”* (Matthew 18:20)

**Lord Jesus,
We have come to worship You today.
Open our eyes afresh
to see what you went through for us.
Melt our hearts with your love
that we might love you more
Amen.**

When items are laid on the cross:

“This is how we know what love is” and you will reply:
Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1John chapter 3 verse 16

Prayer:

**Thank you Jesus for loving me.
Thank you that You gave up Your life for me.
Thank you for forgiving me for all the wrong things I have done.
Thank you that You welcome me into Your kingdom.
Thank you that I can know God as my Heavenly Father and come into His presence every day.
Amen.**

Appendix 2 - Pictures

