



## **Craft Activity Pack**

**Aimed at families with Children**  
*but fun for all ages!*

## **WEEK 2**

**LENT 5 — Passiontide**  
**Good Friday & the Cross of Jesus**

## Passiontide

"Passiontide" refers to the last two weeks of Lent, when Christians reflect upon the Cross of Jesus and prepare for Good Friday. Traditionally in the Roman Catholic, some Orthodoxy, Lutheran and Anglo-Catholic churches, crucifixes and images were covered in veils (usually violet, the colour of vestments in Lent). At St Mary's, our visual focus is a simple wooden cross draped with a purple hanging and adorned with a crown of thorns.



The story of Good Friday is at the heart of our understanding of Jesus and his mission, that God loves the world so much that he sent Jesus to open heaven to us and forgive us our failings. In other words, Good Friday is Good because God chose to live among us, love us and forgive us our sins and ultimately call us to be a part of His Kingdom of love, joy and peace.

"Sin" is simply something we do that is wrong or bad. That is often something that can separate us from God. But God still loves us, that is why Jesus lived among us.

### **The Story of Good Friday**

The chief priests and teachers of the law believed Jesus was a criminal and needed to be punished. So, early Friday morning they took Him to Pilate, who was the governor at the time. Pilate came out from his palace and asked the people, "What did this man do wrong?" The people replied, "He doesn't pay taxes to Caesar! He stirs up trouble with all His teachings. He even claims to be the Christ!"

Pilate looked at Jesus and asked, "Is it true what the people are saying? Are you the King of the Jews?" "My Kingdom is not of this world, but yes, I am a king," Jesus answered. Pilate thought about that for a while. Then, he turned to look at the crowd and said, "I don't find this man to be a criminal. He has done nothing wrong!"

But the people insisted. "He is a criminal. He must be punished by death!" Later that morning, Pilate called all the people together again and said, "I have studied the situation well. I still find that Jesus has done nothing wrong. Nevertheless, I will punish Him for you, and then let Him go." Upon hearing this, the people demanded that Pilate release another prisoner instead. "Release Barabbas!" they said. "Then what should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked. The people all shouted, "Crucify Him!" Louder and louder they yelled, "Crucify Him, crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Finally, Pilate took Jesus into the palace. He didn't want Jesus to be put to death. He didn't believe Jesus did anything wrong. However, he also didn't want to make things worse by disagreeing with so many people. He could still hear the people shouting, "Crucify Him!" Pilate had his soldiers beat



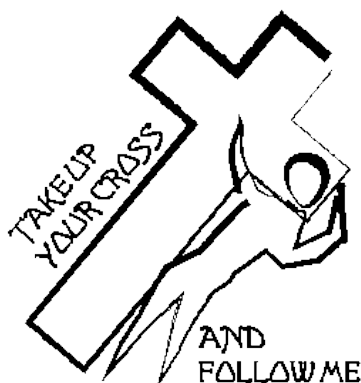


Jesus with whips. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. The soldiers yelled repeatedly, "Hail king of the Jews!" as they struck Jesus in the face. Then, the soldiers led Jesus to a place called Golgotha. A large crowd followed, many weeping for Jesus. The soldiers made Him carry a heavy wooden cross. Jesus grew tired and weak. The cross was so heavy He fell to the ground. The soldiers grabbed a man named Simon and made him carry the cross part of the way. When Jesus finally got to the place called Golgotha, the soldiers offered Him a drink of wine mixed with something to ease the pain, but Jesus refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to the cross, and crucified Him along with two other criminals. There was one to the right and another to the left. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, forgive

them, for they do not know what they are doing." The soldiers made fun of Jesus saying, "If He is the Christ, let Him save Himself!" But Jesus didn't come to save Himself. He came to save us.

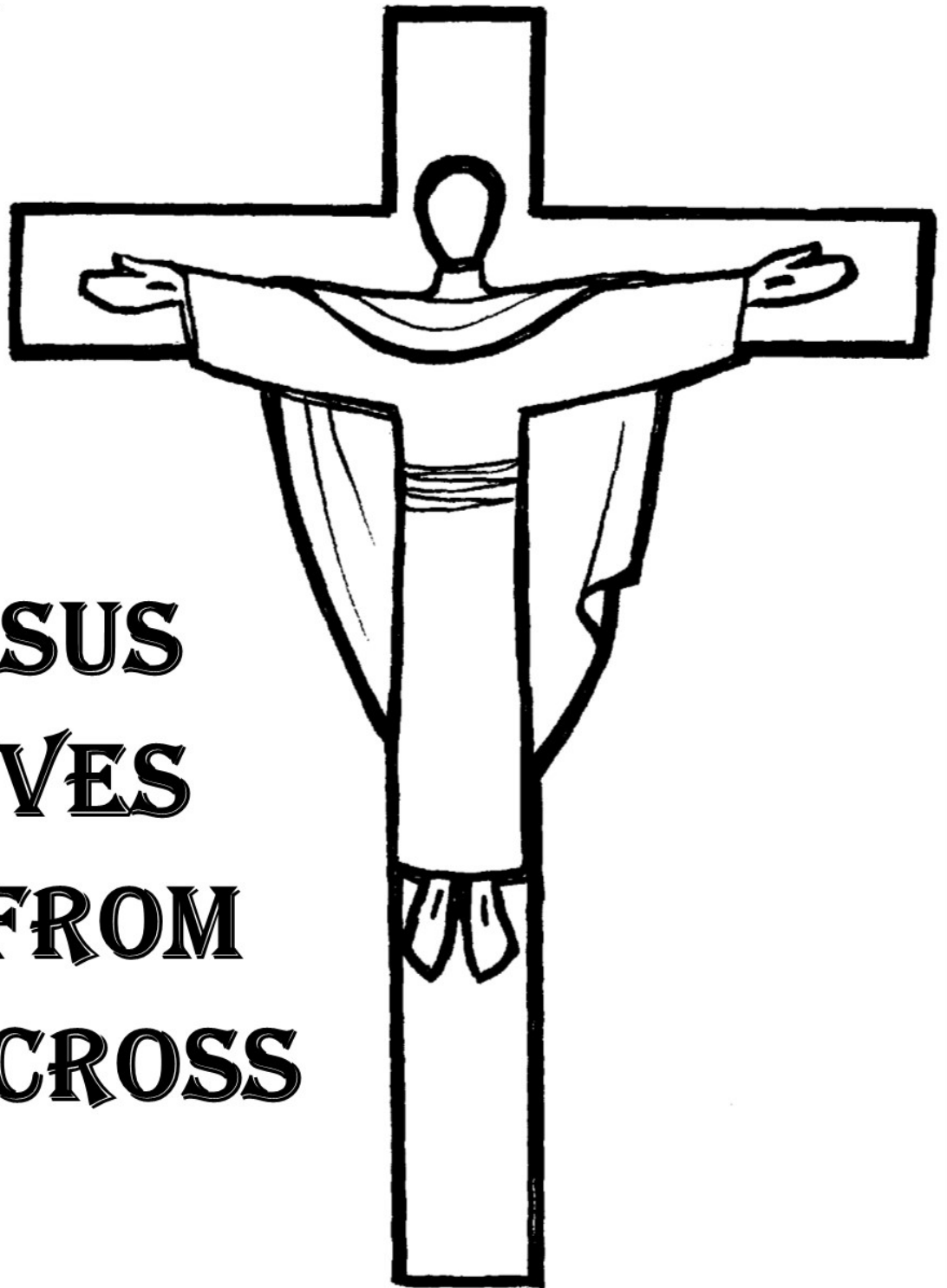
Just before noon, darkness came over the whole land. The sun actually stopped shining. It was dark for several hours. Then, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, I give to you my spirit," and He took His last breath. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple ripped from top to bottom and there was a large earthquake. Everyone was terrified. One of the soldiers who watched everything said, "Surely He was the son of God."

The Bible says, "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) The story of Jesus' death is very sad, but it is also very important. Jesus didn't do anything wrong - he was faithful to God his Father - without sin. He died on the cross for us. When we do something wrong, we should ask Jesus to forgive us, and He will.





GOOD  
FRIDAY



**JESUS  
LOVES  
US FROM  
THE CROSS**



Peter denies knowing Jesus



A girl in the crowd points at Peter shouting, 'You are one of his friends – I saw you!' Peter says he is not and the Cock crowed to remind Peter he had denied Jesus.

Luke 22:54-62



Jesus calls us to “take up our cross and follow Him.”

Matthew 16:24-26

## **Bible notes—Passion Sunday**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45

### **Old Testament: Ezekiel 37.1-14**

Even after the fall of Jerusalem, its inhabitants continued to believe that everything would work out well for them (Ezekiel 33.24). But the exiled community's hope eventually expired (v.11).

Ezekiel's startling vision imagines Israel's armies defeated in battle, their bones picked clean by vultures, bleached by the sun. At this low point, the word of the Lord sounds out as it did in the beginning, breathing life (Genesis 1; 2.7ff.). Here is a picture of the creative power of God turning piles of dry bones first into skeletons then corpses, before revitalising them and raising them to their feet (v.10). This is not the resurrection of dead individuals or the spiritual renewal of a dejected community, but the restoration of the people of Israel, reborn after exile and returned to their own land.

### **New Testament: Romans 8.6-11**

Paul believed that the world was governed by 'sin', 'law', 'flesh' and 'death', a powerful combination of forces that enslaved human beings and communities, divided them from each other, turned them in on themselves and dealt all kinds of death. His diagnosis would have been gloomy had he not believed that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ released greater powers strong enough to redeem the world: 'righteousness', 'Spirit', 'resurrection' and 'life' (see Romans 8.1ff.). 'Spirit' and 'resurrection' express hope for a new world in the prophets (e.g. Joel 2.28ff.; Isaiah 32.15; Ezekiel 37.1ff.). Paul believed that God's promised blessings were at last being realised, because the risen Christ is 'in you' through God's Christ-like Spirit (vv.9-10).

### **Gospel: John 11.1-45**

This is another Johannine narrative that mirrors the evangelist's community's concerns. Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary are named as if known to the audience. They are special to Jesus too. Yet when he hears of Lazarus' illness, he stays where he is, in a place of safety (John 10.31-40). He has already sensed danger from Jerusalem (7.1-10). As then, he changes his mind, but by the time he arrives it is too late.

There can be no mistaking Jesus' humanity here. He weighs up whether he should travel to Bethany. He is worried about his own and his disciples' safety. He is deeply moved by the sisters' disappointment, anger and grief. And he is touched by the presence of those from the village who console them. The death he finds in Bethany is much more than the culmination of Lazarus' illness. The family's standing in the community would have suffered as a result of their good friend's absence. Who can say how much of the sisters' hopes for their future security died with their brother?

And the story is about much more than Lazarus' return to life. Lazarus' resurrection is a sign of Jesus as 'the resurrection and the life' (v.25). It also anticipates the general 'resurrection of the dead' – in popular belief this was associated with Israel being set free from foreign oppression. Is it any wonder that the authorities are unsettled by popular interest in the revived Lazarus (11.45ff; 12.9-11), not least by the crowds drawn to Jesus when he finally arrives in Jerusalem (12.17)?

The theme of Jesus' physical absence threads throughout this Gospel (7.33ff.; 13.33ff.; 14). He fails to appear when his anxious friends summon him, just as he is missing when his disciple-friends are worried by the synagogue's hostility (14.1,27-28; 16.2-3,19-22). John 11 can be read as a parable by those who want to know where Jesus is when life falls apart. Like the earlier story in 4.46-54, it suggests that he is present even in his absence. We can imagine him carrying his concern for the Bethany family from the moment he hears about his dear friend's illness, even though he is not able to act immediately out of concern for safety. Jesus' faith carries him through the risks and dangers of the journey to Bethany and into the place of loss and death (vv.4,9-15,25), and the words he shouts into Lazarus' tomb are creative and life-giving. If Jesus brings life in these circumstances, how much more is the crucified and exalted Lord the ground of hope in the face of every anxiety and variety of death.

### **The links between the readings**

In Ezekiel, the Spirit of God and the word of the prophet revitalise hope-less Israel. Paul draws on the prophet's images of resurrection and Spirit in the new order Christ has brought, and John highlights the resurrection power of Jesus' word.





## St Mary's Church, Thorpe

### Bible study

### The Raising of Lazarus - John 11: 1-45

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### Questions to consider:

1. Who were Jesus's 3 friends at Bethany?
2. Who was ill?
3. What did Jesus say would happen because of the illness?
4. How many days in total did it take for Jesus to get to his friends' house?
5. Who did Martha say she believed Jesus to be?
6. How did Jesus respond to Mary and the other mourners?
7. What did Jesus say to Lazarus, and what happened?
8. How does it feel when we are sad and worried for a long period of time, which does not have a clear end?
9. How do we feel knowing Jesus weeps with us when we are sad?
10. What does Jesus promise us about life and death?

### Finish with this prayer:

Lord God, thank you that you sent Jesus to live our life, and so know what it is to be sad, worried or grieving. Thank you that you hold our hand and cry with us. But thank you also that you are the source of love and life, and that you promise us eternal life with you, who has beaten death. Bless us and keep us when we are sad or struggling. **Amen.**



Name .....



**John 11.1-45**

Jesus brings Lazarus back to life.



## Family time

**Talk** Do we ever think 'If only Jesus were here'?

**Do** Think of ways in which you can help bring Jesus closer to people you know who need to feel his love.

**Pray** Write down the names of the people you have thought of and leave them somewhere you can all see in your house. Each time you see the list, ask God to show you how to bring Jesus to them.

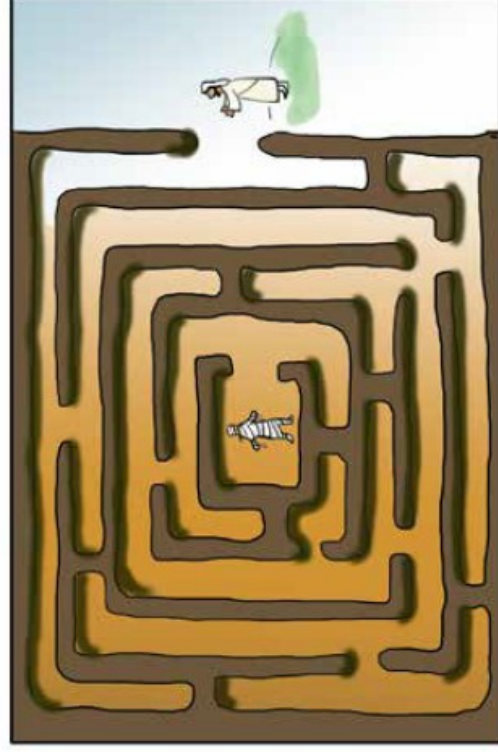
## Activity time



Can you draw Jesus calling Lazarus, and Lazarus coming out of the tomb?



Show Lazarus the way out from the tomb when he hears Jesus calling him to come out.



# ROOTS children's Sheet

29 March – 4 April 2020



Can you work out what these jumbled words from today's story should really say?

rMya

areydp

htaaMr

esnot

bomt

ilspdsce

eirunrecstro

araszLu

file

puwnra



# Mary anoints Jesus feet



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Mary and her perfume.

You can find it in your Bible in:

**John 12 v 1–8**

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



## Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

- *What did Mary do with her perfume?*
- *What are some of your favourite smells?*

Mary's perfume was very very expensive, that is why people were so shocked that she gave it to Jesus. But Mary understood how special Jesus was and how precious it was to spend time with Him.

Sometimes there is a cost to spending time with Jesus, we might have to give up doing something else that we also enjoy, but time with Jesus is precious and important

A question for children to ask adults

*What are some of the things you do to spend time with Jesus and show Him how special He is to you?*

## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that we are never alone because you are ALWAYS WITH US.

Thank you that we can spend time with you and draw close to you.

We pray for those in the world who are feeling alone at the moment that they would know that you are with them.

Amen

## Family Activity 1

You will need: A selection of items from around the home – perfume, soap, grass, food items etc. Blindfolds (scarves)

Collect together a selection of items from around your house and garden. Children should take it in turns to smell the items whilst wearing a blindfold – can they guess what they are smelling?

They could be nice smells e.g. chocolate, not so nice smells e.g. dirty socks or familiar smells e.g. a parent's perfume.

Why not wonder together what Mary's perfume smelt like?





## A verse to remember

Psalm 141 v 2

**"Let my prayer be like incense placed before you."**

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

In the Old Testament temple, incense was used. The sweet smelling smoke rising up reminded everybody that their prayers were travelling to God. Our prayers and worship are a sweet smell to God. God loves to hear our prayers.

## Family Activity 2

You will need: Paper and pens

### Design a perfume for God.

We know that God loves the smell of our prayers and worship. Draw a bottle shape and then write or draw inside some of the ways we can worship God that would be a sweet smell to Him.

Remember we can worship in so many different ways, not just by singing or dancing but by living our lives in a way that pleases God, being kind, sharing, encouraging and loving others too.



## Helping Older Children

*Your child may have heard that the virus is causing many deaths around the world, do not be afraid of talking to your children about death. Lent is our journey to Easter, a time to remember that Jesus defeated death and rose again.*

### ***It is alright to be sad***

In the Bible we see Jesus weep over a friend's death. It is alright to be sad when we think about death or when somebody we know has died. God is with us even when we are sad.

### ***This isn't how God planned the world***

This wasn't how the world was supposed to be. God's original plan was for a world with no sickness, no pain, nobody hurting and everybody living forever with him. It is because of sin in the world that it is not like that.

### ***When we die, we have a new life in heaven***

Even though it is hard to lose people, God has made a way through Jesus that everybody can become his friend, be forgiven for their sins and live for eternity with God. In heaven there is no pain, sickness, sadness or death.

### ***God is bigger!***

God is bigger than anything we are scared or worried about, bigger than sickness or death. When we are sad or scared or worried we can call out to God. God is always with us and always hears us. It's good to talk to grown ups who we trust too, share how we are feeling so that they can pray with us.

## Active Prayer

Open a door or window from your house and send out some prayers into your community.

Spray some perfume out of the window or if you have bubble mixture you could blow bubbles down the street.

Just as the scent of the perfume travels or the bubbles float down the street pray that God's peace and comfort would travel out to your neighbours and community.



# Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."  
John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	E	S	L	E	E	P	M	P
Q	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	B	D	F	L	Y	U
L	J	O	A	S	O	W	D	Y	L	I	F	E	V	L
F	N	I	K	T	W	E	I	X	L	G	T	O	M	B
X	Y	K	S	C	Q	E	S	F	O	E	D	Z	N	R
P	R	A	Y	E	D	P	C	F	V	R	E	E	E	D
B	K	Q	W	E	S	I	I	A	E	C	A	H	V	X
G	L	F	K	K	N	N	P	O	A	V	T	C	V	R
R	L	A	Z	U	K	G	L	G	T	O	H	G	A	E
I	W	O	H	F	E	E	E	Z	R	R	H	H	V	R
S	F	C	R	X	J	W	S	B	J	T	T	E	S	A
E	H	W	Y	Y	N	Y	B	N	S	R	I	U	W	A
L	W	B	P	O	M	A	R	Y	A	L	S	H	M	K
G	C	Q	L	W	H	J	S	M	E	E	R	A	X	G
B	H	A	E	U	U	Q	H	B	J	S	I	C	K	V

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEeping	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

# I can pray a rainbow...

Genesis 9 v 13

"I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as the sign of the agreement between me and the earth"



God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us, a reminder that God keeps his promises. Here are some rainbow inspired activities for you and your family to explore together.

## Rainbow prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find something of each of the colours below. Here is a prayer you can say for each colour as you find them.



### RED

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.



### ORANGE

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.



### YELLOW

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.



### GREEN

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.



### BLUE

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for the NHS, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.



### PURPLE

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.



### PINK

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.

## Make an encouragement rainbow

You will need: Paper and pens or any other craft materials you have around the house

All around the country people are putting rainbows in their windows to encourage people in their street.

Use whatever craft materials you have in your house to decorate a rainbow and put it in your window where your neighbours can see it.



## Some promises to share

Here are some more of God's promises from the Bible. Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse.

**Joshua 1:9** - Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the LORD, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

**Mark 11:24** - So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

**Romans 8:28** - We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.

