

Jesus of Nazareth

Read and color the story of Jesus' death and rising.



If Jesus came to your town, how would you welcome him?

shouted

esus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. When they got to the Mount of Olives, Jesus told two disciples to go ahead to a village. Jesus explained that there was a young donkey tied up in the village. Jesus said, "Untie the donkey and bring it to me. If anyone asks why you are doing this, answer 'The Lord needs it.' They will understand." The disciples did as Jesus asked. Jesus sat on the donkey and rode down the path from the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem. Crowds of people saw him and shouted

for joy. They were excited! The people waved palms and shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord." There was a lot of happy noise.

Some religious leaders, called Pharisees, did not like the noise. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, order your disciples to be quiet." Jesus answered, "I cannot do that. Even if the people were quiet, the stones would shout out their true words."

Mark 11:15-18

Jesus was angry about what the people were doing in the temple. In his anger, Jesus disrupted everything.



It is important to be angry in some situations. What makes you angry?

esus went to the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was a place to pray, worship, and come close to God. But Jesus saw people buying and selling doves to use as offerings to God. Other people were trading Roman coins for Jewish coins. The temple was like a marketplace! The people seemed more concerned about business than paying attention to God. Jesus was angry. He turned over the tables. He pushed over the chairs. Jesus said, "Don't you remember? God's house is a place to pray. You have turned it into

a den of robbers. This is not what the temple is supposed to be."

When the chief priests and temple leaders heard what Jesus had done in the temple, they were worried. They didn't like what Jesus was teaching. They especially didn't like that crowds of people listened to Jesus and agreed with him. The leaders wanted the people to agree with them. The chief priests and temple leaders decided Jesus should go awayforever. They made a plan.

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-16

Jesus showed his disciples what it means to serve each other by washing their feet.



Why do you think Simon Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?

any people in Jerusalem were happy to see Jesus, but not all of them. Jesus was in danger. He knew he would soon leave this world and go to God. Jesus ate one last meal with his disciples.

While they were eating, Jesus got up. He wrapped a towel around his waist and put water into a bowl. Jesus started washing his disciples' feet to tell the disciples he loved them and to show them how to care for each other. Simon Peter said, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus said, "Right now you don't understand, but later you will." Simon Peter said, "Oh no! You will never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you won't belong to me." Jesus washed all the disciples' feet, even Judas' feet. Judas is the one who would bring the soldiers to Jesus.

Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have done? This is how you should live. This is how you should love. Do what I have done. God will bless you."



Jesus washed the disciples' feet to show them what it means to serve. How do you serve or help others?

Jesus Eats the Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:1-20

Jesus gave bread and wine to his disciples. He said, "Do this to remember me." When people share bread and drink from the cup, Jesus is with them.

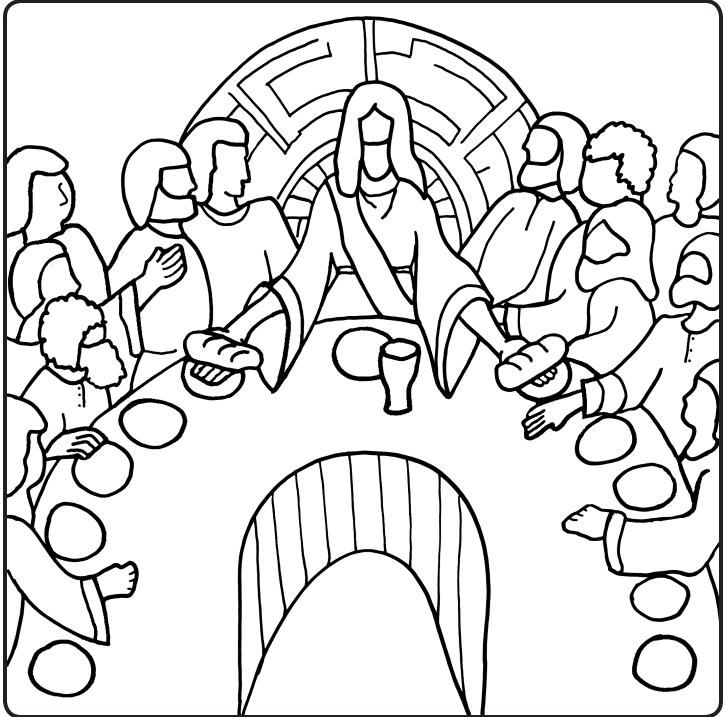
Think carefully: When do you hear these words in worship?

Temple leaders were angry. They did not like that people listened to Jesus. The temple leaders wanted to find Jesus and arrest him. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, made it easy for them. Judas went to the temple leaders and asked, "What will you give me if I show you where Jesus is? I will betray him for you." The temple leaders agreed to give Judas silver coins if he took them to Jesus.

It was almost time to celebrate Passover, to remember when God saved the

people who passed through the Red Sea. Jesus sent his disciples, Peter and John, to prepare the Passover meal.

While they were eating, Jesus said, "I have looked forward to eating the Passover meal with you." Then Jesus took bread, gave God thanks and said, "Eat this bread. It is my body." Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and said, "Drink this. This is my blood. Do this to remember me." The disciples were confused. What could all this mean?



Imagine you were at this table. What would you ask Jesus?

Jesus Prays in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

After eating together, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden on a mountain. Jesus prayed.



Talk about what Jesus might have felt when he saw his disciples sleeping.

hen Jesus shared the bread and cup with his disciples, they were confused. They didn't know what it meant for Jesus' body to be bread or for the wine in the cup to be his blood. The disciples didn't understand how sharing bread and the cup would remind them of Jesus. They became even more confused when Jesus said, "One of you will be disloyal to me. One of you will betray me." Jesus knew someone close to him who would tell the temple leaders where to find him.

When the meal was over, Jesus and the disciples walked to a garden called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. It was evening and the disciples were tired. Jesus said, "Stay here and stay awake. Wait for me while I pray." Jesus walked on. He was extremely upset. Jesus prayed to God, "Please stop what is going to happen to me. But if this is what you want and what has to happen, I will do it."

The disciples had fallen asleep.

Jesus is Arrested

Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-52; John 18:1-8

While Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, soldiers arrested Jesus. The disciples ran away.



Why do you think the disciples ran away?

Jesus was frightened of what was about to happen to him. While he was praying, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, came. Jesus loved Judas. Jesus ate with Judas. Jesus washed Judas' feet. Jesus shared the bread and cup with Judas.

Soldiers with swords and torches followed Judas. Judas already told them, "The man I kiss is Jesus, the one you want." Judas came close to Jesus, greeted him and kissed him. Immediately the soldiers arrested Jesus even though Jesus had done nothing wrong. Now the disciples who had been sleeping woke up. They ran away.

In the morning, the chief priests and temple leaders had a meeting. They decided to take Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the government's leader. Pilate listened to their complaints about Jesus, but he did not think Jesus had done anything wrong. Pilate thought the temple leaders were jealous of Jesus.

Jesus is Crucified

Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23; John 18:28-19:42

Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, he was hung on a cross to die. It was terrible.



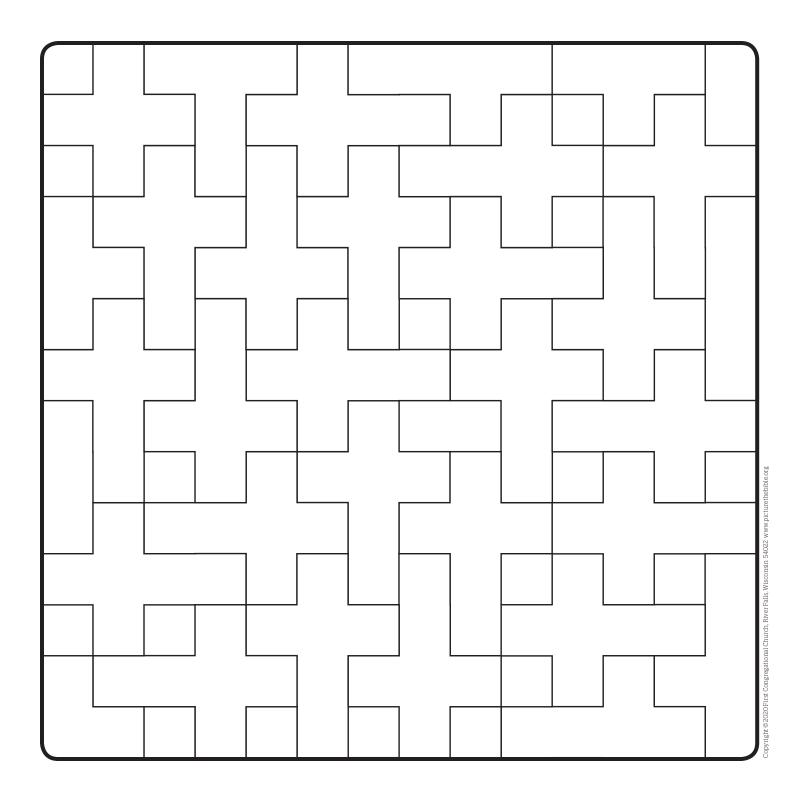
When Jesus died, the land was covered in darkness. Why do you think that happened?

Dilate didn't know what to do with Jesus, but people shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him! They wanted Jesus to be gone forever.

Pilate did as the people asked. He ordered the soldiers to beat Jesus and put him on a cross. Soldiers put a crown of sharp thorns on Jesus' head and hung him on a cross between two men who had broken the law. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God why have you forgotten me?" Jesus also said, "Forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

At noon, darkness covered everything, even the sun, and it stayed dark for three hours. Jesus died.

A Roman soldier who watched Jesus die said, "This man belonged to God!" Later, they took Jesus' body down from the cross and gave it to Joseph, from a town called Arimathea. Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in cloth and laid it in a tomb. They rolled a heavy rock in front of the tomb. Jesus' mother, Mary, and Jesus' followers wept. Their hope for everything to be new and different died with Jesus.



Color the crosses. How many can you find?

Jesus is Risen

Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12

Some women discovered that Jesus' body was gone. An angelmessenger told them Jesus had risen. God gave him new life. Alleluia!



On Easter, Christians greet each other by saying: "Christ has risen!" The response is "Christ has risen indeed!" Try it.

arly in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to Jesus' tomb. They brought spices to put on his body. They wondered, "Who will roll away the stone so we can get into the tomb?" When they got to the tomb, the stone was already moved. They walked in and saw a man dressed in white. The women were afraid. The man said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. Look! He is not here. He has been raised! Now, go and tell Jesus' disciples the good news!"

The eleven disciples and other followers could not believe the good news that women told them. They thought it sounded like a made-up story. Peter wanted to see for himself, so he went to the tomb and looked in. He saw the linen cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in, but Jesus' body was gone. Peter went home amazed by what had happened.



What is the Good News the women were supposed to tell the disciples?

Jesus in **Emmaus**

Luke 24:13-35

The risen Jesus appears to two travelers on their way to a village called Emmaus.

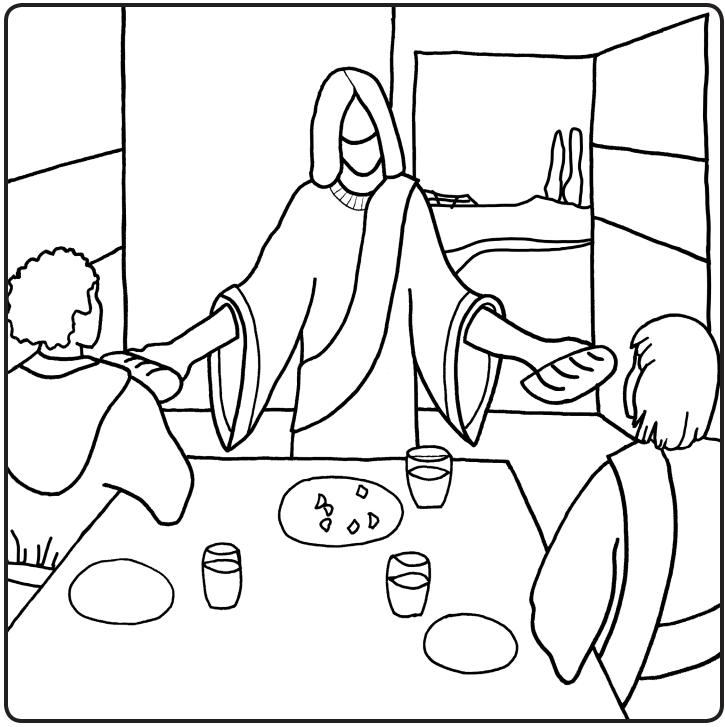


If you could talk and walk with Jesus, what would you talk about?

he day Jesus was raised, two followers walked to Emmaus Jesus joined them but the travelers didn't recognize him. Jesus said, "What are you talking about?" A traveler answered, "You must be the only one who isn't talking about all that happened!" "What do you mean?" Jesus said. The travelers said, "Everything with Jesus! He was crucified. We thought he was the one to save Israel. Now some women tell us an angel-messenger said Jesus is alive. We don't know what to think."

Jesus answered, "Don't you understand? Isn't this what the prophets said would happen? The Messiah would suffer to be powerful?" The travelers said, "It's getting late. Come stay with us."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then the travelers recognized Jesus, but he had vanished! They said, "Didn't you feel your heart burning while he was talking? Our eyes didn't see him, but our hearts knew it was him!" They left to tell others that Jesus came to them.

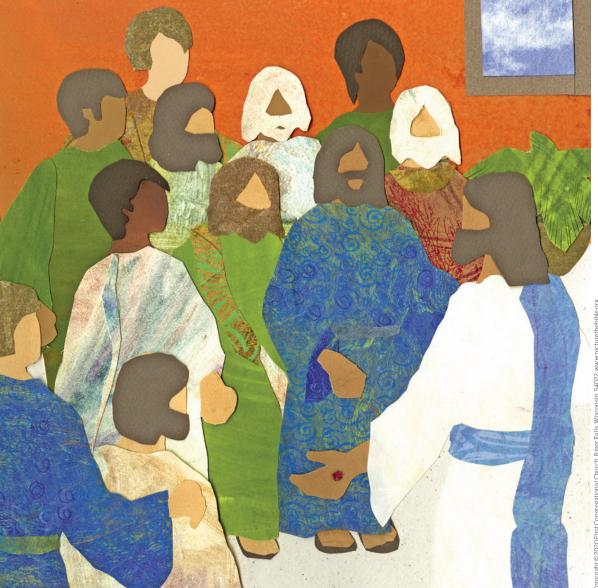


What would it be like for your heart to burn with excitement?

Jesus with Thomas

John 20:19-29

The risen Jesus appears to the disciples and invites Thomas to see and touch him.



No one knows if Thomas touched Jesus or not. What do you think?

fter Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples were together in a house with the doors locked. Jesus came and stood with the disciples. He greeted them saying, "Peace be with you." Then he held out his hands so Thomas could see the sores from the nails. Jesus said to Thomas, "Look at me. Touch my side. Put your finger here. Don't be filled with unbelief. Believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you believe because you have seen me? Because

of you, people who come later will be blessed." Jesus knew that people who live after Thomas will not see him directly, but they will still see Jesus because Thomas saw for them.

Jesus appeared to his disciples many times after he rose from the dead. He ate with them. He told people to love as he loved. He called people to follow him. Jesus did so many things that if they were all written down there would not be room in the world to hold all the books

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