

# ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.30. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

## BIBLE Matthew 28.1-10

### Warm up 5 mins W E

Ask the young people how their day began. How did they share the joy of Easter morning with those at home? How have people in church greeted them this morning? Does it make a difference to their day when they receive a joyful greeting?

### Comparing notes 10 mins W E

Read Matthew 28.1-10 together, and then read John's version of the resurrection: John 20.1-18. Ask the young people to discuss the differences between the two versions. Which one do they prefer and why?

### Questions to discuss

- What sort of emotions did the two women go through during the course of the first Easter morning?
- How do we share our own good news stories?
- How can we share the joy of Easter in a world where news is driven by speculation and personal opinion?

## CONNECT

### In the news 10 mins W E

Display some recent newspapers. Look together at the lead stories: are they stories of joy? Ask the young people to go through the papers in small groups and draw 'P' for positive and 'N' for negative next to each story. Is there a balance of positive and negative news? What would the newspapers look like if they ran a story on that first Easter morning?

### The emoji Bible 10 mins E

Invite the young people to use their mobile phones to look at emojis and either draw them on paper or use them within a message on their phones to create a storyboard. Find suitable emoji images to represent each key point and create a sequence of emojis to tell the Easter story. When everyone has finished, invite people to share their stories with each other.

**WEB** PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news

## Listen

**WEB** See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.  
Best news ever, MercyMe on *Lifer*  
The passion, Hillsong worship on *There is more*  
This is amazing grace, Phil Wickham on *The ascension*

## EXPLORE

### Easter eggs 10 mins W E A

Share out some plain chocolate eggs. Decorate them using readymade icing, and leave to dry. Talk about why we give each other chocolate eggs at Easter and the symbolism of new life. When dry, place the eggs in paper bags and tie with ribbon. The young people can share the eggs with people they care about.

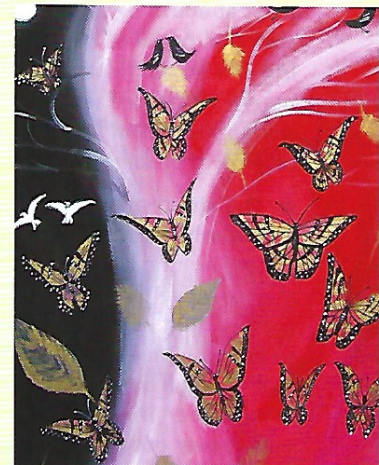
### Easter breakfast 10 mins E S

Bring and share a simple breakfast (e.g. croissants), or cook together with the young people, e.g. fried egg sandwiches. They can serve one another. Sit around a table together, and as you eat, think of the first Easter morning. Ask the group to imagine they have experienced that morning and then share the joys of that discovery.

### Picture pointers **WEB**

Questions for reflection

- ▶ How does this image speak of joy?
- ▶ What does the word 'joy' mean to you?
- ▶ How do you share the joy of Easter?



## PRAY

### Chocolate prayers 5 mins E S

Give out foil-wrapped chocolate eggs. Ask everyone to unwrap their egg carefully and save the foil. As you read the story again, invite them to eat their egg and enjoy the taste. Then ask the young people to create a cross using their foil wrapper. Reflect together on the journey from the cross to the joy of Easter Day.

### Rag tree 5 mins E S

Prepare some branches secured in a pot and strips of coloured cloth. Gather the group around the 'tree'. Talk about how God's grace weaves through our lives, in the choices we make, in what we say and do. Invite everyone to tie a rag onto the tree for every person or situation where they can see God's grace at work, bringing them joy. Then, join hands and share the Grace (words on **WEB**).

## Live your faith

Share the joy of Easter with your friends using your emoji story. **E A**