

Touching points

John 20.1-18 Easter Day

This familiar passage recounts the joy and mystery of the first Easter morning. It happens at a time of great uncertainty for the followers of Jesus – with their teacher dead the disciples must have felt adrift. In their grief, three visit Jesus' tomb and find him gone. Two leave, believing the body has been taken, but Mary remains, perhaps looking for something to hold onto in this time of upheaval, and Jesus is revealed to her. She runs to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive.

This week we enter the mystery of Easter.

Prepare your young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

What times of uncertainty have affected your life? Where have you looked for hope – has the church been a touchpoint for you?

In the midst of exam preparation and revision, the future can seem like a mystery at times and Easter offers time for reflection. These multisensory activities will help young people make connections between the story, themselves and their experience, and create some touching points to sustain them in the months ahead.

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

GATHER

It's a mystery 5 mins WE

You will need: access to the internet.

- Ask the young people to share any mysteries they have heard of, or look some up on their phones, and watch the clip (see [WEB](#)).
- Discuss what stories such as these teach us, not only about the wider world but also about ourselves.
- Ask: What do you do when you encounter mystery? Are you curious, or does it make you feel uncomfortable?

First impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- How does this painting of a cave convey a sense of mystery?
- How would you describe the mystery of Easter?
- What does entering into the mystery of Easter mean to you?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Easter Day Year B: Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; John 20.1-18.

Rank the characters 5 mins WE

- Read through the passage, and as you do so, note the different characters that appear, and ask the young people to rank them in order of significance.
- Play the track 'Behold He Comes', Rend Collective on *Choose to Worship*.
- Review: Have the young people selected the same order? If not, why not? Where would they put themselves in the story?

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

Scavenger hunt 15 mins ES

Consider the significance of the empty tomb

You will need: items found locally.

- Ask the young people to create the empty tomb and garden together using 'scavenged' items either from within your space, e.g. draping coats over a table to create a tomb, or ideally gathered from outside, e.g. rocks, sticks, moss, leaves.
- Ask the group why the mystery of the empty tomb is important to this story. Challenge them to find and use some more objects to emphasise the mystery of this passage.

Make a mirror box 10 mins ES

Explore how the mystery of Easter brings renewed hope

You will need: instructional video (see [WEB](#)); cardboard boxes, scissors, mirror tiles, sticky tape.

- Watch the video and work with the young people to make your own mirror boxes.
- Discuss that with Jesus gone there was great pain, but with his resurrection came hope. Ask the young people, in pairs, to talk of a time they have experienced hope in a difficult situation.

Folding the cloth 10 mins ES

Use the symbolism for ritual prayer

You will need: rectangular pieces of fabric (one per person), instructions (on [WEB](#)).

- Recall the sight of the folded grave clothes inside the tomb, as you give out the pieces of fabric. Invite everyone to fold their fabric into a triangle following the instructions, one step at a time.
- Invite the young people to take turns to read a line of the prayer (on [WEB](#)) as you fold.
- Play the track 'What a Saviour', HTB Worship, as you pray.

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

- Squeeze two blobs of different coloured paint onto a piece of card, one for each young person. Explain that in the passage we can read the facts of the story, but it also contains great mystery. At this point, invite the young people to mix the colours together.
- Emphasise that part of the mystery is the existence of joy and pain together, just as the painting they have created is a blending of colour. It is a story of mystery and hope. Ask: Just as the paint stains your fingers, the mystery of the Easter story is in you: what does that mean for you this week?

Go with God 24/7

Choose a character from the story to focus on this week, and do some research to find out more about them. How does this help you better understand this particular passage? **WE**

As you finish, give out the **ROOTS at home** resource [WEB](#), to encourage faith at home.