

This booklet is compiled
for Re:Access and YG.GIG

When Easter is over we are going to spend some time looking back at Holy Week and what was going on. If you found any of the booklet difficult then bring your questions to RE:Access after Easter or talk to your parents.

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Holy Week: Daily Booklet

Re:Access 2005



Start Date: Monday 21st march

Instructions

- **These pages contain 6 daily studies which should take about 10 minutes each**
- **If you want to (or need to) you can do the bible reading and scene setter but you don't have to, you need a copy of the gospel of John, or a full Bible (no street, sorry)**
- **The booklet is for you, it is your choice to use it or put it on a shelf gathering dust**
- **Read through the whole study except the prayer, do the bible reading if you wish, and then try and give yourself a moment to think about what it says and say the prayer.**

**What do you have
that is really smelly?**

The anointing at Bethany (John 12:1-11)



Scene Setting

Find something that is really smelly, a candle, a bubble bath, a cosmetic. Think about the smell, how it fills the room, the house. How it overpowers other smells, making it impossible to ignore

Things to think about

Think about the smell that must have been made by the perfume poured over Jesus' feet. Think how the smell must have been associated with embalming and death.

Think about the relationship between Mary and Jesus, with her at his feet, aware of how he was talking about his death. Imagine how she must have felt in a room full of people denying it was going to happen.

Think about your relationship with Jesus as we approach good Friday and all it means. Think about how Mary gave Jesus a gift of perfume that may have cost all she had, how it was misunderstood, how would you feel if your precious gift had been so misunderstood.

Take a moment to put yourself in Mary's shoes, imagine having a conversation with Jesus only the two of you can hear...what does he say, what do you say?

Prayer

Holy Jesus, your presence fills my life with sweetness. Holy Jesus, the cost of your sacrifice amazes me. Holy Jesus, what can I offer you? All I have and am, all that I will do and be, but above all, my attention, my willingness to wait and watch besides you, my love. Please accept them.

Amen

**Empty, nothingness,
stillness, finally.**

The burial of Jesus (John 19:38-42)



Scene setting

Take a stone, doesn't matter how big or small, and think of the stone that covered the walls of the tomb, the stone that sealed it. Keep the stone in your hand.

Things to think about

The day is ending and Jesus' body is taken down from the cross. Again the smells of Monday's perfume are present as Jesus is placed into the cool tomb with crisp clean linen wrapped round him.

Think about the feelings of the disciples, the women, the people who believed that Jesus was innocent of crime. The regrets, the loss, the failures.

As you see the stone laying next to the tomb go in and place your failures, your regrets, your past loves, and losses next to the body. Leave them for Jesus who will care for them for you.

Sit in silence for a moment and imagine the silence that must have fallen as the crowd made their way home, the disciples hid in houses, and the women's weeping was no longer heard

Prayer

Lord you know the darkness of the tomb, the loss of sense of feeling, you know what it is to die. I offer to you all that is dead in me. The things in my life I can not mend. I lay them with you. I know that after a long time of rest, of pain and silence you will rise again. I wait with you for the celebration of tomorrow's dawn.

Amen

Just twigs? Or something more?

The death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)



Scene setting

Find some twigs and shape them into a circle, put them on the floor or table in front of you to represent the crown Jesus wore.

Things to think about

Recreate the scene in your mind, picture three crosses and men being crucified, see the crowd, the soldiers. What sounds do you hear? What voices? Feel the heat of the sun. What smells are you aware of? Look up, see Jesus on the cross. Think about how much that crown of thorns must have hurt, think about the other pain Jesus is going through. Physical pain, spiritual pain. Look at your crown of twigs as a starting point.

If you still have the picture of the scene where are you; Think about who you are in the picture, are you with the crowd, standing looking from a distance, standing by the cross with the soldiers?

Look at your circle of twigs, it's there to signify death, but it can also be seen as the beginnings of a bird's nest, from which life will emerge.

Prayer

Jesus, son of the most high God, whose love for me knows no limits, who died the worst death that human beings can know, tortured, mocked, abandoned. I stand and look at your cross in awe. Just as you finish your work on earth, complete your work in my life. Open me to you and the holy spirit. Let nothing hold me back from following you.

Amen

When did you last plant a seed?



Scene Setting

When did you last plant a seed? Remember it's color, it's shape, the texture of the earth, the grit, the stones, the soil.

Things to think about

Jesus said a seed must be buried to grow, it's true, what else did he mean? Think about how we must sometimes be buried to come back as something new, what do you have to give to God to be buried, are you willing to give yourself?

Picture yourself as a new plant, a plant tended by God, how will God change you, prune you, train you. How can we let him do something that seems so destructive?

Prayer

Lord Jesus. By giving yourself to death you were glorified by God, I praise you for the love, peace, and trust you had in your father's plan. I pray you give me some of that love, trust and peace, so I may be glad to follow you where you go, to leave behind the things that stop me from being a Christian 24/7.

Amen

What kind of bread do you like?

Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal (John 13:21-32)



Scene setting

Try and get some bread, perhaps if you are lucky you could find a nice hot roll straight from a bakery that is still warm, keep it with you as you do your study.

Things to think about

Jesus sat down to supper with friends, he washed their feet (a sign of obedience). Think of the atmosphere, the tension. Imagine how Judas felt having his feet washed by the man he was to betray, sharing food with him and him friends.

Imagine Judas' feelings as Jesus handed him the piece of bread and revealed to everyone that Judas would be the betrayer.

Have you ever betrayed a friend, have you ever been tempted to? Where have you betrayed God, where have you chosen your path and not his. Ask God for forgiveness this week for those things you have hidden from him

Acknowledge that Christ was betrayed by those he loves and that we share in the joy but also the betrayal.

Prayer

Jesus you allowed Judas to be your friend even though you knew he would betray you to your death. I too have weaknesses that lead me to betray, deny and abandon you. Yet you include me too among your friends. Forgive me and help me to forgive myself.

Amen

Who do you let touch your smelly feet?



Scene setting

At the end of today look at your feet, go on take off those socks and look at them. Who would you let touch them. Imagine kneeling before someone and them letting you wash their feet. You could sit with your feet in a bowl of water during the study and then look at them once your done.

Things to think about

The tenderness with which Jesus treats his friends at his last meal with them - the selflessness that allows him to be more concerned with their needs than his own. Think about all the things Jesus must have been struggling with just before the events of good Friday

Put yourself into the picture, try and imagine eating and drinking with friends around the table, reclining on the couches, reaching across the table, chatting with the people around you.

When Jesus comes round the room washing feet, imagine him coming to you, what do you say to him, how does he respond?

Prayer

Loving Jesus, you are serving the comfort of your friends even when you are about to die. Even when we are about to run away from you. I want to reverse the roles, I want to serve you. But I can have no part in it unless I receive from you. I accept this act of yours gladly and I pray that it's power will remain with me so that I may also become a washer of feet, putting the needs of your friends before my own, dealing with others with respect and care.

Amen