

Easter: what happened to Jesus and why?

This learning task will help you to recall what happened to Jesus in the last week before his death – called 'Holy Week' by Christians. Most Christians believe that the Bible gives an accurate picture of what actually happened to Jesus. The whole Bible story is available on BibleGateway. Read Luke 22:39 – 23:49. The ICB version is easy to understand.

www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22&version=ICB



If you want to watch a film version of the final hours of Jesus life, then there is one here, a 20-minute extract from the film called 'Miraclemaker.' It's a sad story. www.dailymotion.com/video/x15lia3



Getting started

Recall what you know already: what happened to Jesus on...

...Palm Sunday?.....

...Maundy Thursday?.....

...Good Friday?.....

...Easter Sunday?.....

Watch the video clip and read the Bible passage given at the top of the page. Add to your answers above.

Look at the next page. Print out the page and cut up the cards. Can you put the events in the right order? Start by connecting the events to the correct days, and then look at the order for each day. Check your order against the Bible passage, then scramble the cards up and try again!

Unscramble the events of 'Holy Week'

After the bread, Jesus shared wine with them all. He said it was a reminder of his blood, poured out.	Joseph from Arimathea took the body of Jesus and buried it in his own cave-tomb. A huge stone was rolled across the doorway.
As Jesus was dying, he promised one of the thieves crucified with him, 'Today, you will be with me in paradise'.	Judas arrived at the garden with a gang of soldiers. He had betrayed Jesus to his enemies. He gave him away with a kiss.
At Calvary, Jesus was crucified. Two thieves were crucified with him. Three crosses against a dark sky.	Later, Peter was in tears because he felt he had failed his Lord.
At the courtyard Peter followed the arresting soldiers. Servants asked: 'Weren't you with Jesus?' Afraid, he denied it three times.	Mary stood weeping in the garden. Then the resurrected Jesus met her. She couldn't believe it: she was bursting with happiness.
At the table, on the last night, Jesus shared a loaf of bread with the disciples.	On Sunday evening, Jesus met ten of his disciples. They all believed he was back from the dead now.
At the temple, Jesus threw out the moneylenders. They'd made a place of prayer into a money-market. He was really angry.	On Sunday morning, several women who were Jesus' friends set off for the tomb to put oil and spices on the body.
But the stone was rolled away. The grave was empty. The women were puzzled, amazed and terrified.	On Thursday night, Jesus and the disciples ate a last meal together. Jesus washed their smelly feet - he wasn't too proud to serve.
Huge crowds welcomed Jesus on the donkey, waving palm branches and cheering: 'Hosanna, Hosanna!'	Peter and John ran to the grave to see what had happened. They couldn't work out what the empty grave meant at all.
In Gethsemane garden, Jesus prayed in agony while his three best friends fell asleep. He knew what was going to happen next.	Pilate offered the crowd a choice: 'I'll set one prisoner free: Jesus - or Barabbas the murderer?'. The crowd yelled for Barabbas.
Jesus fell under the weight of the cross, and an African man called Simon from Cyrene helped him to carry it.	Pilate, the Roman governor, ordered a message to be put on the cross: 'This is Jesus, the king of the Jews'.
Jesus prayed for his killers to be forgiven by his Father God.	The leaders of the country of Israel plotted together to get Jesus. They wanted to shut him up. They were jealous.
Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. It was to show he wasn't proud, but he was the king.	The leaders sent Jesus to the Roman governor, who was called Pilate. Only he could pass the death sentence.
Jesus was arrested and taken in chains to the courtroom. They accused him of speaking against God.	The rulers and the Romans spread a rumour that Jesus' disciples had stolen his dead body and faked a 'resurrection'.
Jesus was crowned with thorns by a bunch of bullying soldiers, before he was sent out to die, carrying his own cross through the city.	Two of Jesus' disciples walking home met him, alive again. They knew it was Jesus when they saw him break the bread.

Key concepts

Can you match the following concepts with their correct meaning?

Incarnation	Christians believe Jesus' death and resurrection heal the divide between God and humans – Jesus' death makes them 'at one' with God.
Atonement	Christians believe Jesus is God 'in the flesh'. Jesus shows what God is like.
Salvation	Most Christians believe that Jesus did not stay dead – he rose from the dead to new life. This was because he had not sinned and so did not deserve death.
Resurrection	Most Christians see Jesus' death as an offering to pay the price for the sins of all people. They say Jesus takes the punishment for everyone, so that they can have a restored relationship with God.
Sacrifice	Christians believe people are in trouble, separated from God through sin, and they need to be rescued. Jesus saves them.

Why did Jesus die?

The key terms above give some reasons why Christians believe Jesus died. Can you summarise at least two reasons here?

Jesus' last week: a dramatic series of events

Choose one or two moments from these dramatic events. Sketch out some ideas about how you would paint it, if you were asked. What choices would you make about how you present that moment of the story? Why?

Have a look at some artworks that show the events of Jesus' last week. Choose from some of these at the National Gallery.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/the-easter-story



How has the artist made different choices to your ideas? What has the artist tried to express in the art?

Believing in Jesus' resurrection: why is it so important for Christians?

Think for yourself about why believing in the resurrection of Jesus is so important for Christians. Can you think of three reasons?

Not all Christians believe in the resurrection, but here are three who do. Choose at least one of the clips. Are they the same as your suggestions or different?

<https://request.org.uk/festivals/holy-week-and-easter/why-is-the-resurrection-so-important-to-christians/>



Sum up what you have learned from these activities. What happened in Jesus' last week, and why is it important for Christians? Use as many of the key words and examples as you can!