

Journey 5

The sad garden and the happy garden.

Jesus goes to the cross and the tomb.

Preamble

This is the fifth of five assemblies on journeys, but can also stand alone as an Easter assembly.

The stimulus for this assembly is the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and the visit of the women to the tomb on the Sunday morning after the crucifixion.

The assembly explores different emotions, happy times and sad times.

Other appropriate Easter songs, musical pieces etc can be slotted in to this outline to create an Easter Festival Assembly.

Preparation

About 6 children to be prepared before the event to be interviewed about the events in the two gardens. This could be incorporated into a class RME topic on the Easter story with the children researching what the disciples would have thought and felt.

Source "When people are cruel" by Fischy Music from "Something Fischy" album.

Pictures for the story by Henry Martin can be found at: <http://www.sermons4kids.com/hmartin.htm> . These pictures are freely available for use in assemblies.

Ken Coulter & Jen Robertson: March 2008.

Rationale	The stimulus for this assembly is the story of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane and the visit of the women to the tomb on the Sunday morning after the crucifixion.
Title	A sad garden and a happy garden
Aims	To help pupils reflect on the emotions that the disciples experienced at the time of Jesus death and resurrection. To consider how we cope when we feel sad and to celebrate the times we are happy.
Stage	P 1 - 7
Objectives	1] At the end of this pupils will have experienced sense of mystery and meaningfulness 2] Pupils will be able state the facts of the story of Jesus and his disciples on Good Friday and Easter Sunday
Link with ACfE	Confident individuals: a sense of physical, mental and emotional well being
Is this part of a series	Fifth of Five
Introduction	Thinking about sad times
Stimulus/ stimuli	Christian story from the New Testament gospels about the events of Easter. Matthew 26: 36-56, 28: 1-10, Mark 14:32-32, 16: 1-8, Luke 22: 39-62, 24: 1-12, John 18: 1-11, 20: 1- 10, 21: 1-14
Guided Reflection	Fischy Music song "When people are cruel"
Response & Possible Next Steps	Circle time discussion about what we can do when people are cruel
Evaluation (a)	Discussion with pupils
Evaluation (b)	RO team discussion
Evaluation (c)	Observation of pupils during the event

Introduction

Ask the pupils to think of a time, just quietly in their heads, in the last week when they were sad. What made them sad? What did they do? How did they feel?

It might be helpful for the leader of the assembly to share a time when they were very sad (just a simple every day thing e.g. falling out with a friend etc – nothing too emotive!)

Explain that today's story starts off in a garden where everyone is very sad, and things just seem to get worse and worse – but by the end of the story things are quite different.

Encourage them to listen and watch and wonder how the people in the story are feeling at the end.

The Story (Part 1)

Use the pictures as suggested via powerpoint or Overhead projector.

Jesus was very worried. He knew he was going to die soon and that was very scary and made him very sad. He had a meal with his friends and afterwards took them to a quiet garden outside the city.

He said to his them "I'm going to pray stay here" and he said to his 3 best friends "Come with me and pray too." Jesus lay down on the ground and said to God "Oh I don't want to do this, it's too much for me, but I do want to do what you want!". He went to his 3 best friends, they were fast asleep. He said "please stay awake and pray" and he prayed again "Please Father if I have to go through all this terrible event please make it be what you want."

He came back to his friends and they were asleep. He went and prayed again and when he came back this time he said "Are you still asleep? It's time for me to go. Here comes Judas."

Just then one of Jesus friends, Judas, arrived, with the religious leaders and a huge crowd of soldiers and other people with big sticks and weapons. Judas came up and kissed Jesus and everyone knew that was the sign for Jesus to be arrested.

They tied him up and took him away to be questioned in court, all his friends were terrified and ran away, Peter, one of his best friends came with him down to the building he was taken to, but even he said "No, I don't know this man!". The next day Jesus was taken and nailed on a cross and he died.

Go immediately into a news report when this bit of the story ends (Newsround them music or similar – could be played) where a news reporter interview 3 or 4 of the "disciples" – played by the children who have prepared this in advance.

This is Reporting from Jerusalem where news is coming through of some very sad events. The man called Jesus seems to have been arrested and killed. Shocking news. I'm going to find some of his friends to find out what has been going on. (Friends enter, very sad and downcast)

Questions to the Friends. (answers will have been scripted beforehand with pupils)

You were all seen with Jesus in a garden just before he was arrested.

- What was he doing in the garden?
- Did you pray with Him?
- Why did you fall asleep?
- How did the soldiers know who to arrest?
- How did you feel when the soldiers took him away?
- What did you do when they started taking him away?
- Why didn't you go with Him?
- Where is He now?
- How do you feel now that he is dead?
- Why do you think all this has happened?
- Thank you for talking to us, we are very sorry that you are so sad. (Friends exit)

Oh dear, they all seem so sad, they all ran away and left Jesus to be killed. What a waste.

This is... reporting from Jerusalem.

Guided reflection

Play the song "When people are cruel" by Fischy music, this can be sung together, or just listened to with pictures to go with it (the ones used from the story could be incorporated)

The story (Part 2)

Jesus friends were all very sad. Jesus was dead. On the Sunday morning, 2 days after he had died, some friends went to the tomb to look after his body, by putting special ointment on it and to say goodbye properly but when they got to the tomb where Jesus body had been put they got a terrible fright. The massive stone that covered the front of the tomb had been rolled away, the tomb was empty and the body was gone.

They were terrified. Suddenly a young man in white clothes appeared, it was an angel, and he said "Don't be afraid! Jesus isn't here he is alive again, go and tell all his friends." They ran away, feeling all mixed up, really happy but really afraid too! It was weird!

On the way they met Jesus, he said "Don't be afraid, go and tell everyone I'm back!". It was amazing and they met him lots of times after that. One day some of the friends were out fishing and they saw someone walking on the beach, they realised it was Jesus; Peter was so excited he jumped into the water and swam to the beach right away. Jesus had made a BBQ breakfast for them, it was great, He really was alive.

Go immediately into a news report when this bit of the story ends (Newsround them music or similar – could be played) where a news reporter interview 3 or 4 of the "disciples" – played by the children who have prepared this in advance.

Thank you for joining me again on Jerusalem news. Some of you heard a few weeks ago the terrible news that Jesus had been killed. But since then we've been hearing some very strange stories, oh here come some of his friends, they sound very

excited and eh...happy, what can have happened? (Friends enter shouting "He's not dead, He's alive!")

- Excuse me, what's happened?
- Wait a minute, you told me he was dead, how can he be alive?
- Why did you go to the tomb in the garden?
- What was it like when you got to the tomb?
- How was the stone moved, it's massive?
- What did Jesus say to you?
- Have you just seen him once?
- What have you done with him when you've met?
- What was the breakfast on the beach like?
- What did He say about you lot all running away?
- How do you feel now that Jesus is alive?
- Did all the other friends believe you when you told them this story?

Well thank you so much, that's incredible, you'd better go and tell more people. Amazing news. Wow, can that really be true. (Friends exit, shouting "He's alive!")

Response and Possible Next Steps

In classes talk about "When people are cruel" song, what does this chorus mean "It makes all the difference to know where you came from and where you're going to"?