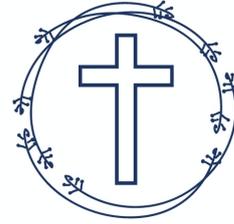


LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Easter Day – 4th April 2021

Read Mark 16.1-8

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.



Many of you will know the Easter story well; you will have read it before. But try to imagine what it was like on that first Easter morning for the disciples of Jesus. Jesus had been arrested and crucified. Their friend and teacher was dead. They were not sure whether they would be arrested as well. Can you imagine how they were feeling?



In Mark's gospel he describes how three women – Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome - went to the tomb very early in the morning. They needed to put oils and spices on the body of Jesus – this was the custom when a person died. They were worried about how they would manage to roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb. Imagine what they felt when they saw that the stone had already been rolled away? Who could have done that? Where was the body of Jesus? Had it been stolen?

A man in a white robe told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. Who do you think he was? Do you think Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome believed him? He told them to go and tell the other disciples. Imagine what reaction they got from the other disciples when they rushed back to tell them this news. Do you think they were believed? What do you think the other disciples said and did when they heard the news?

We may find it hard to understand what happened on that first Easter morning – it is a mystery for us. But, as Christians, we believe that Jesus is a real presence with us at all times in our lives. God is with us at all times, and this means that we are “Easter people”.

Activities

- Read the Gospel again and think about where people in the story would have shown these emotions – sadness, shock, fear, puzzlement, surprise, excitement.
- Create an Easter garden at home. Use a shallow tray with moss in it. Add some stones or shape some cardboard to make a tomb. Put some small pieces of folded cloth to look like the cloth that was used to wrap the body of Jesus. You could make some figures out of pipe cleaners to represent the women who went to the tomb. Take a photograph of your Easter garden and use it to tell other people the story of Easter.

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- We give Easter eggs at this time of year to represent new life. Colour in the picture on the next page and use it with the prayer to remind you that Jesus is with you at all times.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for promising to be with us always.

Help us to remember that promise when we feel sad or lonely.

Help us to remember that the first people to know that you rose from the tomb were ordinary people like us.

Give us courage to believe like they did, and to tell others the wonderful news of Easter. Amen.

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