

desserts

holy week video diary

AIMS

To explore our experiences of Holy Week by remembering Jesus life and linking it with our own experiences using video.

INTRODUCTION

One popular feature of reality TV is the video diary through which ordinary people are able to record their experiences and responses to being minor celebrities for a short time. In this activity we combine a number of things to record our ordinary experiences of Holy Week as Jesus disciples, our memories of then and our thoughts for now, using the medium of a video diary. This activity can be done by an individual or a group.

YOU WILL NEED

A video camera preferably with a tripod (remember the tape and batteries or power supply!)

A quiet place to do your recording.

You could use a camera phone or a webcam or if you prefer to use paper, then a journal or note book, if you do not have a video camera.

PREPARATION

In advance of Holy Week you will need to spend some time individually or as a small group remembering, re-reading or in any way revisiting the events of the first Holy Week. Here are some suggestions:

- As the Bible Year lectionary gospel is Mark, you could read chapters 11-16 of Mark's gospel;
- You could use a picture Bible or children's Bible instead;
- You could discuss a remembered version of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Make a concertina book by folding some paper into a long strip with at least eight sections (four on one side of the paper and four on the other) and write or draw on each section what you remember from each day of the week. Note that there may be days for which you have no remembered version and you might want to refer to a written version to challenge or develop your remembered version.

Invite potential participants to think about which characters influence their understanding of Holy Week. This will help them when they come to record their Holy Week video diary. Who will they choose to be? Will it be a named person from the written gospels or an unnamed person? Will they base their responses on events from the written gospels or will they add ideas from their remembered versions?

WHAT TO DO WITH THE RECORDINGS

You may also want to discuss what to do with the recordings, or you may decide to wait until after the recordings are made to do this. Public use of the recordings, for example on a website or for a DVD might require that participants give their consent for the recordings to be used. If this is the case, then have a consent form ready for participants to sign when they make their recordings.

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The recordings could be edited and used in worship, to make a DVD or uploaded on to a website like You-tube.

An activity of this kind could be used at another time of the year, for example for a holiday club or church weekend away, in which case you might want to reflect on particular Bible stories or a particular part of the Christian Year, like Christmas or Pentecost.

WHAT TO DO DURING HOLY WEEK ITSELF

On the Sunday before Holy Week, Palm Sunday, set up the camera and invite participants to record their thoughts about that day.

Arrange for the participants to be able to record their responses on each day of the week that follows. If you do this as an individual you can choose a time that suits you. If it is a shared activity you may want to have a time set aside when participants can come together to make their recordings. You may also want to set aside a place for prayer for those waiting to make a recording.

The recordings do not need to be long. A short comment on the day is sufficient and can then be placed alongside the comments made by others to make a series of comments for each day from different perspectives.

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more desserts please revisit the menu. If you want to go back to a main course 'Remembering him' is a Bible study that includes some remembering activities. There is also a selection of studies designed for Lent and a series of studies based on Mark's gospel. There are other main course Bible studies available.

Acknowledgements

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