

Lent and Easter

resurrection sketch

AIM

To provide reflection on the story of the Resurrection for an all-age service for Easter

INTRODUCTION

This sketch needs the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Mary, 3 Disciples.

SKETCH

Narrator: Reads Psalm 100

Sing: 'I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of God.' Verse 1

[This song is by Bernadette Farrell from Christ be our light, but choose another song on the theme of Justice and Peace if you do not know this one]

Narrator: Reads John 20:11-18

Jesus: Mary!

Mary: Rabboni! Master!

Jesus: Shalom Mary, peace be upon you!

Mary: Peace, peace you say! Peace – it's a simple enough greeting, meaning hello and goodbye, God be with you. Do you know what peace is? It's not being disturbed or rattled. It's about security. It's about putting up with life as it is, because life is tough and it's always going to be that way. It's about hanging on to the things you believe in for dear life, when all around is chaos and uncertain, even frightening.

Peace, peace you say! Well try being a woman when you're the first to witness to your resurrection. Don't you know that a woman's testimony is worthless to a bunch of frightened men, who have just lost their saviour... the saviour on whom they'd pinned all their hopes... you. Just when you seem so near to us... on the verge of greatness and nearing success. Now all our hopes are dashed and you seem so remote. Peace... I'll give you peace!

Jesus: Peace, Mary, be at peace. I do not give peace as the world gives... without justice: where peace is the absence of conflict; where peace is kept through force and coercion. My peace is for the world, a true and lasting peace. So do not hold on to me, Mary. But go to my brothers and tell them that you have seen the Lord.

Sing: 'I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of God.' Verse 2

Narrator: Reads Luke 24:13-32

Jesus: Shalom my friends, peace be upon you!

Disciple 1: Peace, peace... you say peace – hello – and now you're going as soon as you appeared. We had barely enough time to recognise you and you're going to disappear, when there is so much we want to ask you.

Lent and Easter

resurrection sketch

Jesus: Peace, be at peace. I do not give peace as the world gives... without justice. It is found in broken bread and wine outpoured, where all can find forgiveness and new life. This is my body broken for you, this is my blood shed for you and for all people. In all things give thanks to God.

Sing: 'I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of God.' Verse 3

Narrator: Reads John 20:19-23

Jesus: Shalom. Peace be with you!

Disciple 2: Peace, peace you say. Don't you know that we have been beside ourselves... going out of our heads with sheer terror. You come along and disturb our peace and quiet... taking us away from our humdrum routine... making demands of us... taking us to the brink... and now you put us in danger. Here we are in the midst of the Jewish festival of Passover, when the streets are filled with pilgrims from all over the place: huge crowds, who can be easily whipped up and a nervous army ready to cut them down.

Peace, peace you say! Do you know what peace – shalom – is? Shalom means a time to prosper and forge good relationships with our neighbours. It means having time to plant and cultivate the harvest, time to enjoy the good things the earth has to offer, with plenty for all.

Jesus: Peace, be at peace. I do not give peace as the world gives... without justice. I called you to preach good news to all the world, good news to the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the sad, the lonely, the infirm, those locked away for fear of the truths they cling to. I do not leave you alone. My spirit will come upon you and give you the fire to step out into the world, to preach my good news. So prepare yourselves to receive that gift.

Sing: 'I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of God.' Verse 4

Narrator: Reads Luke 24:50-53

Jesus: Shalom, peace be with you.

Disciple 3: Peace, peace... you say peace! What are we supposed to do now? You take us from our everyday occupations, teach us, train us up... for what? We saw ourselves as followers, following you... and now all that's come to an abrupt end. Yes, you're alive, thank God, but you're not going to stick around, are you! So who do we follow now? What are we supposed to do? You can't expect us to keep on where you left off... can you? I mean we still have so much more to learn... don't we? What kind of peace are you leaving us with, then?

Jesus: Reads John 14:25-15:17

Sing: 'I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of God.' Verse 5

Blessing: The peace of God which passes all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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Other songs

You could use a song like 'Shalom my friends' or 'Let the world rejoice together' from Rejoice and Sing if you do not have the one suggested.

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 Lent and Easter materials please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

This material was prepared by Helen Garton who has given permission for it to be used in the Vision4life process.

HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk