

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Act 1 Gold Bag

palm leaves and felt squares to throw on the road, Jesus, two brown felt roads, a map of Jerusalem, a new cloth curtain, gold felt to represent the temple, coins, a dove, an upper room backdrop, a wine cup, two-sided bread disc, towel, basin, two brown felt rectangles for tables, Garden of Gethsemane backdrop, green felt for the garden.

Act 2 Gold Bag

cross, sticky putty, a Calvary backdrop, the tomb, gray foam stone, white gauze to wrap around the body, and a candle.

To begin:

- Have a Bible open to one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Have a family member light the battery-operated candle and explain that this light represents God's presence as you tell His story.
- Pass the first 7 blocks around the table and place them in the center.
- Have a family member begin with prayer before you tell the story.

You may use this script or tell the story in your own words.

The laminated map of Jerusalem will help you place your props and backdrops on the burlap before you begin telling the story.

Introduction

"This is a very important story today. This is the story that every other story points to. Come with me to Jerusalem (*move your hand over the entire city*). Inside these city walls, it may look quiet now, but soon it will be filled with people and much excitement. Let's see how God's great rescue plan unfolds."

Act 1 (use the gold bag marked Act 1)

Leaving the mountaintop

From previous stories: Peg people for Jesus and the disciples

(Place Jesus and disciples near the Mt. of Olives)

"When Jesus and the three disciples came down from the mountain, they began the journey to Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus continued to tell them that he would die. You can read more about it in God's Word." (*point to the Bible*)

Palm Sunday, the journey to Jerusalem

Props: Gold bag Act 1 - palm leaves and felt squares to throw on the road, brown felt road.

From previous stories: donkey, Jesus, peg people for the crowd.

(Have two disciples bring the donkey to Jesus)

"They traveled to the Mt. of Olives and Jesus sent two of his disciples to get a young donkey because he needed it for a special journey. This fulfilled another prophecy from

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

long ago.¹ Jesus was ready to confront the powers of darkness. He was the true King and would fight with the enemy of God's Kingdom." (*hold Jesus and the donkey together as you move them toward the temple. The disciples will follow behind*) "As they came close to Jerusalem, people began to celebrate and throw their coats and palm branches along the road." (*scatter leaves and felt pieces on the road.*) "Many people, especially the children began to shout praises to Jesus, saying, 'Hosanna, please save us, son of David! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Entering Jerusalem

Props: Gold bag Act 1 - New cloth curtain, gold felt for temple floor, brown table, coins, dove.

From previous stories: The Ark of the Covenant, Temple backdrop Jesus, peg people for the religious leaders,

(Move Jesus to the temple)

"Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on the first day of the week. The city was filled with excitement but Jesus began to cry. He visited the temple. The leaders had made God's house a place to steal from the poor. Instead of a house of prayer, it was a meeting place for cruel and powerful people. So Jesus drove out the doves and other animals for sale, and pushed over the tables with money scattering everywhere." (*scatter the coins around the temple*) "The religious leaders were angry with his actions and mad that children were singing songs about him. Jesus responded to them saying, 'Why are you surprised? Don't you read what the scriptures say?'"² After this, he left Jerusalem and spent the night in the town of Bethany." (*move Jesus, the donkey, and the disciples over to Bethany near the Mt. of Olives on the map*) "The religious leaders began to put their plan in place to kill Jesus. They didn't know that God had a bigger plan."

Judas betrays Jesus

Props: Gold bag Act 1 - coins,

From previous stories: peg people for Judas, and religious leaders in the Temple.

"Later that week, after dinner, a woman anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, secretly left to meet with the leaders at the temple" (*walk Judas to the temple*) "He asked how much money they would pay him to hand over Jesus. Judas knew they wanted to arrest Jesus. They agreed that he was worth 30 pieces of silver." (*place the coins at his feet.*) "Judas took the money and promised to help them capture Jesus."

Passover and the Last Supper

Props: Gold bag Act 1 - upper room backdrop, wine cup, two-sided bread disc, towel, basin, brown felt rectangle for the table and peg people.

¹ Zechariah 9:9

² Psalm 8:2

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

“That week, Jesus told more stories about God’s Kingdom, and many wonderful things happened that you can read about in God’s Word.” *(point to the Bible)* “Jesus planned that God’s big rescue plan would happen during the great festival of Passover. On Thursday evening, Jesus and his disciples gathered for the Passover meal. Every year God’s people remembered that God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. All of God’s people ate bread without yeast and put lamb’s blood over their doors just like they had long ago. But it didn’t feel like a great festival in the upper room where Jesus and his friends met.” *(hold the towel and basin)* “Becoming the servant, Jesus washed all their feet and talked of death and betrayal. Then Jesus broke the bread into pieces and told them,” *(hold the bread disc and then turn over to see the broken bread.)* “This bread is my body broken for you, take and eat.” *(Hold the cup up)* “Then he held up the cup and told them, ‘This wine is my blood and with it begins a new covenant, a new promise from God. My blood is poured out for many to forgive their sins. Everyone, take and drink it.’” This new promise would end the separation between God and people. God would forgive their sins. The rescue plan was about to take place. But how would they know when it - was - finished? What sign should they look for?”

The Garden of Gethsemane

Props: Gold bag Act 1 - Garden backdrop, green felt for the garden.

From previous stories: two trees, rock, peg people (Jesus, 3 disciples).

(Walk Jesus and the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane)

“After their meal, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane. When they arrived, Jesus asked them to stay awake and pray while he prayed alone.” *(move Jesus to the rock to pray)* “He asked his father if there was a way to avoid dying. No matter what God’s answer is, Jesus does his will. Finally, he told his disciples, ‘Look, the one who is betraying me is here.’”

“I wonder why Jesus was so angry at the temple.
I wonder what Jesus said to each disciple as he washed their feet.
I wonder how Jesus must have felt while praying in the garden.
I wonder what your favorite part of this story is so far.
I wonder who betrays Jesus.”

Introduction

“At the end of Act 1 Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane and told his disciples that someone was coming to betray him. Let’s find out what happens next.”

Act 2 *(use the gold bag marked Act 2)*

Jesus Arrested

Props: Gold bag Act 2 - Garden of Gethsemane backdrop, green felt for the garden,

From previous stories: Green felt for the garden, rock, trees, sword, peg people for Judas and soldier.

(Move Judas and soldiers to the area with the disciples)

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

"Judas came to the Garden with an army of soldiers to arrest Jesus. The disciples were ready to fight," ***(holding up the sword)*** "but Jesus said, 'No weapons! Don't you realize my Father in Heaven has an angel army much larger than this one but I don't need their help because this is God's rescue plan.' He turned to those who came to arrest him and said, 'This is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.'"

Jesus on trial

"The religious and political leaders decided to crucify Jesus." ***(hold up the cross then place it on the map at Calvary)*** "It was a terrible night for Jesus and his followers and you can read more about it in God's Word." ***(point to the Bible)***

Jesus on the cross

Props: Gold bag Act 2 - cross, sticky putty, Calvary backdrop. *(Move Jesus to the cross at Calvary. You can use the putty to attach Jesus to the cross)*. From previous stories: peg people for a soldier, and onlookers.

"The next morning soldiers led Jesus to a hill called Calvary, outside of Jerusalem, to crucify him." ***(Place Jesus on the cross.)*** "At noon, darkness covered the whole land for three hours. From the cross, Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing. and later he said, 'It is finished.' Finally, Jesus took his last breath and at that very moment the earth shook, rocks split apart and the curtain in the temple was ripped in two from top to bottom. This was the sign. It - was - finished." ***(pick up the curtain in the temple and rip it apart with great ceremony. Pause for a moment)*** "Soldiers standing at the cross looked up at Jesus and said, 'This man truly was the Son of God!'"

Jesus is buried

Props: Gold bag Act 2 - the tomb, gray felt stone, white gauze to wrap around the body,

"Before the evening came, a friend of Jesus took him from the cross to bury him." ***(Slowly take Jesus off the cross and wrap the body)*** "He bought a long sheet of linen cloth, wrapped the body and laid it in a tomb that had never been used." ***(Place the body inside the tomb)*** "Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance." ***(Place the stone in front of the tomb)*** "The women who stood by and watched Jesus on the cross, followed him to the tomb and watched. They went home to prepare spices for his body but because it was now Sabbath, they rested."

A day of waiting

From previous stories: - guard with a sword, tomb, and stone.

"On Saturday, the day after Jesus was crucified, guards were sent to the tomb to keep watch so that no one would try to steal his body." ***(Place a guard with a sword in front of the tomb.)*** "All of Jesus' followers gathered together to wait and wonder what would happen next." ***(point to the upper room)***

Jesus rises from the dead

From previous stories: Angel, women, and battery candle.. (You can take Jesus out of the tomb, roll the stone to the side, leave the cloth, and place the candle inside before you begin).

“Early Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint his body.” *(move several women to the tomb)* “When they got there, the stone was rolled away from the entrance.” *(hold the Angel)* “An angel spoke to them saying, ‘Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay. They left quickly and told his disciples, ‘he has risen from the dead.’”

Jesus appears to the disciples

Props: the brown felt road to Emmaus, Peter, and John. two travelers, women at the tomb

(Bring in two people from the upper room) “Peter and John also came to the tomb and saw that his body was missing but many of the disciples struggled to believe he was alive.” *(move Jesus to the women)* “Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women,” *(move Jesus to the disciples on the Emmaus Rd)* “and then he appeared to two disciples on their way home to Emmaus. They didn’t know it was him until he broke the bread in their home.” *(Show the bread again)* “He appeared to all of the disciples *(move Jesus to the upper room)* and then he appeared to more than 500 of his friends gathered together.”

Forty days with friends

“Jesus spent 40 days with his friends helping them understand the hidden mystery of God’s plan.³ He ate with them, let Thomas touch his nail prints, cooked breakfast, and even helped them catch fish. The Kingdom of God had come. Jesus conquered the Kingdom of Darkness and Death. But the story isn’t over yet. There is more to come.

I wonder whom Jesus was forgiving while he was on the cross.

I wonder what was happening to Jesus from Friday night to Sunday morning.

I wonder what happened after the 40 days.

I wonder what happens next.

I wonder what part of this story you liked the best.

What do you wonder about this story?”

³ 1 Corinthians 2:7-8