



A Sunday
School Series

The Wonder of Easter

Easter Sunday All Age Talk

**Easter Hope:
Hidden Hero**

LUKE 24:13-35



faith**m**kids



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"All for the glory of God alone" (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Easter Hope: Hidden Hero

LUKE 24:13-35



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Truth that changes me:

Jesus is the promised saviour. The Bible reveals how his death and resurrection offer hope and salvation to everyone.



Faith in kids / adults looks like:

People who understand who Jesus is and whose hearts are warmed by what Jesus has done for them.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

This service follows two disciples on the road to Emmaus, a walk which became the journey of a lifetime! They left Jerusalem with hearts like lead, because the one they'd placed their hope in was dead. As they walked they met a stranger who opened their eyes to what they had missed - the Messiah was always supposed to suffer and die! By the end of the journey, their hearts were ablaze with hope as they understood the true message of Easter.

As we follow this journey, we hope that the hearts of those who attend your service will be set ablaze too, with wonder at who Jesus is and what he has done.



SUMMARY OF THE JOURNEY

Part 1 – Hidden Hero

The disciples don't realise it is Jesus with them on the road, but we are in on the act!

Part 2 – The Missing Piece

The disciples are trying to make sense of the evidence but it is like trying to complete a puzzle with a missing piece - they can't make it all fit. If Jesus is God's hero, how can he be dead?

Part 3 - Make the connection

Jesus opens the Bible and shows the disciples that it was always meant to be this way. As an example, we visit Isaiah 53 to see that the hero suffers for the people and rises.

Part 4 – Feel the Difference

As Jesus explains the Bible to them, they see and feel the difference. Their hearts are on fire and they realise that Jesus, who died and rose for them, is absolutely the hero they need.



PREPARATION



Helpers Needed

Two disciples to walk along the road.



Make in advance

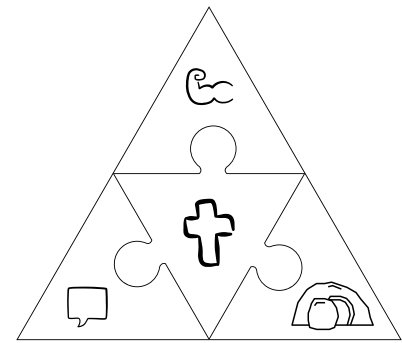
A long length of plain wallpaper / fabric as a path, an empty tomb scene (e.g. cardboard box, pop up tent, large bin on its side), a table and chairs with bread and wine, four large cardboard puzzle pieces - prepared and cut out as shown (cross, strong arm, speech bubble, empty tomb), Incredibles clips 1 and 2 ready to play.



Set Up

Arrange the empty tomb scene on one side of the room and the table and chairs scene on the other – stretch the wallpaper path between the 2.

Puzzle pieces example picture



ALL AGE TALK

Welcome

Welcome everyone - explain that this is an all age service. We expect there to be noise, chaos and fun but there will also be moments of thoughtfulness and reflection as we worship and celebrate together this *Easter Sunday / Family service - whatever context.*

Tell them where they can go if they need to feed a baby, go to the toilet, have a breather etc. Point out fire exits and tell them we will be out eating Easter eggs by... o'clock/ after x amount of time.

Pray [using accessible language - that people would be struck by the life-changing miracle of the first Easter and that God would be working by his Spirit to change hearts].

Introduce the first song.

Song 1

A kids ministry song loved by your church, e.g. Super Saviour, Our God is a Great Big God.

Part 1 – Hidden Hero

Have you ever seen the movie, "The Incredibles"? Have you seen Mr Incredible in his super suit?

Here he is! *Show image.*

He has a long list of superpowers! He has superhuman strength - he can bench press a train, uproot a tree with one hand and snap a spine as if it was a toothpick. He's an expert in hand to hand combat, he has amazing speed and agility, he can sense danger, his suit is bullet proof AND machine washable. He is a superhero...

continued →



But at the start of the movie, he's in hiding, working at a boring desk job, looking like an ordinary man. The hero is hidden, but there are still some clues that he is no normal guy.

Play first 52 seconds of this clip.



Make the link

We, as the audience, *know* that the ridiculously strong muscly man squashed into his car is Mr Incredible – but the people around him only know who he is when he's wearing his super suit. It's the same with Superman and Clark Kent; glasses on – ordinary guy, glasses off – Superman!

Today we meet two of Jesus' friends travelling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As they walk, they are joined by a hidden hero – somehow, they can't work out who it is but we get to know. As we read the Bible, listen out for who the hidden hero is. Afterwards, I'm going to give you three questions to talk about, so listen carefully.

Read Luke 24:13-20

Turn to your neighbour and talk about:

- Why were the friends sad?
- Who came and walked with them?
- Did they know who it was?

Give them 20 seconds. Take a few answers if you want.

You've got it. Two friends are heartbroken as they leave Jerusalem. Jesus, the hero they thought they'd been waiting for, had been put to death on a cross and buried in a tomb, taking with them their hopes and dreams of what they imagined God's hero would do. They thought that God's hero would arrive with a bang, kick out the Romans and take charge of their nation. He would be a great King, bringing peace, prosperity and joy. But now the hero that they thought had come is dead – they are leaving Jerusalem brokenhearted.

Song 2

Easter Hymn – Man of sorrows (Hillsong), How deep the father's love for us.

A familiar song that the congregation can sing together focusing on the cross of Jesus.

Part 2 – The Missing Piece

This section uses the empty tomb and path scene that have been arranged. Have helpers to act as the characters walking along the road and the four puzzle pieces ready to explain.

Read Luke 24:17-24

After the passage has been read, have two people act out the scene as the key points are covered again. Follow the directions below with clear actions.

The disciples leave Jerusalem feeling downcast. *Two helpers walk from the tomb towards Emmaus.*

A hidden hero joins them on the road. *Person wearing a hero eye mask joins them.*

Remember, we know it's Jesus – they don't.

As they walk, Jesus asks the disciples what is troubling them. The problem is that they have some pieces of a puzzle but they can't fit them together.

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Puzzle Pieces

Disciples hold up the pieces one at a time and explain them. You could stick the words on to the back.

- **Strong arm:** We watched Jesus and listened to him. He said amazing things, he taught like no-one else. He had amazing power over sickness and evil. We were sure he was the mighty hero we've been waiting for. But three days ago he was arrested and put to death – he definitely died. Maybe Jesus isn't really mighty.
- **Speech bubble:** This morning, some women friends of ours amazed us by saying that they'd been to the tomb but Jesus' body wasn't there! They said they saw angels who told them that Jesus was alive. But that all sounds a bit mad doesn't it? Things like that don't happen, so it can't be true.
- **Empty tomb:** Other friends went to check out the women's story. They said that the tomb was empty, but they didn't see any angels or Jesus. So that's that really – game over. Jesus can't be the mighty hero we thought he was because he's dead – he can't help us now can he!

Turn to your neighbour

- Which piece do you think is the most puzzling?
- Why do you think that?

Make it clear that this is something for everyone to discuss, not just children.

The disciples were puzzled. They couldn't work out how to fit the puzzle pieces together.

Helpers attempt to fit pieces together in a line unsuccessfully.

The problem was that they were missing a major piece of the puzzle.

But help had arrived. Listen to how Jesus answered them...

(Jesus actor): "How foolish you are and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **Luke 24:25-26**

Jesus holds up the cross puzzle piece

- **Cross** – The disciples can't make sense of the puzzle because they don't understand how Jesus can be God's hero if he died on a cross – how could this be the plan?

Jesus walks with them and helps them to see how it all fits together.

Song 3

Easter song - Oh Praise the name of the Lord our God – Hillsong / Christ our hope in life and death - Gettys / Up from the Grave He Arose

Song about what the resurrection means for us / our response.

Part 3 – See the difference

Read Luke 24:27

As Jesus walked with his heartbroken disciples he explained the Bible to them. Starting at the beginning, he showed them how God's hero was always supposed to suffer and die. Let's listen to something one of the prophets said about Jesus 700 years before he came. We read this in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah and this could be one thing that Jesus explained to the disciples that day.

continued →



Read Isaiah 53:4-11

Listen again; The punishment that brought us peace was on him... by oppression and judgement he was taken away... he was put to death for the sins of my people.

100's of years earlier, God's word tells us that God's servant will be treated terribly, wounded, pierced, taken away and killed - just what happened to Jesus at the cross. We're also told why it needed to happen - so that we might know peace with God. Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that we can be forgiven by God. The cross that the disciples didn't understand was the moment when Jesus was being the Saviour they really needed.

Actors hold up all four puzzle pieces and assemble them as the narrator recaps...

The Bible puts all of the pieces together for us:

- **Strong arm:** Jesus is mighty in word and deed. He can beat even death.
- **Speech bubble:** Jesus is alive, the eyewitness testimony is written down so we can be sure.
- **Empty tomb:** Jesus' tomb is empty. If you visited, you would see.
- **Cross:** Jesus is the hero we need. He takes the punishment for our sin and brings us peace with God instead.

The Bible puts all the pieces together which is why we meet in this church to hear it explained, why our kids' groups explore brilliant Bible stories and our home groups study and discuss God's word. Why not commit to find out more, to read the Bible for yourself, or with a friend, or get stuck into the *3,2,1 course, Christianity Explored - whatever you would offer - this could be the best opportunity to advertise your next course briefly.*

Song 4

Children's song – Jesus, he has risen – Awesome Cutlery

Action song celebrating the resurrection

Part 4 – Feel the difference

Read Luke 24:28-35

Get your helpers back up on the path.

So back to our friends on their journey. They started in heartbreak, they met a hidden hero, they explained the puzzle and Jesus opened the Bible to them and put the pieces together. What an amazing chat!

Did you hear what they said? As Jesus explained the Bible to them, they felt like their hearts were on fire! They didn't want it to end and invited him home for tea!

Act out the Scene

Helpers arrive at the table, Jesus breaks the bread and removes his mask. Disciples look amazed and hug each other. Jesus leaves. Disciples cry, "we must tell the others!". They leave running back to Jerusalem.

Walk along the path as you speak. What a journey the disciples went on that day; from despair to hope, from sad hearts like lead to joyful hearts on fire. Jesus could have said to them, "Look it's me alive, walking here with you!". But instead he said, "Look, God's word in the Bible points to me".

We can take that journey too. We can bring our questions and doubts, search in the Bible, pray and ask for help to understand. We can talk about the Bible together and remind each other that Jesus is alive and with us every day.

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God's word changes us from the inside out as we find out how amazing it is to know that the punishment for our sin is taken away and that we can have peace with God. When we feel guilty about things we have done or failed to do, it's wonderful to know that Jesus has dealt with it all. That can change our hearts from leaden sadness to joyful fire.

The forgiveness of the cross and the hope of the resurrection mean that whatever our struggles - loneliness, people being mean, mental or physical health struggles, frustrations with work, annoying brothers and sisters - there is a saviour who walks with us. Jesus offers forgiveness and brings us peace with God. That is good news on the darkest day! Let the truth of who Jesus is and what he has done, written down in God's word, set your heart on fire today.

Watch the final Incredibles video clip. 

Tell them to look out for the change in the kids on the trike. "That was totally awesome".




This Easter don't let Jesus be a hidden hero. Consider for yourself what the cross and empty tomb mean so that you can solve the puzzle. You can find out more about just how awesome Jesus is by joining us here each Sunday, or why not sign up for our... *discover Jesus / Christianity Explored course*, we'd love to help you find out more.

A family to lead the prayers

Final Song

Amazing grace - public domain

Closing Prayer



The Wonder of Easter

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