



ExploRE Easter: Footsteps to the Feast

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. This special collective worship is designed to go at the very start of your Easter 'ExploRE' Day. These are new materials for an RE off-timetable day (or part-day, combined with a reflective prayer space option). There are also materials for a concluding collective worship to round off the day together.



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

These materials deliberately reference your school's vision and values during the reflective section: this is to help you to set up expectations of learning behaviours in how you encourage pupils to embrace new or difficult ideas, or show humility in class discussions, ensuring that the opinions of all pupils are equally valued, whether they come from any faith or none. This is especially important in the RE classroom, where adults are also sharing in the learning and therefore modelling attitudes with pupils.

Resources:

- In addition to our usual gathering and sending slides, we are including a slide at the very start to help to 'still' pupils, and help them to enter into the 'sacred' space of collective worship, ready to think, reflect, talk or pray. Take this at whatever pace seems necessary for your pupils. It ends with a visual 'timetable', setting out some of the elements that will be included in our time together, which we hope may help some pupils. You can also find these as cards to print out to use in other collective worship if this helps you.
- The materials for our **ExploRE Days** also include the opportunity to extend RE learning into a more reflective space, which you might want to set up in your hall, playground, or other large space and timetable it for classes during the day. You can find all these materials on our website: [Religious Education in Church Schools - Diocese of Guildford](https://www.gdbbelevate.com/) and on GDBE-Elevate: [GDBE elevate](https://www.gdbbelevate.com/)
- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Spring flowers stilling exercise

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly, watch the spring flowers blowing gently in the breeze....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to look at the flowers....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about how it feels to be in this special/sacred space..... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **talk about some words together, share a story and then use it to help us to think as we begin our ExploRE Easter Day together.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

Slide 2:

Leader: As we gather together today....

ALL:we bring our thoughts and our hearts into this sacred space.

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

Leader's words:

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); Today: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/today> (1st video)

Pupils' response:

Thoughts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/thoughts> (1st video); Hearts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/heart> (1st video)

Engaging:

Slide 3: 'Following in someone's footsteps'



Explain what it means to 'follow in someone's footsteps'. Ask adults & children to share examples from their own life experience e.g. their parent(s), a leader, someone who they admire etc.

Slide 4: Explore Easter

Today, here in our school, we are going to explore the Easter story together, in lots of different ways, and extend our learning in RE a little bit further. To start our day together, we're going to follow the footsteps of Jesus through the Easter story. Holy Week spans a whole week, (as you might think from the title!), from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, but we're going to share a very short version of the story together now, as a reminder, with a special 'join-in' bit together: here are our words.....

Slide 5: Refrain [*you will use this each time, but it's not repeated in the script. You could use this refrain as a call and response, with pupils repeating each line*]

***We're on a special journey
of footsteps to the feast.***

***Jesus comes to rescue:
the last, the lost, the least.***

Slide 6: On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem as King.....people laid their cloaks down for him to walk on, and waved palm branches high in praise.

Refrain

Slide 8: A few days later, in the room that they had reserved to celebrate the Passover, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.....

Slide 9:and gave them bread and wine, asking his followers to 'Remember him....'

Refrain

Slide 11: Later that night, Jesus was betrayed by his closest friends.....

Slide 12:and then was taken away, to be sentenced by the Romans....

Refrain

Slide 14: The next day, he died on a cross, with two thieves beside him.....

Slide 15:and his body was placed into a stone tomb.

Refrain

Slide 17: But that's not the end of the story! Three days later, women came to visit the tomb and found it empty!

Refrain

Slide 19: Jesus was alive – and many people saw him!

Refrain

The End!

Slide 21: Responding and words for worship

In our Explore Easter day today, we are going to work together in our classrooms to go deeper into the story.

[At this point, you might want to give a brief overview of what this looks like for your school, based on the materials you've selected from the resources]

But for now, we're going to bring this time together to a close. We've heard how the Easter narrative is a very special part of the Bible for Christians, because it reminds them of how Jesus lived – how he served others & gave up his life to rescue the world.

Jesus once said this:

'If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me.' (Mark 8:34)

For Christians, following Jesus means forgetting about the things that they want, putting the needs of other people first and doing what he would do, even if it means facing difficulties, or even suffering, in their lives.

Slide 22: Responding and words for worship

As we share this day together, we will be exploring what this story means for Christians across the world..... We may also meet with challenges and difficult ideas, or beliefs we may not share.....so, we will need to work together to help each other.....and to try to see things from different points of view.....

As we begin this day together, some questions to help us wonder.....

....I wonder how our school's values might help us as we 'ExploRE' Easter together?.....

....I wonder how what we do today might make a difference?.....in how we understand others?.....or perhaps the things of God?....

Slide 23: Prayer

As we turn to prayer now, we're going to use again the words that we spoke together in our story. Watch out for them as they come onto the screen....and join in with the prayer if this is something that you are comfortable with.

We're on a special journey of footsteps to the feast.....

Please help us as we are companions together in our classrooms today, to listen to each other as we share this journey.

Jesus comes to rescue: the last, the lost, the least.

Please help us as we ExploRE what this story means for Christians – and to us, here in our school. Help us to value one another's opinions, ideas and feelings – just as Jesus did.

Slide 24: Amen

Sending: Slide 25

Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

All: May we journey well together.



To listen to / sing:

Choose an Easter song from your school repertoire that fits with your day, or you could listen to '[Sign your cross](#)' by Nick and Becky Drake. There is also a new song for schools being launched on 27th February about **pilgrimage** which would be brilliant for this day! Find out more here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SongsForSchoolOfficial>