

The Easter Story

It was the time for the Passover feast when families met together to remember God's goodness. Jerusalem was full of people arriving to celebrate. Jesus and his disciples also travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Some people who had seen Jesus and heard his teachings and knew about the healing miracles he had performed, truly thought he was the Son of God and cheered and welcomed him laying palm leaves on the road to greet him.

The next day, Jesus went to the Temple to continue his teaching but when he arrived he saw money lenders and traders using the house of God to make money. He was angry and threw all the traders out of the Temple. *Mark 11:15-18 -¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'^[a]? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'^[b]"*

Jesus now had many enemies who wanted to be rid of him, not only the traders but the leaders of the Temple who were scared of how the people seemed to love Jesus and ignore them.

Some of these leaders offered money to anyone who could help them catch Jesus to accuse him of defying God's laws. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, decided he needed the money and agreed to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that he had only a short time left. The Thursday before he died, Jesus invited the disciples to have supper with him. It was their last meal together.

"Remember me," Jesus told them, "when you eat the bread and drink the wine. I am going to live with my Father in heaven, but I will be with you wherever you go."

That night, Judas betrayed Jesus and soldiers arrested Jesus. The Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, questioned Jesus to try and find out his crimes. Pontius Pilate could not find Jesus guilty and washed his hand of the decision.

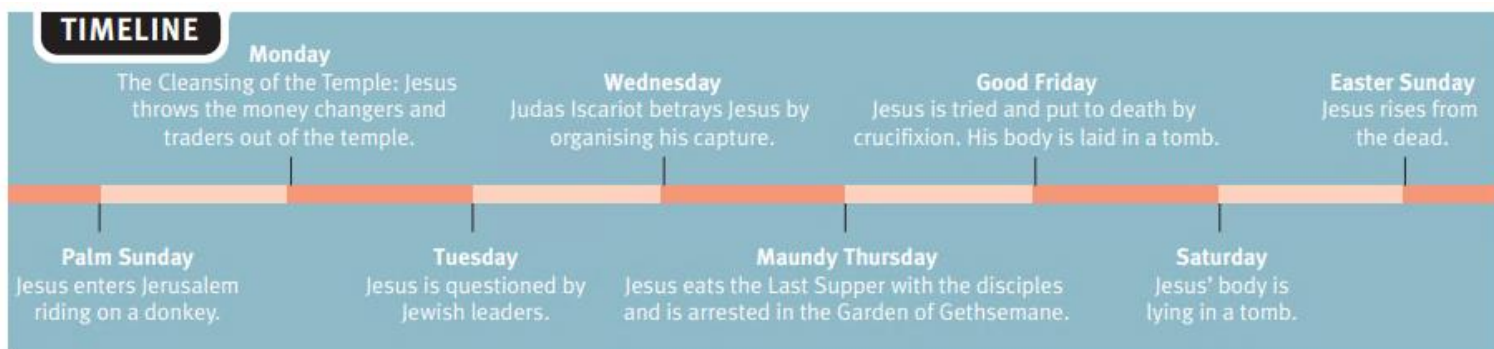
The Temple Leaders hated Jesus because he clearly stated he was the Son of God which was against their beliefs. They created a crowd and called for Jesus to be crucified.

On Friday, they nailed Jesus to a cross. Jesus said to God: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." When Jesus died, his friends placed his body in a cave and covered the cave entrance with a rock.

On Sunday, a friend of Jesus named Mary Magdalene went to the cave. The rock had been rolled away! The cave was empty! An angel appeared and said: "Peace be with you. Jesus is risen from the dead!"

Jesus came back to visit his friends. He told them to teach about God's love. "Tell the people," said Jesus, "to believe in me even if they can't see me." Jesus, then went up to heaven to live with his Father.

Holy Week Timeline



Ideas for your writing.

Some people were pleased to see Jesus and believed he truly was the son of God. How did they show this? However, the traders and money lenders in the temple were sent away by Jesus. How did they feel? What about the leaders of the Temples? How did the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, feel? What about Jesus' disciples? If you saw your friend taken away by soldiers, how would you feel?

Here are some sentence ideas:

People, who knew Jesus had healed their friends, believed Jesus and cheered for him. They felt happy to see him and listened to him.

Traders felt cross with Jesus because they now had nowhere to set up their stalls. They could not see anything wrong with selling things in their church.