

**Note to parents:** this activity does not need any prior knowledge of Christianity. If your child is interested in thinking further about the questions raised, check out the suggestions at the end.

## Aims:

- To help children explore the Easter narrative through modelling it.
- To give children freedom to ask questions of the story.



## What You'll Need to Build Your Garden...

- **A container**—an old shoe box, tray, or basket would be great.
- **Some sticks** and **string/thread/wool** for making three crosses.
- A **pot** to make the tomb
- A **flat stone** a similar size to the top of the pot, to make the entrance.
- **Soil, moss/grass/plants/pebbles/stones** If gathering these from a wood or park, please be careful not to harm nature.
- **A small scrap of white cloth** (or tissue/kitchen roll)

## The Activity

### 1. Creating the landscape



- Set your pot on its side and cover the tray and the pot with a layer of soil.
- Create a mound of soil—a hill in your Easter garden.
- Cover the garden in foliage (moss/grass/plants/flowers).

### 2. The Crucifixion



- Using the string and the twigs, create three small crosses.
- Place these on top of the hill



- Read Mark 15: 21-41 (if you don't have a Bible, you can find this [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) – try the CEV translation)



- Who saw the crucifixion? How many different characters can you see mentioned in the reading?
- Do you think they were pleased to see Jesus die? Why/why not?
- What unnatural thing happened while Jesus was killed?
- What impact did this whole episode have on the Roman centurion standing nearby?

### 3. The Body



- Cut a strip of cloth (could be paper towel or toilet paper) and wrap a stone with it to represent Jesus' body.
- Place this in the tomb and place the large flat stone across the entrance.



- Read Mark 15:42-47 ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) – try the CEV translation).



- Why might it have been a brave thing for Joseph of Arimathea to ask Pilate for Jesus' body?
- Who else saw where the body was laid?
- What do you think the next day was like for Joseph, the women and the disciples?

### 4. The Resurrection



- Roll back the stone from the tomb entrance.
- Unwrap and throw away the stone.
- Leave the cloths inside the tomb.
- Add any other finishing touches to your scene e.g. pebble footpaths etc.



- Read Mark 16:1-8 ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) – try the CEV translation)



- What were the women expecting to find when they got to the tomb?
- Can you think of at least three things that were surprising or shocking for the women?
- What surprises or shocks you about the Easter story?

**Where are you going to place your Easter garden – somewhere personal where you go to reflect? Somewhere where others might see it and stop to ponder?**

### Going Deeper

- To hear a Christian talk about why the resurrection is so important for them, check out: <http://request.org.uk/festivals/holy-week-and-easter/why-is-the-resurrection-so-important-to-christians/>.
- If you are interested in how Christians defend the resurrection– then the following short video might be of interest: <http://request.org.uk/jesus/death-and-resurrection/what-happened-to-the-body/#>.

