



A resource to help you enjoy church at home as a household

This page is designed to help you lead your household through a 20 minute family-church time together before the online church service happens. Of course, you don't have to do everything – do whatever works for you.

We've adapted today's content from [this Mustardseeds lesson](#). Below, you will find the instructions and links to help you teach, sing & pray with your kids, and some craft activities that you will hopefully have received in your letterbox! If you'd like to print them, find the PDF of these items [here](#).

We'd love to see how you're going. If you're comfortable, post videos of news and greetings and pics of craft on our [private Facebook group](#)!



1. Singing Together

Spend some time singing [this song](#) by Colin Buchanan together as we celebrate Easter. We'd love to see some actions that you come up with.



2. Listening to God Together

a. If you'd like to go through the story again, have a watch of [this awesome video](#) from Saddleback Kids, from Luke 23.
Find the words (CEV) here:

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people. He told them, "You brought Jesus to me and said he was a troublemaker. But I have questioned him here in front of you, and I have not found him guilty of anything that you say he has done. Herod didn't find him guilty either and sent him back. This man doesn't deserve to be put to death! I will just have him beaten with a whip and set free." But the whole crowd shouted, "Kill Jesus! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was in jail because he had started a riot in the city and had murdered someone. Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he spoke again to the crowds. But they kept shouting, "Nail him to a cross! Nail him to a cross!" Pilate spoke to them a third time, "But what crime has he done? I have not found him guilty of anything for which he should be put to death. I will have him beaten with a whip and set free." The people kept on shouting as loud as they could for Jesus to be put to death. Finally, Pilate gave in. He freed the man who was in jail for rioting and murder, because he was the one the crowd wanted to be set free. Then Pilate handed Jesus over for them to do what they wanted with him. As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. Jesus turned to the women and said: Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children. Someday people will say, "Women who never had children are really fortunate!" At that time everyone will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" They will say to the hills, "Hide us!" If this can happen when the wood is green, what do you think will happen when it is dry? Two criminals were led out to be put to death with Jesus. When the soldiers came to the place called "The Skull," they nailed Jesus to a cross. They also nailed the two criminals to crosses, one on each side of Jesus. Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people! They don't know what they're doing." While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by saying, "He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God's chosen Messiah!" The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine. They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" Above him was a sign that said, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!" But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!" Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."

b. Teaching your children (from Mustardseeds lesson)

The passage can be broken down into three main sections: Luke 23:13–25: Jesus' trial before Pilate and the release of Barabbas (told briefly). Luke 23:32–39: Jesus' crucifixion. The response of the crowd and the first criminal. Luke 23:40–49: The second criminal's response and Jesus' promise to him. Jesus' death. Feel free to pick or choose depending on what is appropriate for your children's context.

There was another man called Barabbas. Barabbas was a very bad man. He was violent and had even killed some people. *Did Barabbas deserve to be punished? Did Jesus deserve to be punished?*

Both Pilate and Herod knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong and didn't deserve to be punished, but the religious leaders wanted him dead. They told lies about Jesus and said that he had sinned. Then they got people in the crowd to shout for Barabbas to go free and for Jesus to die.

They took Jesus outside the city to a hill and nailed him to a cross. They also punished two thieves that day. *Did these men deserve to be punished?*

While they were hanging on the cross one thief said to Jesus, "Aren't you God's special king? Save yourself and us!" He wanted Jesus to prove that he was the king by not dying and not letting them die. But it wasn't staying alive that proved Jesus is the king, but dying for people's sins! This man had got it all wrong.

The other thief also spoke. He said to the first thief, "You and I are being punished because we have done many bad things, but Jesus has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Please remember me when you come into your kingdom." He knew that Jesus was the king and he was asking Jesus to be kind to him even though he had done bad things – he asked Jesus to be merciful.

And Jesus said to that man, "You will be with me in heaven." Isn't that a wonderful promise? This man had asked Jesus to forgive him. He had asked Jesus to take all his sin away. Jesus died to take the punishment for all the bad things that man had done.

Some Questions:

What is the difference between Thief 1 and Thief 2?
What did they believe? What did they say? What did they do?
Do you think we are very different to these thieves? Why/why not?
Why did Jesus have to die?



3. Praying Together

a. Make a big cross on a piece of paper [using this activity](#). (NB you can use this as a simple craft activity!). Ask your children what they think they'd like forgiveness for – write it down on the cross. Talk about how because Jesus died, and because we trust him as our king, everything we've ever done or ever will do is put on this cross like the things we just wrote down. Thank God together for forgiveness, and for Jesus' sacrifice.

b. (from the last few weeks: add some more people to the prayer chain, and hang it somewhere where you can see it is a family. Pray through that list together, taking turns).

c. Pray the Lord's Prayer together, alongside Christians across the world:

*Our father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Don't let us fall into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours.
Now and forever,
Amen.*



4. Getting Creative Together

a. See the above Prayer activity!

b. See your Easter Packs (downloadable above, if you can't find them)

c. b. Longer craft project (NB parents help probably required) – make your own palm branches out of the coloured paper in your packs to decorate your house! Use this as an opportunity to reflect on how brave it was that Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die for us!
Go to this link for all the instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDHcIkOs2Ok>

Thanks for doing church at home with us! We hope this was helpful and fun – remember to post some pics and vids on our facebook group to show us what you got up to, or pass on some encouraging words to your friends. We'd love to know how we can help make this experience better, so if you have any thoughts please email office@stbedes.com.au

Please visit www.stbedes.com.au for the rest of the Good Friday church Service! We hope this Easter is a special time for your family.