

Children's Resources Good Friday



The Easter Journey

Good Friday is a very reflective day, one that is often more solemn leading up to Easter Sunday. It is helpful for Good Friday to have a separate space and activity for children right from the start of the service. This can often be a slightly shorter service than usual. Below you will find an outline with some suggestions for a shorter kids' church lesson.

Let's Get Started

For this activity you will need:

- The clip from the movie Monsters Inc. – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbMYtIfKhAw>
- Laptop or media device to play the clip

Play the following Monsters Inc. clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbMYtIfKhAw>

Spend time discussing the movie especially the concept of the doors in the movie. Some of the children will have seen the movie and some not, so make sure all understand the concept of the movie and the doors.

God's Big Idea

For this activity you will need:

- White A4 or A3 paper
- Textas/Pencils

Hand out paper and textas/pencils and encourage the kids to draw a map/diagram of their house **including all the doors** in their house.

When they have finished get the kids to count how many doors are in their house.

Ask:

- *Do you have a favourite door in your house and where does it lead? Discuss their answers. (You may want to mention that your favourite door in the house might be the fridge door!!)*
- *How would you get into a room if it didn't have any doors or windows?*

Explain that you couldn't get into the room so doors are extremely important. Most of the time when you open a door you know where you are heading and you know what to expect but sometimes when you open a door you don't know what to expect on the other side.

Ask:

- *I wonder if this has ever happened to you.*
- *How did you feel? Was it scary or rather exciting?*

Say that today I want to explain to you about a door that we can all open that will lead us to a very exciting life.

Ask:

- *I wonder if you know what today is called. (Good Friday)*
- *Who can tell me what is special about today?*
- *I wonder if you have ever heard the saying 'When one door closes another door opens'*

Use an example to explain – *'I failed a test at school that meant that I couldn't get into the special class that I wanted to get into. So that door (opportunity) was closed. But I was able to get into another class which turned out better because my favourite teacher was teaching that class. This meant another door (opportunity) was opened for me. If the first door hadn't been closed, the second door would not have been opened for me.'*

'Did you know that there is a verse in the Bible (Revelation 3:20) that talks about Jesus knocking at the door of our lives? It says, 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. And he will eat with me.'

Ask:

- *What do you think this may mean?*

Explain that this means that Jesus gently knocks and prompts our hearts. When we feel this knock and we open ourselves to Jesus, Jesus comes and lives in our hearts and lives.

Ask:

- *But why would Jesus do this for us?*

(At this stage you may want to stand by a door and open and close the door at the appropriate times.)

'Well God sent Jesus to the world – God's son. While Jesus was a man on the earth he talked about God's love and how God wanted to be friends with everyone (invite them all in) but the things that we did wrong came in the way of our friendship with God. We were closing the door of our hearts and lives to God every time we did something wrong.'

'God wanted our hearts opened so God allowed Jesus to be killed by other people (Herod). He was crucified on a cross and died as the result.'

'That seems so unfair doesn't it? But God allowed Jesus to take the punishment for the world's sins. Pilate demanded that somebody be punished that day and God allowed and gave up Jesus who God loved so very much.'

Remind the children that Jesus is God's son and that Jesus was perfect. Jesus never sinned or did the wrong thing.

Ask:

- *So why would the people want to crucify (kill/murder) Jesus when he hadn't done anything wrong?*
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'Jesus was used to repair our friendship with God. Jesus was used to open the door of our hearts with God. By taking the punishment for our sins Jesus gave us the opportunity to open up the door of our hearts to God. Jesus' death on the cross repaired the gap that sin created between God and us.'

What's the Point?

'When we open our hearts to Jesus, we are forgiven of sin and can enjoy a friendship with God. That's what we celebrate at Easter!'

'God's wants to have a friendship with us. We have to say sorry to God for the things that we do wrong and ask him to be our friend.'

'Jesus died to open up the door of our heart so that we could invite God into our lives.'

'When we close the door on sin, we get to open a much better and exciting door to forgiveness and love. Just like the saying, When one door closes, another door opens. This is a very exciting door (opportunity) that we have been given to us by God and we should open the door and invite Jesus in because Jesus loves us all and wants the best for our lives.'

'Jesus love will enter any open door (heart) if we invite Him in.'

Chat with God

Ask the children if any of them would like to open the door of their heart to God by telling God they are sorry, asking God to be their friend and believing in Jesus Christ.

Some example prayers could be:

- I am sorry for the things in my life that are wrong.
- Thank you Jesus for taking the punishment for my sin.
- Thank you that you love me so much.
- Help me when I am tempted to make the right choice.
- Thank you for dying on the cross for me.
- I would love you to be my friend and live in my life.
- I am opening the door to my heart for you and invite you to enter and to be my friend.

Spend time praying with the children and have a leader finish with a prayer.

Remind the children that Sunday is coming and it is an exciting day. They need to come and celebrate together that Jesus has opened an exciting door us.

Finish with a fun song from the movie Frozen – *'Love is an Open Door.'*
