

# RESCUED

PALM SUNDAY † MAUNDY THURSDAY † GOOD FRIDAY † EASTER SUNDAY

## Easter Sunday

*Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20; 1 Corinthians 15:1–28*

Easter Sunday is a great day of celebration and is another great opportunity for both adults and children to worship and celebrate Jesus' resurrection together. You might like to have most of the service together and have some special bags for the children to participate in during the sermon section or you could have most of the service together and then have the children go out just for a short time (choosing one of the suggested activities) and come back at the end of the service.

### Interactive Message

Who likes to win? Maybe you like to win a game, at sport, in a race, on the PlayStation or Xbox.

I wonder if you have ever watched the face and actions of someone who wins. Maybe you remember seeing some of the expressions and actions of the athletes from the Olympic games, or when a tennis player wins their match, or when a bowler takes a wicket in cricket or a soccer player gets a goal.

Perhaps you have got a strike when ten pin bowling and you have done 'the strike dance'.

Maybe it has not been that you have won something, but it certainly feels like it when you overcame a challenge or finished a major task and it felt like a win.

I am sure that you have all experienced this and seen others that have experienced it too. I wonder if that is how Jesus would have felt when he rose from the dead after three days. I wonder what His face would have looked like or what He would have said when he came out from the tomb...

(Get a couple of people to show their facial expressions and what they think Jesus would have said/yelled.)

Let's all have a go—you're Jesus, conquering death and coming back to life and bursting out of the tomb—on the count of three, one, two, three...

Well, today is Easter Sunday and we celebrate because Jesus overcame a huge challenge—he overcame death and defeated the Devil and established himself as the ruler of the world. He has full authority. No-one is more powerful than him and yet he wants to be your friend. I would like you all to help me with some actions so that we can all remember and celebrate this fact.

Show the actions that you would like them to help you with; make sure that all adults and children are participating.

- *Chaos*: wave your arms around in the air madly and say 'boogity boogity' over and over again, fast.
- *Overcame death*: arms in muscle man pose like Mr Universe and roar 'Aaagggh!' like a giant.
- *All authority*: one arm punching the sky (can add a jump too if you like) saying, 'He's the King of the World!'
- *BFF's*: High-five the person next to you and say 'You're my BFF' (Best Friend Forever).

Okay, as I read the passage I want you to be listening for those words Chaos, Overcame death, All Authority and BFF's. When you hear the words I want you all to do your action and make the sound.

'When God created the world, it was perfect. But when Adam and Eve chose to sin, into the world came chaos. Even though God tried to warn people to obey and honour him, they seemed to prefer the chaos. Finally, God sent his own son, Jesus to help people. But Satan wasn't very happy about this, he liked chaos. When Jesus died on the cross, Satan was happy, but three days later, Jesus rose from the dead: he overcame death. Yes, he overcame death. Did I mention that Jesus overcame death? Okay. When that had happened, Jesus told his followers that all authority had been given to him and he could give all authority to his followers to do miracles and wonders in his name. Jesus wanted to be BFF with his disciples and he wants to be BFF with you, too!'

## Activity Suggestions

These activities can be used in your variety of settings as you explore the theme with your kids, e.g. kid's church, kids club during the week, on some tables during church or as the kids go out just for a short time during the message. Some of the activities in this section and the children's activity bag section will be the same as you will generally choose to either run some activities or make up a bag for the children as they stay in the service.

- **'Minute To Win It' challenges:** Choose some minute to win it challenges from the website <http://au.tv.yahoo.com/minute-to-win-it/games/>. It would be good to choose some activities that will not be too difficult for your children to succeed at, so that they can know the joy of winning, show their winning face and shout out 'Winner'. Make sure that all children have the chance to play a game; you might like to have a couple of children doing the activity at the same time.
  - **Link:** We have all had a chance to play some minute to win it games. How does it feel when you win something (give the children opportunity to respond)? We were talking in the service today about how Jesus might have felt when He rose from the dead—when he overcame death. (Get the children to share the actions and what they think Jesus might have said again.) I hope that you will be reminded of Jesus being a winner and overcoming death when you win things and overcome challenges. And remember that not only did Jesus beat death, but he wants to be our friend forever.
- **Crowns:** You will need some cardboard or pre-cut crown templates, stickers, textas, crayons, pencils, coloured paper, foil, jewels, beads, glue, foam letter or shape stickers, scissors etc. for this activity. Give the children the opportunity to create their own crown and decorate it.
  - **Link:** Who wears a crown (give the children opportunity to respond: king, queen, prince, princess, royalty, someone in charge)? Today we have made a crown to remind us that Jesus is in charge. When Jesus overcame death He was given all the power and authority to be in charge of everything—you might say 'King of the World'. Queen Elizabeth is in charge of England and 54 other members of the Commonwealth of Nations including Australia, there are many other kings and queens around the world that are in charge of their country or area but none quite like Jesus. Jesus is king of everything and has been given the power and authority to rule over all the Earth, and that's amazing! (You might like to get the children to write or add letters to their crown to say 'Jesus = King of the World'.)

## Children's activity bag suggestions

Below are some suggestions for you to use in creating a childrens activity bag for use during the second half of the service. It would be good to hand these out to the children after the interactive message.

- **Crowns:** Use information from the activity above to make up a pack for each child. As this will be done in the service, you would be best with drawing implements and stickers to decorate the crown. Place all items into a snap-lock bag and place this inside the childrens activity bag.
- **I wonder...** Each child will need a blank sheet of paper and some drawing implements (*depending on the age of the children you will want to provide appropriate drawing implements*). They will also need some instructions that can be written or printed onto the paper or on a separate card that accompanies the paper. The first question is for older children and the second one is for those that are a bit younger.
  - *I wonder what Jesus looked like when He overcame death... when he won... and was given ALL the power... (draw this)*
  - *I wonder if Jesus was excited when He came out of the tomb... (draw this)*
- **Other items to include:**
  - Themed *Kidzone* for Easter Sunday (this will include puzzles and stories etc. for today's theme).
  - Complete all the puzzles in *Kidzone* and bring it to ..... at the end of the service for a lucky dip.
  - Home & Beyond card or swing tag for the family to continue the conversation at home.
  - Lollypop, sweets, shapes or something to eat depending on the children that you have, allergies and eating in church policies etc. This could also be done by having a container where the children can choose something to put into their bag when they collect it or making up the bags individually with names on them, thus catering for those with special needs, as well as having spares for visitors.
  - Invitations or fliers for the families for the next family-focused activity.

## Home & Beyond

It is vitally important, as leaders within our churches that we help to equip parents with suggestions, activities and language as they help their children to navigate on their spiritual journey. A Home & Beyond card placed in the activity bag or used as a swing tag on the activity bag is a great way to help them take the key message home and continue the conversation in the rhythm of their daily lives. Below you will see some suggestions that you might like to put on a tag to support, challenge and equip your families.

- **Review the message:** Provide each family with the outline of the actions and the story that you used today in the service. Encourage them to repeat the message a couple of times throughout the week so that they can celebrate the good news together. Pray at the end as a family thanking and celebrating how Jesus has rescued us.

Today is Easter Sunday and we celebrate because Jesus overcame a huge challenge—he overcame death and defeated the Devil and established himself as the ruler of the world. He has full authority. No-one is more powerful than him and yet he wants to be your friend. Do some actions to help remember and celebrate this fact.

- **Chaos:** wave your arms around in the air madly and say 'boogity boogity' over and over again, fast.
- **Overcame death:** arms in muscle man pose like Mr Universe and roar 'Aaaggggh!' like a giant.
- **All authority:** one arm punching the sky (can add a jump too if you like) saying, 'He's the King of the World!'
- **BFF's:** High-five the person next to you and say 'You're my BFF' (Best Friend Forever).

Read the passage and do the actions.

'When God created the world, it was perfect. But when Adam and Eve chose to sin, into the world came **chaos**. Even though God tried to warn people to obey and honour him, they seemed to prefer the **chaos**. Finally, God sent his own son, Jesus to help people. But Satan wasn't very happy about this, he liked **chaos**. When Jesus died on the cross, Satan was happy, but three days later, Jesus rose from the dead: he **overcame death**. Yes, he **overcame death**. Did I mention that Jesus **overcame death**? Okay. When that had happened, Jesus told his followers that **all authority** had been given to him and he could give **all authority** to his followers to do miracles and wonders in his name. Jesus wanted to be **BFF** with his disciples and he wants to be **BFF** with you, too!'