

Come AND See



Intergenerational worship helps foster healthy faith communities and individual faith development. This segment is an opportunity for all members of your church to learn and grow together.

To maximise impact:

- Choose volunteers/participants from different generations
- Ask everyone to participate in discussions
- Involve everyone in interactive activities

Option 1: Scripture puzzles

These puzzles encourage the sharing of Scriptures that have particular significance on Good Friday.

Materials:

- Print out of the Scripture puzzle template (*Appendix 1: A4 or Appendix 2: A5*)
- Cut the puzzle pieces and put each puzzle into an envelope

Ask the congregation to form groups of about three or four with the people around them, including differing ages in their groups where possible.

Hand out envelopes with puzzle pieces of Scripture verses. There are five different verses to distribute. (If you have more people in your church, you can print extra copies of the verses. This will mean some groups will have the same verse.)

Ask the groups to put their puzzle together and let you know when they have finished. (Give them a three-minute time limit.)

Once everyone is finished, invite one group at a time to read out their verse.

Here are the five Scriptures:

- "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die" (John 3:16, CEV).
- "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NLT).

- “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8, NLT).
- “Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God, when his body was put to death and his spirit was made alive” (1 Peter 3:18, CEV).
- “Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live” (Galatians 1:4, NLT).

Think about the verse your group has discovered. What do you think is important in that verse? Take a moment to share your answer with your group.

Pause for a moment to allow sharing.

These verses help us to ‘come and see’ Jesus. They remind us of what Jesus did, dying on the cross so that we can be friends with God. Today is Good Friday. We ‘come and see’ and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made. We remember and celebrate that Jesus lived, loved, suffered, died and rose again to bring us new life. Our relationship with God has been restored.

Scripture:

Ask for a volunteer to read Isaiah 53:5, NLT:

“But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”

Prayer:

Invite everyone to pray together in intergenerational groups of two or three people.

- *Everything good we have is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. What is one thing you are thankful for?*
- *Pray for one person, or family, who you would like to ‘come and see’ Jesus and experience the love he has for them*
- *Thank God that you can ‘come and see’ him*

“Thank God for his gift that is too wonderful for words!” (2 Corinthians 9:15, CEV).

Option 2: The Easter story¹

Materials:

- 12 envelopes or sandwich bags with Scriptures and objects inside
- 12 Scriptures (Appendix 3)
- 12 pictures of objects (Appendix 4) or 12 objects
- Optional extra: PowerPoint slides with pictures of objects (Appendix 5)

Preparation

- Number the sandwich bags or envelopes one to 12
- Print the 12 Scriptures, cut them into strips and place them inside the envelopes/sandwich bags
- In each envelope/sandwich bag, place the corresponding small object or a printed copy of the picture
- Before the service, give 12 volunteers from different generations one of the envelopes/sandwich bags and ask them to come up when indicated during the meeting
- When called upon, each volunteer will need to read their Scripture verse and show the object from their envelope/sandwich bag

Here is a summary of the verses and pictures, for reference:

	Scripture verses on notes	Objects/pictures of the Easter story
1	Matthew 26:39	A tiny plastic (communion/sacrament) cup
2	Matthew 26:14-15	Three silver coins
3	Matthew 27:1-2	A piece of knotted string
4	Matthew 27:24-26	A small piece of soap
5	Matthew 27:28-30	A small piece of red fabric or paper
6	Matthew 27:31-32	A small toothpick cross, tiny nail
7	Matthew 27:35	A pair of dice
8	Matthew 27:50-51, 54	A small bag of crushed rock or soil
9	Matthew 27:57-59	A square of white cloth or linen, or paper

¹ This object lesson is adapted from *The Easter Story in Eggs - Teach Beside Me*.

10	Matthew 27:60, 65-66	A small stone
11	Luke 24:1-3	A clove, cinnamon stick or small spice jar
12	Matthew 28:6	Nothing in the envelope – the tomb is empty!

Through the Bible, we can 'come and see' the story of Easter. I've invited 12 volunteers to help me this morning. Each of them has a special envelope/sandwich bag that tells a part of the story. Can my 12 volunteers please come up to the platform?

Who has number one?

Ask the volunteer who has envelope/sandwich bag one to read out their Scripture verse and show the object in their envelope.

Ask each of the volunteers (in order) to read out their verse and show their object.

When the 12th verse is read out, express awe and wonder, highlighting the 'wow' moment, as there is nothing in the last envelope/sandwich bag because Jesus is no longer in the tomb!

[Optional extra: Display the PowerPoint with the objects on it as each person reads out their verse and shows their object.]

This is the story of Easter. As we see each object, we remember all that Jesus went through so that we can be friends with God. Today, on Good Friday, we 'come and see' and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made. We remember and celebrate that Jesus lived, loved, suffered, died and rose again to bring us new life. Our relationship with God has been restored!

Scripture:

Ask for a volunteer to read Isaiah 53:5, NLT out loud:

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."

Prayer:

Invite everyone to pray together in intergenerational groups of two or three people.

- *Everything good we have is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. What is one thing you are thankful for?*
- *Pray for one person, or family, who you would like to 'come and see' Jesus and experience the love he has for them*
- *Thank God that you can 'come and see' him*

"Thank God for his gift that is too wonderful for words!" (2 Corinthians 9:15, CEV).

Option 3: Make a beaded bracelet

This activity complements the remembrance and symbolism aspects of Easter: making a bracelet with coloured beads that represent different parts of the Easter story.

Materials:

- Bracelet cords
- Coloured beads: red, purple, black, gold, white (these can be sourced from ebay.com.au search 'pony beads' or craft stores)

(Optional variation: use just four colours: red, purple, black, white)

Activity:

(You might like to have a station at the front for individuals to come and collect their beads and cord. Alternatively, you could make up little 'kits' and place them on seats before the service.)

this morning, we have the opportunity to make some special bracelets together. You each have a piece of cord and some coloured beads.

- *First, let's take the **red** bead and thread it on the cord – the red bead represents the blood of Jesus*
- *Next, take the **purple** bead, which represents royalty – this reminds us that Jesus is our King and our God*
- *Third, take the **black** bead – we are sad because Jesus died*
- *Fourth, the **gold** bead, reminds us that what he did was, and is, very valuable*
- *And our last bead is **white**, to show that all of our bad choices can be wiped clean – God forgives us and we can be his friends*

Each time we look at our bracelets we'll remember what Jesus has done for us. If you need more time to finish your bracelet, please feel free to keep making them as the service continues.

Today, on Good Friday, we 'come and see' and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made. We remember and celebrate that Jesus lived, loved, suffered, died and rose again to bring us new life. Our relationship with God has been restored!

Scripture:

Ask for a volunteer to read the Scripture:

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NLT).

Prayer:

Invite everyone to pray together in intergenerational groups of two or three people.

- *Everything good we have is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. What is one thing you are thankful for?*
- *Pray for one person, or family, who you would like to 'come and see' Jesus and experience the love he has for them*
- *Thank God that you have been graced to 'come and see' him*

"Thank God for his gift that is too wonderful for words!" (2 Corinthians 9:15, CEV).