

EASTER presentation

BLUE – descriptions & supplies

RED - actions

BLACK – actual speaking parts

PURPLE HIGHLIGHTS - SINGING

AUDITORIUM needs prior to beginning:

*Worship folders on seats

*RESERVED SEAT SIGNS FOR COSTUMED section leaders, Simon, angel, women and soldiers

*2 COSTUMED in foyer to greet and seat and to lead/encourage the hosanna song as the parade group enters

Microphone in sound room for Jesus' voice

2 Microphones set up for readers

Water jar for Last Supper Scene

Table prepared for last supper

baskets, wipes, trays of bread, trays of communion cups, baskets/bowls of grapes

Table with 11 water (and candles) bowls

Cross for Jesus to carry

Pencils in boxes under chairs

basket/box with dissolving paper in it

Helium balloons covered by brown sheets

Resurrection rolls

To start: Medium light

Elements of Presentation: (script follows)

Palm Parade

The Last Supper

The Garden

The Crucifixion

The Resurrection

PALM PARADE

timing estimate:

Supplies needed: palms, children's costumes, coloring pages, crayons,

Characters needed: COSTUMED singers, Jesus, traffic control for parking lot, person to lock up after everyone leaves

Prep time needed: decorate on Saturday before Easter, finger foods from Congregation

Songs needed: **easy Hosanna song** (chant to be done without written words)

*10 AM - Easter brunch coffee fellowship. The room will be transformed into a Bible Times coffee shop.
followed by Hosanna song/PARADE leaving at _____

A table set up inside so children can make a "palm leaf".

Children can also dress up in extra costumes and remain in them for the AM.

Table set up with coloring pages and crayons.

Conversations about Jesus being the Messiah will be encouraged.

Costumed people will invite all to join the "Hosanna" parade.

Each person who wants one will be given a "palm leaf" then we will together proceed to the auditorium singing a Hosanna song. Costumed singers to lead echo chant/song. **Jesus** and disciples are at the end of the procession.

We- be a good example!- will drop our "palm leaves" in the foyer. (Put palms toward walls in the foyer where they are not walked on and can't be a slip hazard) All costumed characters help seat people in the auditorium.

Sing "**Hosanna**" chant as everyone is seated in the auditorium. Then sing "**Hosanna**" song (from worship folder) as Jesus follows through auditorium and out the hall door. Disciples follow Jesus through auditorium and return to foyer.

THE LAST SUPPER

Still – Medium light

timing estimate:

Supplies needed: baskets, wipes, trays of bread, trays of communion cups, baskets/bowls of grapes, tableau table, towel for Jesus, water jar for man, basin for Jesus

Characters needed: Bible Readers, Jesus, 12 Disciples, Man, Section Servers, costumed singers, light person

Prep time needed: table, communion bread, cups, & grape baskets

Songs needed: servant song/Jesus example song, communion songs (2?), transition hymn song

Mark 14:12-15

READER ONE: On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So He sent two of His disciples, telling them,

Man carrying a jar of Water enters and walks slowly, but not past the center of the room before the disciples reach him.

READER THREE: "Go into the city and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"

2 Disciples enter, spot the man, and hurry to catch up with him. They then walk with him at his slow pace near the stage, standing there "talking".

Man leaves his water jar on the floor for foot washing and exits.

READER THREE: He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

Disciples return and bring table into center of room. Jesus and other disciples enter and all recline around the table.

John 13:1-17

READER TWO: Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing and wrapped a towel around His waist.

Jesus acts this out as the reader continues.

READER ONE: After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied,

READER THREE: "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

READER ONE: "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

READER TWO: Jesus answered,

READER THREE: “Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.”

READER ONE: “Then Lord, “ Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well”. Jesus answered,

READER THREE: “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”

READER TWO: For he knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not everyone was clean. When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place.

READER THREE: “Do you understand what I have done for you?” “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than His master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. “

READER ONE: As the containers of wipes are passed, please take one and use it to wash one another's hands and think about Jesus washing His disciples' feet. He came to serve, and He calls us to follow His example by serving one another. When you are done your section leaders will pass a basket to pick up the wipes.

Section leaders pass container of wipes, then pass basket for pickups.

Sing **servant song** while the baskets are passed.

Mark 14:18-21

READER TWO: While they were reclining at the table eating, He said,

READER THREE: “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me.”

READER TWO: They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?”

READER THREE: “It is one of the Twelve,” “one who dips bread into the bowl with me.”

Jesus hands a piece of bread to Judas.

Judas stands up and hurries out through the foyer doors.

READER THREE: The son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

(pause until Judas is gone)

Mark 14:22-24

READER TWO: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying,

READER THREE: “Take it, this is my body.”

READER TWO: Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

READER THREE: “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the many,”

READER ONE: Jesus invites all of us today to participate at His table, in His life, in His death, and in His Kingdom. In addition to the bread and juice we will be passing a container of grapes. This is to remind us that what Jesus shared with His disciples was a meal, a special feast. We join now in this feast as we accept His invitation to join around His table.. Let us pray together."

READER ONE: Dear Jesus, thank you for your love for us expressed on the cross. Thank you for providing this simple reminder so that we would never forget how much you love us. Bless the bread we will share that reminds us that you came as a real person with a real body. Bless the cup of juice that reminds us that you really bled and died. Bless these grapes that remind us of a feast waiting for us with you in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen..

Costumed singers lead a couple of communion songs while the dishes are being passed.

Section leaders pass trays of bread, cups of juice, and baskets of grapes.

Reader waits until completed.

Mark 14:25

READER ONE: He said to them,

READER THREE: “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

READER ONE: When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus and 11 Disciples pick up table and leave through foyer while COSTUMED singers lead us in solemn hymn.

Lights turn off for Garden of Gethsemane except for spotlight on where Jesus prays. Background cd (night sounds) begins.

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

timing estimate:

Supplies needed: spotlight, background cd

Characters needed: Jesus, 3 disciples, 8 disciples, soldiers, readers, Judas

Prep time needed: spotlight setup

Songs needed: none – only previous transition

Matthew 26:36-45

READER ONE: Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them,

READER THREE: “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

11 disciples and Jesus enter from foyer. Jesus, Peter, James, John go to center

READER TWO: He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them,

READER THREE: “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

READER ONE: Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed,
spotlight on Jesus

READER THREE: “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Pause for effect - Continue to act out the rest of the passage.

READER TWO: Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping.

READER THREE: “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?”

Jesus shakes Peter.

READER ONE: He asked Peter.

READER THREE: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

READER TWO: He went away a second time and prayed,

READER THREE: “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.”

Pause for effect - Continue to act out the rest of the passage

READER ONE: When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then He returned to the disciples and said to them,

READER THREE: “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Matthew 26:48-50

READER TWO: Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. Jesus replied,

Judas and soldiers enter. Judas kisses Jesus.

READER THREE: “Friend, do what you came for.”

READER ONE: Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him.

Judas turns and leave. Disciples flee in. Jesus and the soldiers exit.

Spotlight only – low light Background sounds end.

CRUCIFIXION

timing estimate:

Supplies needed: Draped table with 11 bowls of water, 11 floating candles for bowls, lighter/s, cross, dissolving paper and pencils,

Characters needed: Simon , Jesus , eleven disciples, 2 soldiers, women, Readers,

Prep time needed:

Songs needed: one, see below for placement

Mark 15:16

READER TWO: The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him,

PRAISE TEAM AND SECTION LEADERS: “Hail, king of the Jews!”

READER TWO: And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led him out to crucify Him.

Luke 23:26

Two soldiers with Jesus/cross slowly enter from the foyer and walk through to the office hallway.

READER ONE: As they led Him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene get Simon from audience who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed Him, including the women who mourned and wailed for Him

Women characters follow all the way. Women return OUTSIDE for next scene.

Eleven disciples follow from foyer carrying bowls of water with the floating candles already lit. Stop in center.

2 costumed people or disciples carry draped table to center. Bowls are set in shape of cross on the table.

Then the disciples circle the table and hold hands, praying for Jesus’ release.

Luke 23:33....

READER TWO: When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him. Jesus said,

READER THREE: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:44 & John19:30

READER TWO: It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,

READER THREE: “It is finished.”

Together the disciples blow out the candles, and step back to allow room for those who will come with their “sins”.

READER ONE: What was finished? The Bible explains that when we disobey God, that is called sin. The punishment for sin is death. Jesus never sinned. Jesus did not need to die. He did not deserve to die. But Jesus did die. Why? Because He took our place. He took our punishment. Our sins can be forgiven because Jesus died.

Lighting medium

We are passing out some paper. You will find pencils in the boxes under the chairs. We invite you to write or draw something on your paper that you wish you had not done, one of your sins. As we sing, bring those papers to the cross on the table and put them in one of the jars of water. You will find that because of the cross, your sins are washed away.

SONG: crucificiton/forgiveness song

After the song is over, the following scriptures can be read as needed until everyone has had an opportunity to put their paper in a bowl:

1 Peter 2:22-24

READER TWO: He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:4...

READER ONE: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to His own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 John 1:8...

READER TWO: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 5:8

READER ONE: But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Sing same song/s again, as necessary, until people are done.

When people are done, the disciples go to the table and slowly, mournfully, carry it back to the lobby....as if they were carrying a casket. They do not yet know the joy of resurrection.

Romans 8:38 –

READER ONE, READER TWO, SECTION LEADERS & PRAISE TEAM: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future; nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READER ONE: We follow Jesus because our sins can be forgiven.

RESURRECTION

timing estimate:

Supplies needed: helium balloons on strings (under sheets in corners, then released all at once);
resurrection rolls in baskets

Characters needed: 2 women; angel; lighting help

Prep time needed: balloon inflation & resurrection rolls

Songs needed: noted below

Matthew 28:1... **READER TWO: After the Sabbath, at dawn, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake**
2 women go from foyer toward stage – stagger during the earthquake.

From the audience the costumed team begin a chant of “**shake it up! X X Shake it up! X X**” as the lights turned full on.

READER TWO: an angel of the Lord came down from heaven.

Angels enters/stands.

READER TWO: The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as He said.

READER TWO: Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples.”

Angel points behind to the ‘tomb’ as women peer.

The women excitedly run back.

SONG: upbeat Resurrection song as balloons are released from their sheets by section leaders

READER ONE: Let’s say John 3:16 together:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Resurrection song

READER ONE: Please stand and pray with me as we prepare to close.

Heavenly Father, thank you that Jesus is alive and that we have life because He lives. Fill us this week with your Holy Spirit so that we might live this good news wherever we go and in everything we do. In Jesus name, Amen.

READER ONE: We have a treat for you to help you remember that Jesus has risen. On your way out, please pick up a RESURRECTION BUN...and don’t forget to take a balloon with you too! HE IS RISEN!

SECTION LEADERS AND PRAISE TEAM: HE IS RISEN INDEED

READER ONE: We follow Jesus because He’s alive!...and that’s GOOD NEWS!

Hosanna finale! (Jesus comes out to shake hands. Disciples follow him, in celebratory mode.)