



A New Start

Lent is a special time when the family of Jesus think about making a new start. There are occasions when everyone wishes they could make a new start. They wish they could do things differently and not have said or done something unkind, hurtful or silly. It is a time when the family of Jesus try to change and be more like Jesus.

Joel, a wise man who lived some time before Jesus was born, gives some advice about making a new start. Read *Come turn to me*. Explain that this is God speaking to us and that God does not change because God is always kind and loving.

Come, turn to Me

“Come back to me with all your heart.

Make a new start.

Turn to me for I am kind and understanding,
loving and gentle.

I am always ready to forgive you.

I will never change.”

based on Joel 2:13

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

What is God asking of us?

What does Joe say God is like?

What kind of things might we do to change and make a new start?

What words does Joel use to tell us how we can change to be more like Jesus?

The story of Palm Sunday.

The time came for Jesus to go to Jerusalem. Usually Jesus walked quietly with his disciples from one place to another, but Jesus knew this was to be a very special time, different from anything else. Read Mark 11: 1-11, *Palm Sunday* (see below). Explain that a colt is a young donkey. Christians celebrate this special day in church and call it Palm Sunday, it is the beginning of a special time called Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

As Jesus and his disciples were getting close to Jerusalem they came to the Mount of Olives. He sent two of his disciples on ahead and told them, “Go into the village over there. You will see a colt tied up, that no one has ridden yet. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks you what you are doing, tell him, “The Master needs it now and will send it back.” They went off and did as Jesus said. Jesus mounted the colt. As he rode along people spread their cloaks on the road. Some cut branches and spread these before him. The people were all shouting, “Hosanna! Praise God! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna! Praise God!” based on Mark 11: 1-11

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

Where did Jesus get the donkey from?

What did the people use to wave with?

What did they put on the road?

Why do you think they did that?

Where have you heard the words '*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*'?

Jesus died on Good Friday.

The day on which Jesus died is called Good Friday. People go to church to remember Jesus, to listen to the story of his death and to pray for one another.

Read Luke's story: *Good Friday*

Good Friday

Jesus was nailed to a cross outside the city walls. There were two others put to death with him, one on his right and the other on his left. When Jesus was dying he said, "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing." The soldiers played a game of dice to decide who would have his clothes. There was a notice nailed to the cross of Jesus. It said, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the men on the cross made fun of Jesus saying, "If you are a real king, why don't you save us all?" The other man told him to be quiet, because Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then he said to Jesus, "Please, remember me. Don't ever forget me." Jesus said, "I will remember you today and always." (based on Luke 23:33-35,38-43)

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

How did Jesus die?

What did Jesus say about the people who were putting him to death?

What words and phrases do you remember?

What does the story tell us about Jesus?

When Jesus was dying who was he thinking about?

Easter Sunday, Jesus is alive.

Jesus' death on Good Friday was not the end of the story. In the Gospels we hear how Jesus was given new life by God his Father on the third day after he died. We call that day Easter Sunday. Read the story of the Resurrection from Mark 16: 1-6.

After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus.

Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (It was a very large stone.)

Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they entered the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe - and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here - he has been raised! Look, here is the place where he was placed."

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

Why did the women go to Jesus' tomb?

What surprised them?

What do Christians celebrate at Easter?

On Easter Sunday, Christians go to church to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. They sing and say the word '*Alleluia*' because they are so happy that Jesus is risen from the dead. Read the words below together.

Alleluia!

It is Easter Sunday.

We are happy.

Jesus is alive.