

Easter Bible Buddy Reading Pack



This pack belongs to



Church of Ireland ✚
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families





Adult's Preamble!

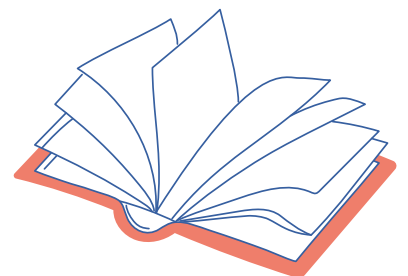


Take time to think and pray

Unlike our other Bible Buddy packs, this pack deals with some challenging themes. The Easter story is not fluffy bunnies and chocolate eggs, but it is central to our children's growing faith. We do not want to hide away from the truth of the gospel, however we do need to consider our child's stage of development and how, in particular, we talk through the topic of death.

The bible passage that tells of the crucifixion ("A very Dark day" page) is factual and we have not edited anything from it. In our notes section that follows this reading you will see that we have placed the emphasis onto the miracle that was to come next and that when there seems to be no hope - God brings new life and hope. God's love is stronger than death.

When chatting with your child allow them to ask questions and in response use the same age appropriate words that you would use generally when talking about death. Ask them what they think, give reassurance and hope - this is not the end.



How to use this pack



Get comfy

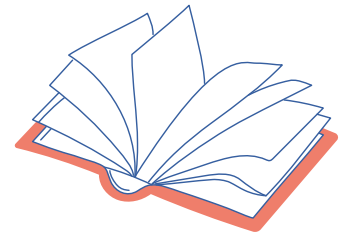


Find a comfy place where you can cuddle with your Buddy and where it's not too noisy.



Chat with Jesus

Before you read or listen to the Bible take a little time to chat with Jesus and ask Him to help you understand what He wants to say to you through the Bible.



Read the Bible Verses

When you are able, read some of the verses. If reading is a bit tricky for you ask someone in your house to read the verses to you. You can read the same verses over & over if you like them - we always see new things.



Draw or write your thoughts

There are many things we can learn from reading God's word - you can chat with someone in your house about it, chat with your Bible Buddy.
Then draw a picture or write it down in the My Notes page.



What do the names and numbers mean?

When you look at the Bible verses you will see there are some strange names and lots of numbers.

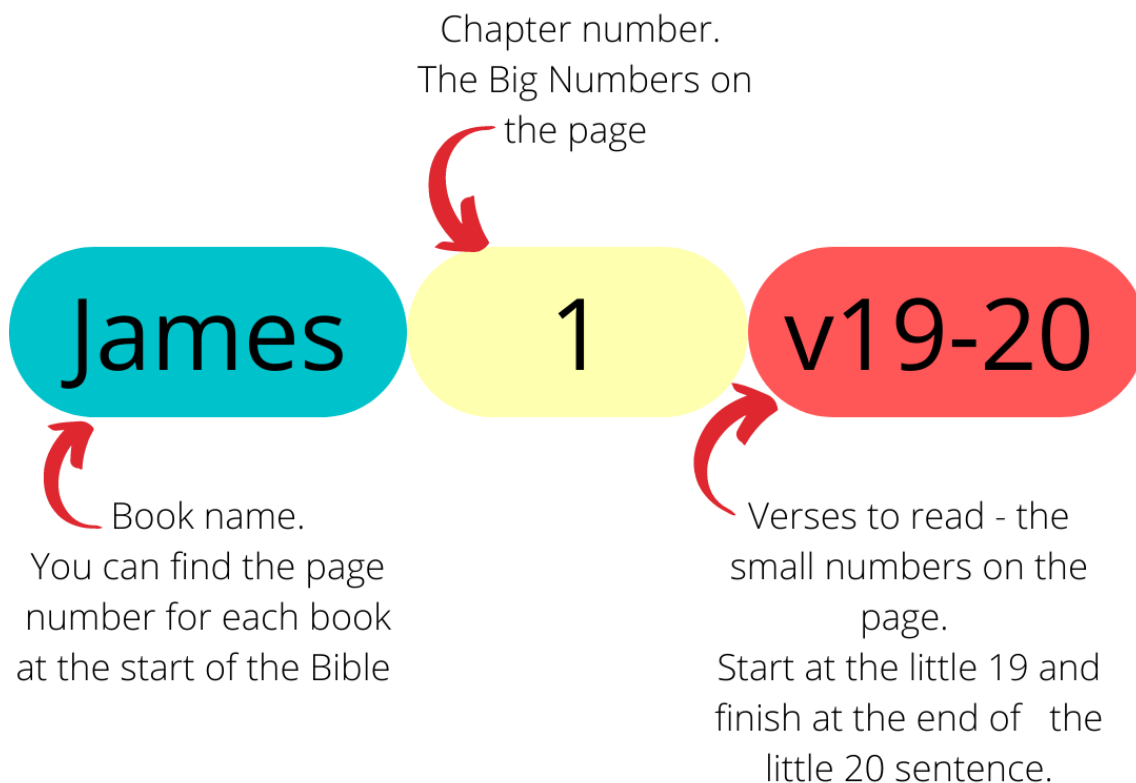
These are the names of books in the Bible and the verse numbers.

We have these to help us to know where to find things in the Bible.

Here is a picture to help you understand.

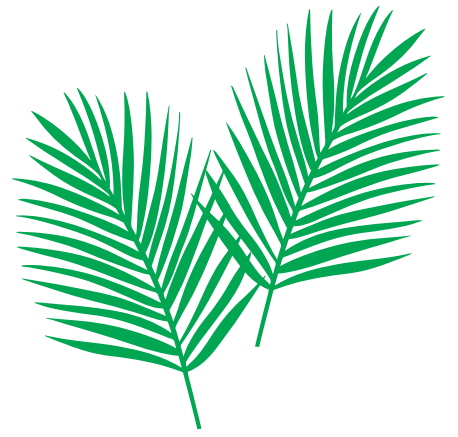
If you have a Bible at home you can practice finding the verses together with your Buddy and whoever is helping you to read.

How to find verses in the Bible



The Easter Story.

Palms and Praises



Luke 19 v 28 - 40

Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking along ahead of his disciples. As they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead, with instructions to go to the next village, and as they entered they were to look for a donkey tied beside the road. It would be a colt, not yet broken for riding.

“Untie him,” Jesus said, “and bring him here. And if anyone asks you what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs him.’”

They found the colt as Jesus said, and sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners demanded an explanation.

“What are you doing?” they asked. “Why are you untying our colt?”

And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs him!” So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw some of their clothing across its back for Jesus to sit on.

Then the crowds spread out their robes along the road ahead of him, and as they reached the place where the road started down from the Mount of Olives, the whole procession began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles Jesus had done.

“God has given us a King!” they exulted. “Long live the King! Let all heaven rejoice! Glory to God in the highest heavens!”

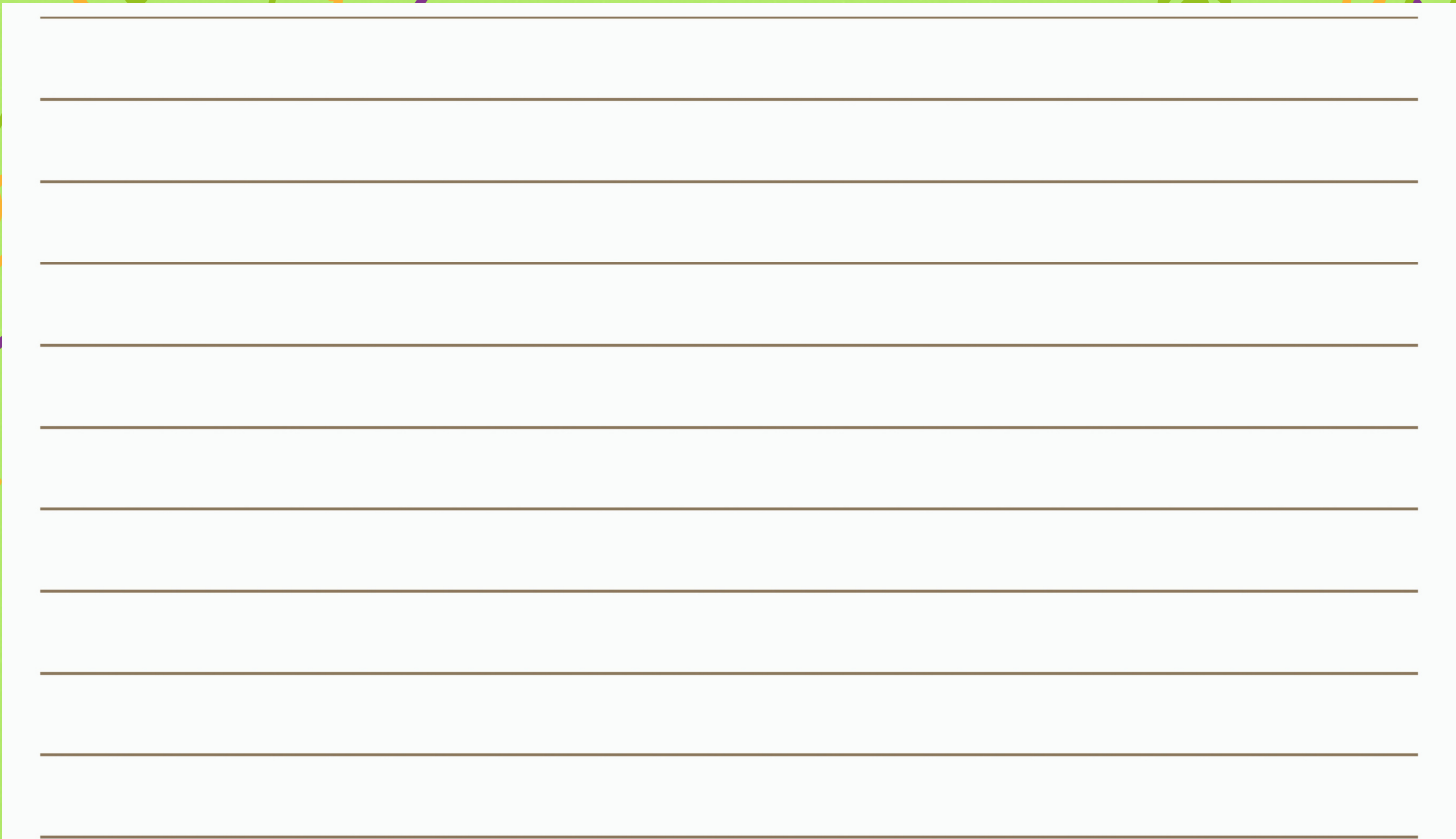
But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Sir, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

He replied, “If they keep quiet, the stones along the road will burst into cheers!”



MY NOTES

We celebrate Palm Sunday in Church. This is when we remember how the crowds in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus and were excited that He was the Messiah - the one they had read about in the Scriptures that would save them and bring God's Kingdom. We still get excited when we think of all Jesus did for us. What ways can you give thanks and praise to Jesus?



The Easter Story.

Washing smelly feet



Luke 1 v 57 - 80

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. Jesus knew that it was time for him to leave this world and go back to the Father. He had always loved those who were his own in the world, and he loved them all the way to the end.

Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to turn against Jesus. (Judas was the son of Simon.) Jesus knew that the Father had given him power over everything. He also knew that he had come from God and was going back to God. So during the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Jesus came to Simon Peter. But Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You don't understand what I am doing now. But you will understand later."

Peter said, "No! You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, then you are not one of my people."

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, after you wash my feet, wash my hands and my head, too!"

Jesus said, "After a person has had a bath, his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. And you men are clean, but not all of you." Jesus knew who would turn against him. That is why Jesus said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have just done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' And this is right, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash each other's feet. I did this as an example for you. So you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth. A servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

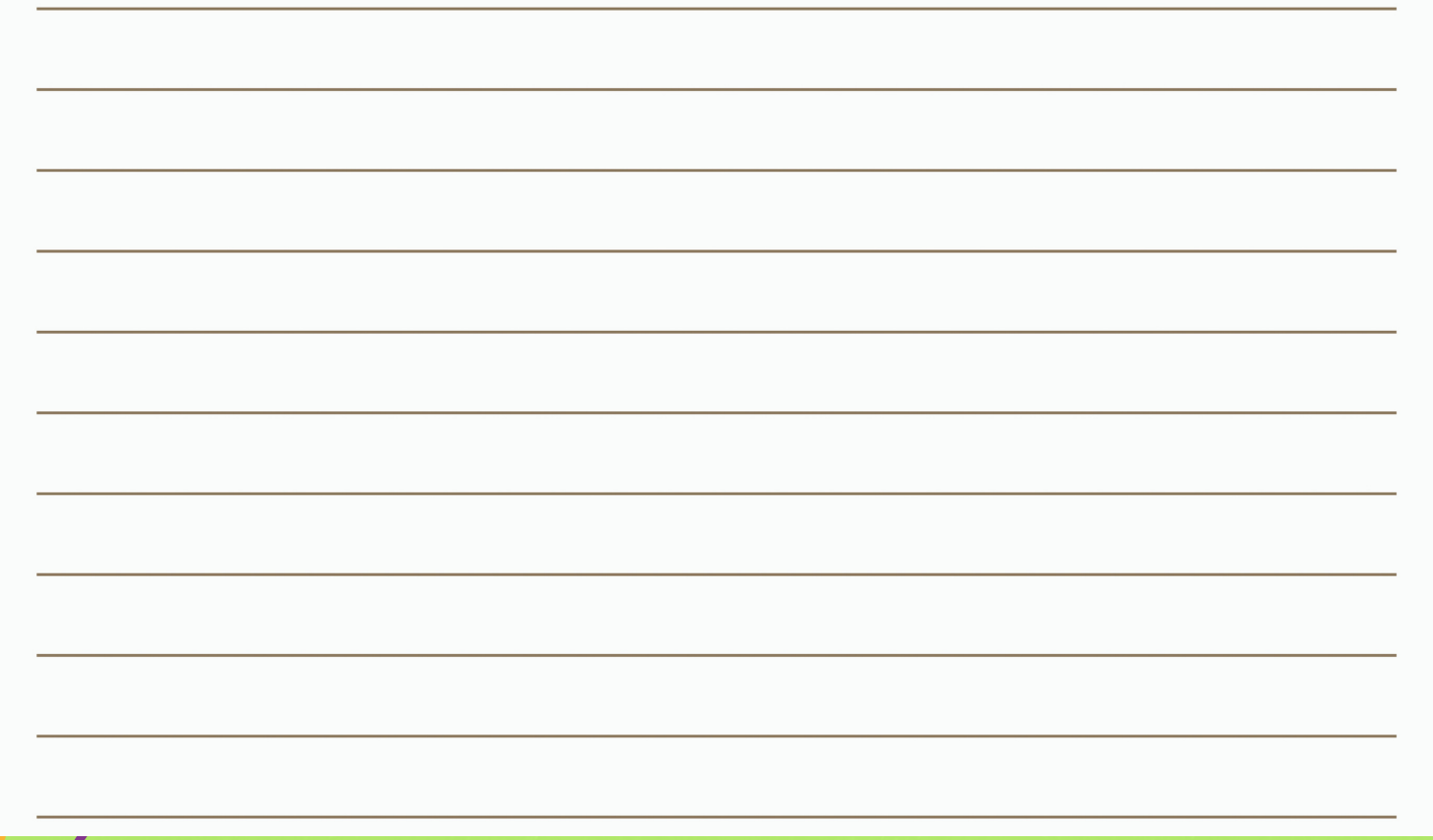
"I am not talking about all of you. I know those I have chosen. But what the Scripture said must happen: 'The man who ate at my table has now turned against me.' I am telling you this now before it happens. Then when it happens you will believe that I am he. I tell you the truth. Whoever accepts anyone I send also accepts me. And whoever accepts me also accepts the One who sent me."

MY NOTES

Jesus is King of Kings, the Son of God and his friends knew that. A moment before crowds had been cheering for Him and yet now He gets onto His knees, picks up the stinking smelly feet of his friends and washes them clean.

Wow!

Jesus shows us in His actions how we should serve and help others first. What things could you do to help serve people in your family, church, town or school?



The Easter Story.



A bad friend & a special meal



Luke 22 v 1 - 23

The time was near for the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover. The chief priests and the teachers of the Law were afraid of the people, and so they were trying to find a way of putting Jesus to death secretly.

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Then Satan entered into Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples. So Judas went off and spoke with the chief priests and the officers of the Temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were pleased and offered to pay him money. Judas agreed to it and started looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them without the people knowing about it.

Jesus Prepares to Eat the Passover Meal

The day came during the Festival of Unleavened Bread when the lambs for the Passover meal were to be killed. Jesus sent Peter and John with these instructions: "Go and get the Passover meal ready for us to eat."

"Where do you want us to get it ready?" they asked him.

He answered, "As you go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house: 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?' He will show you a large furnished room upstairs, where you will get everything ready."

They went off and found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

The Lord's Supper

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have wanted so much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer! For I tell you, I will never eat it until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God."

Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes."

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you."

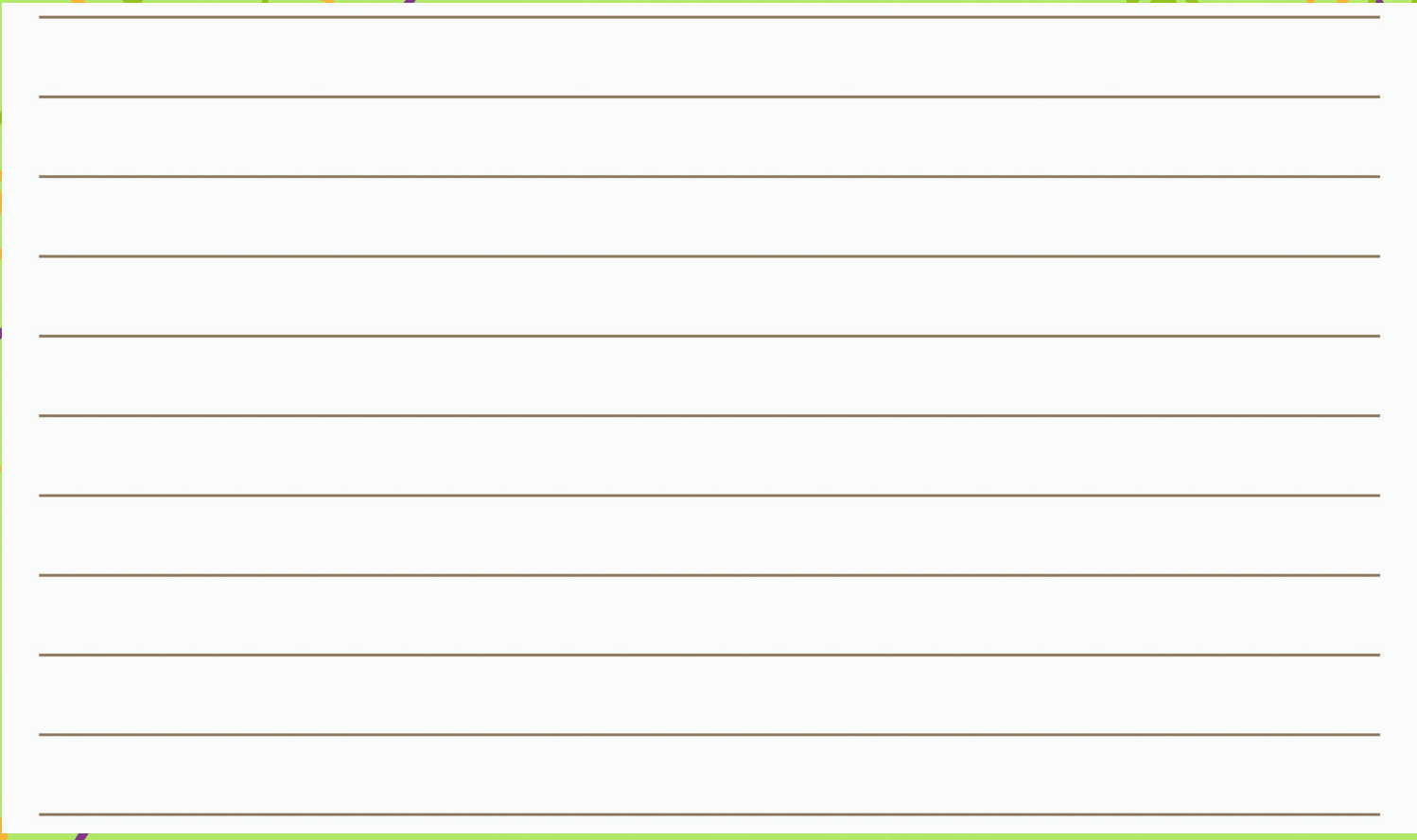
"But, look! The one who betrays me is here at the table with me! The Son of Man will die as God has decided, but how terrible for that man who betrays him!"

Then they began to ask among themselves which one of them it could be who was going to do this.

MY NOTES

Judas had spent a long time with Jesus, he knew how amazing He was, and yet Judas chose to not be a good friend, he chose money instead of Jesus.

Going to Church, praying and reading the Bible doesn't make us perfect, each day we have to choose to live God's way or our own way. Sometimes we get it wrong, but Jesus tells us that when we say sorry to God and mean it, He will forgive us. When we take communion it reminds us of all Jesus did so that we could be forgiven. We then try to choose God's way.



The Easter Story.

Garden of sad prayers



Matthew 26 v 26 - 35

Then Jesus went with his followers to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee to come with him.

Then Jesus began to be very sad and troubled. He said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, “My heart is full of sorrow and breaking with sadness. Stay here with me and watch.”

Then Jesus walked a little farther away from them. He fell to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, do not give me this cup[c] of suffering. But do what you want, not what I want.” Then Jesus went back to his followers and found them asleep. Jesus said to Peter, “You men could not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right. But your body is weak.”

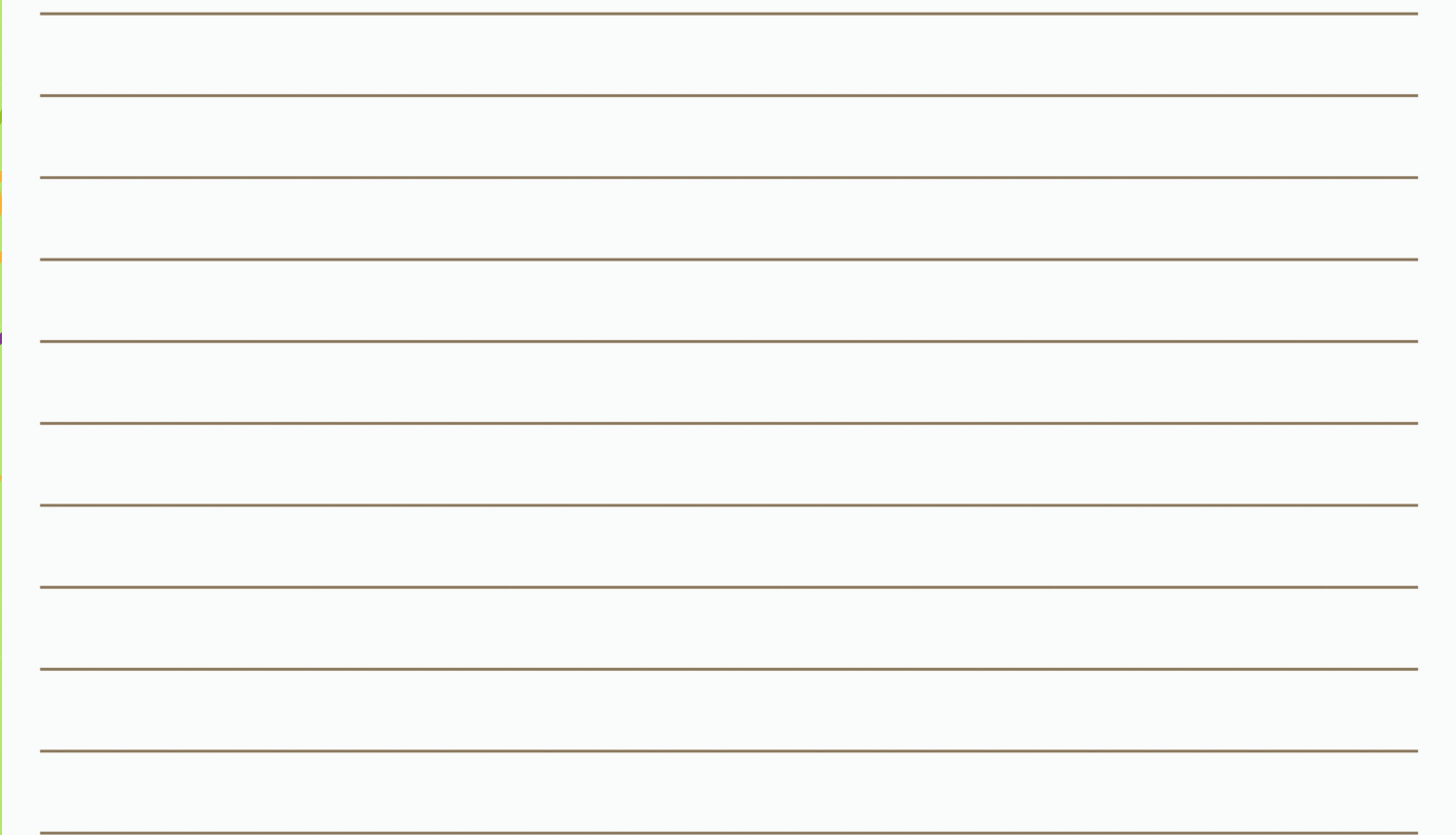
Then Jesus went away a second time. He prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this painful thing to be taken from me, and if I must do it, then I pray that what you want will be done.”

Then Jesus went back to the followers. Again he found them asleep, because their eyes were heavy. So Jesus left them and went away one more time and prayed. This third time he prayed, he said the same thing. Then Jesus went back to the followers and said, “You are still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be given to sinful people. Get up. We must go. Here comes the man who has turned against me.”

MY NOTES

Jesus was human, just like you and me, so we know when we go through hard times He understands what it is like. He knows what it is like to be scared, worried, heart broken and lonely. When He was in the garden He showed us that when we are sad or worried we can pray. We can tell God exactly what we were feeling and He understands.

What things would you like to tell Jesus today?



The Easter Story.

The people tell lies



Mark 14 v 43 - 47 & 53 - 64

Jesus Is Arrested

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came up. Judas was one of the twelve followers. He had many people with him. They were sent from the leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the Jewish elders. Those with Judas had swords and clubs.

Judas had planned a signal for them. He had said, “The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest him and guard him while you lead him away.” So Judas went to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” and kissed him. Then the men grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

Jesus Before the Leaders

The people who arrested Jesus led him to the house of the high priest. All the leading priests, the Jewish elders, and the teachers of the law were gathered there. Peter followed far behind and entered the courtyard of the high priest’s house. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

The leading priests and all the Jewish council tried to find something that Jesus had done wrong so they could kill him. But the council could find no proof against him. Many people came and told false things about him. But all said different things—none of them agreed.

Then some men stood up and lied about Jesus. They said, “We heard this man say, ‘I will destroy this Temple that men made. And three days later, I will build another Temple—a Temple not made by men.’” But even the things these men said did not agree.

Then the high priest stood before them and said to Jesus, “Aren’t you going to answer the charges these men bring against you?” But Jesus said nothing. He did not answer.

The high priest asked Jesus another question: “Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed God?” Jesus answered, “I am. And in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of the Powerful One. And you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds in the sky.” When the high priest heard this, he was very angry. He tore his clothes and said, “We don’t need any more witnesses! You all heard him say these things against God. What do you think?”

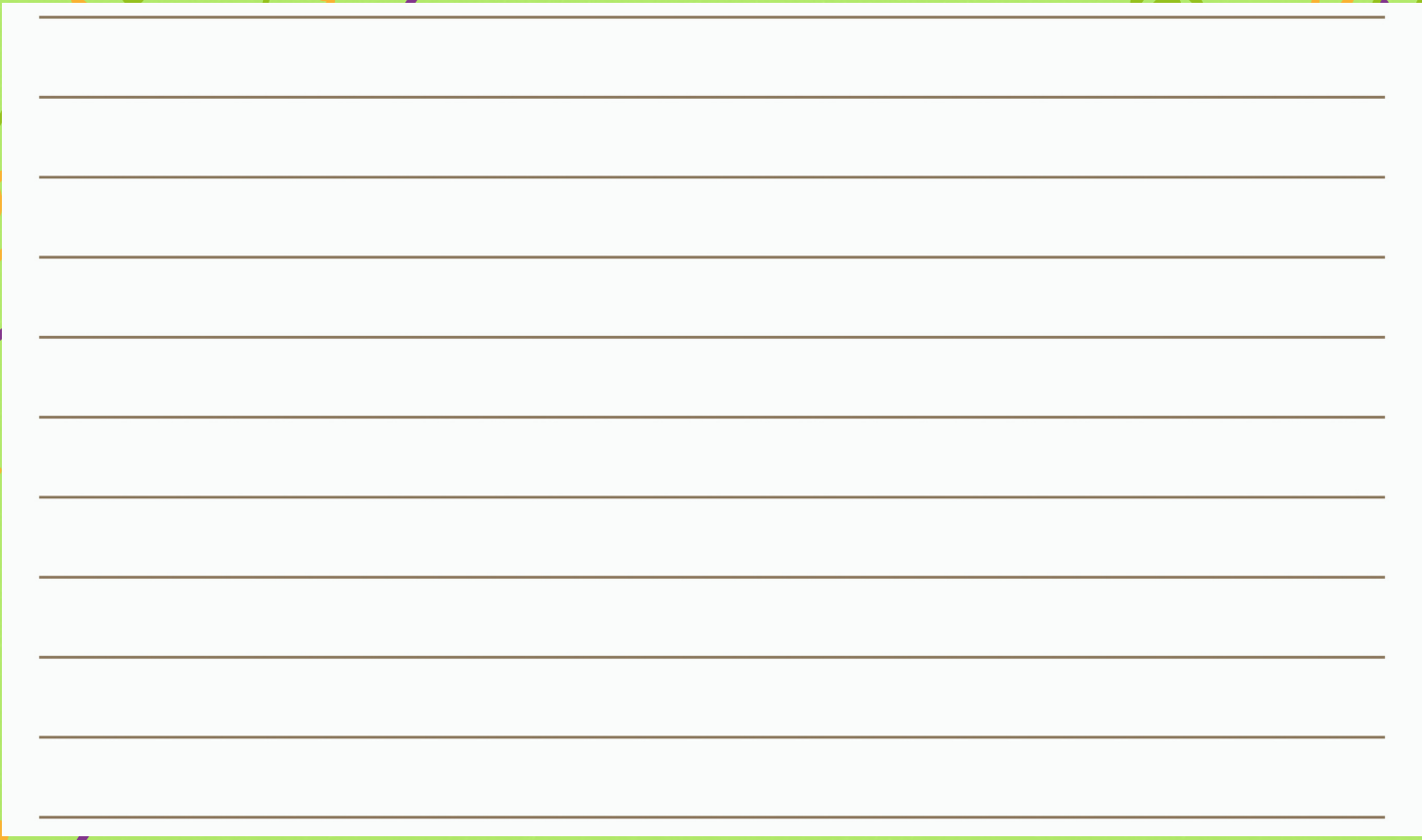
They all said that Jesus was guilty and should be killed.

MY NOTES

Many people that Jesus loved let Him down. His friends ran away. Other people told lies about Him. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but the leaders did not like Him so they paid people to say things that were not true.

Telling the truth is always important, even when it is difficult.

We can always ask God to help us tell the truth and do the right thing.



The Easter Story.

A noisy rooster



Matthew 26 v 69 - 75

Peter Says He Doesn't Know Jesus

At that time, Peter was sitting in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were with Jesus, that man from Galilee."

But Peter said that he was never with Jesus. He said this to all the people there. Peter said, "I don't know what you are talking about."

Then he left the courtyard. At the gate, another girl saw him. She said to the people there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again, Peter said that he was never with Jesus. Peter said, "I swear that I don't know this man Jesus!"

A short time later, some people standing there went to Peter. They said, "We know you are one of those men who followed Jesus. We know this because of the way you talk."

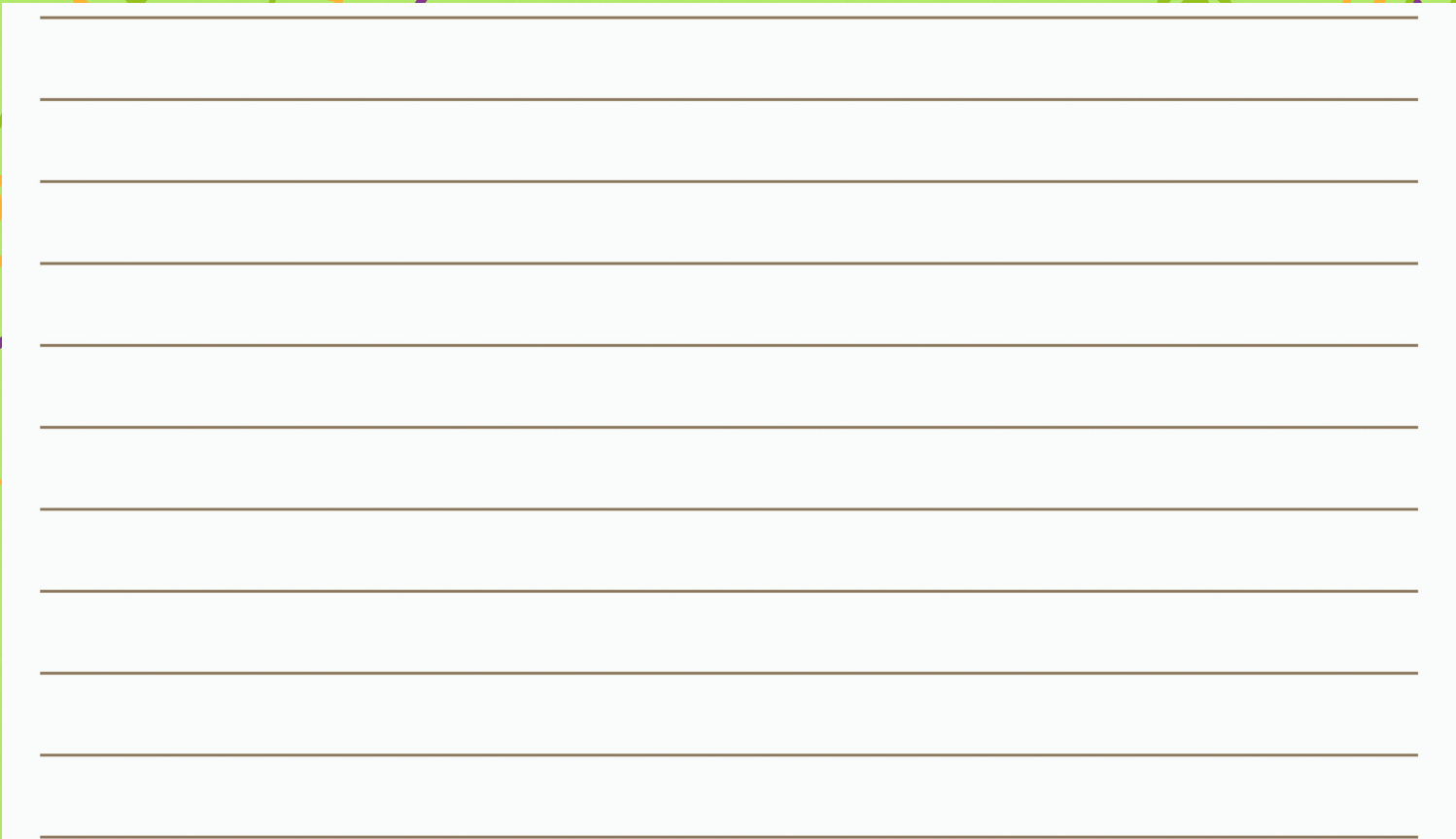
Then Peter began to curse. He said, "May a curse fall on me if I'm not telling the truth. I don't know the man." After Peter said this, a rooster crowed. Then he remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went outside and cried painfully.



MY NOTES

Peter loved Jesus, he had spent years travelling and learning from Him. But when Jesus was arrested Peter was scared. Then when people asked Peter was a friend of Jesus he said no. Peter felt so sad for letting Jesus down.

Sometimes it can be hard to tell other people that we love Jesus, and in some countries Christians are put in prison simply for talking about Jesus or reading the Bible. Chat to God about people who are in prison because they are Christians. Pray that they will be released soon.



The Easter Story.

Who do you choose?



Matthew 27 v 11 - 26

Pilate Questions Jesus

Jesus stood before Pilate the governor. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Yes, I am.” When the leading priests and the elders accused Jesus, he said nothing. So Pilate said to Jesus, “Don’t you hear these people accusing you of all these things?” But Jesus said nothing in answer to Pilate. Pilate was very surprised at this.

Pilate Tries to Free Jesus

Every year at the time of Passover the governor would free one person from prison. This was always a person the people wanted to be set free. At that time there was a man in prison who was known to be very bad. His name was Barabbas.[b] All the people gathered at Pilate’s house. Pilate said, “Which man do you want me to free: Barabbas,[c] or Jesus who is called the Christ?” Pilate knew that they gave Jesus to him because they were jealous. Pilate said these things while he was sitting on the judge’s seat. While he was sitting there, his wife sent a message to him. The message said, “Don’t do anything to that man. He is not guilty. Today I had a dream about him, and it troubled me very much.” But the leading priests and elders told the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be freed and for Jesus to be killed.

Pilate said, “I have Barabbas and Jesus. Which do you want me to set free for you?” The people answered, “Barabbas!” Pilate asked, “What should I do with Jesus, the one called the Christ?” They all answered, “Kill him on a cross!” Pilate asked, “Why do you want me to kill him? What wrong has he done?” But they shouted louder, “Kill him on a cross!” Pilate saw that he could do nothing about this, and a riot was starting. So he took some water and washed his hands[d] in front of the crowd. Then he said, “I am not guilty of this man’s death. You are the ones who are causing it!” All the people answered, “We will be responsible. We accept for ourselves and for our children any punishment for his death.” Then Pilate freed Barabbas. Pilate told some of the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then he gave Jesus to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

MY NOTES

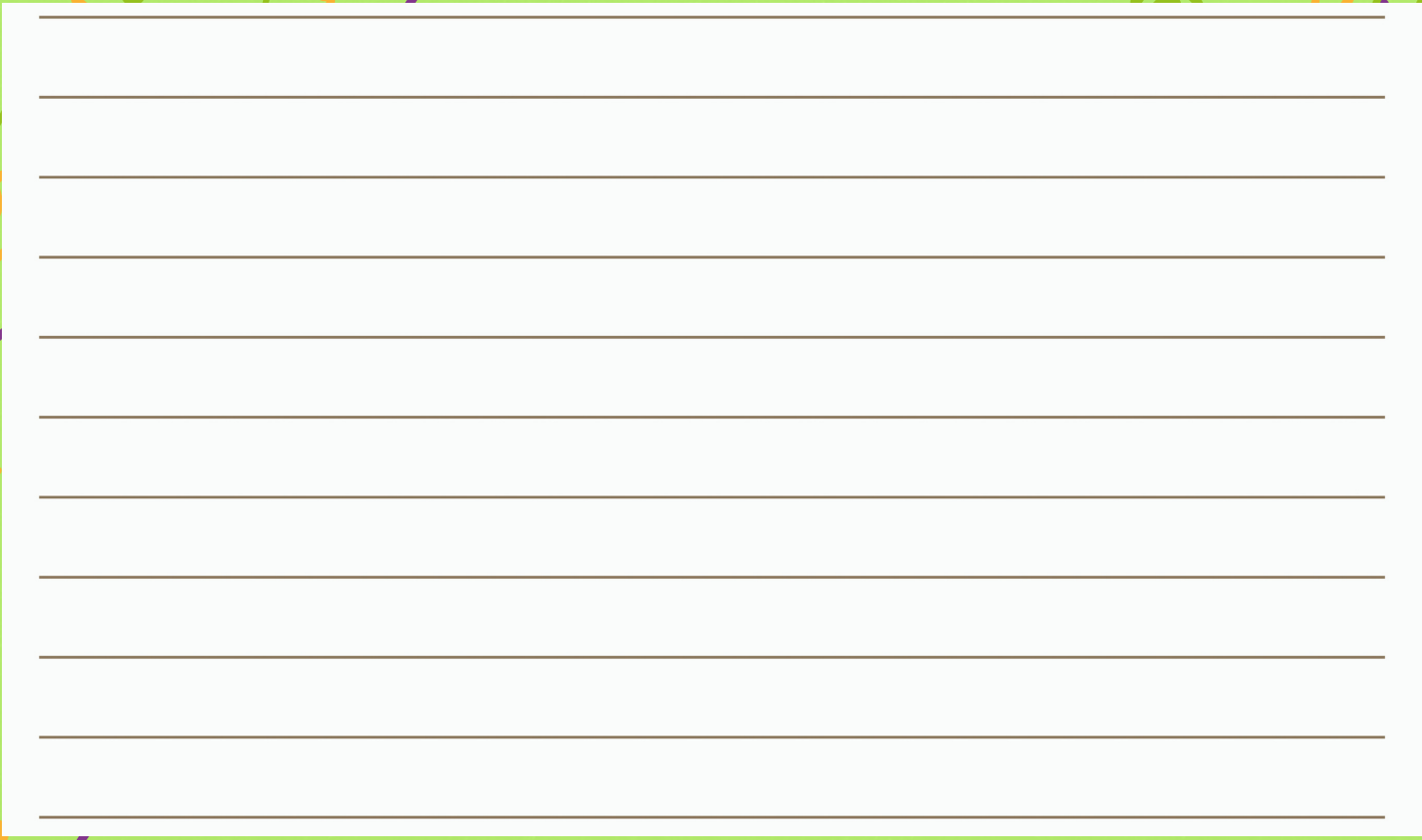
The people were asked to choose between Jesus who had done nothing wrong, or Barabbas who was a known criminal - and they chose Barabbas.

Even Pilate could see this was wrong, that Jesus was innocent.

I wonder what Barabbas was thinking when he heard his name called. I

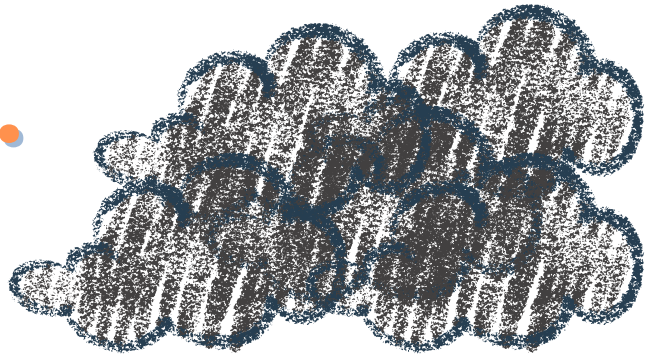
wonder if he took his second chance to live a good life?

Have you ever had a second chance to try and do something better for example a test, or a match - how did it feel?



The Easter Story.

A very dark day



Matthew 27 v 27 - 60 (edit)

Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace. All the soldiers gathered around Jesus. They took off his clothes and put a red robe on him. Then the soldiers used thorny branches to make a crown. They put this crown of thorns on Jesus' head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then the soldiers bowed before Jesus and made fun of him. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Jesus Is Killed on a Cross

The soldiers were going out of the city with Jesus. They forced another man to carry the cross to be used for Jesus. This man was Simon, from Cyrene. They all came to the place called Golgotha.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They threw lots to decide who would get his clothes. The soldiers sat there and continued watching him. They put a sign above Jesus' head with the charge against him written on it. The sign read: "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." Two robbers were nailed to crosses beside Jesus, one on the right and the other on the left.

Jesus Dies

At noon the whole country became dark. This darkness lasted for three hours. About three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" This means, "My God, my God, why have you left me alone?" Some of the people standing there heard this. They said, "He is calling Elijah." Again Jesus cried out in a loud voice. Then he died.

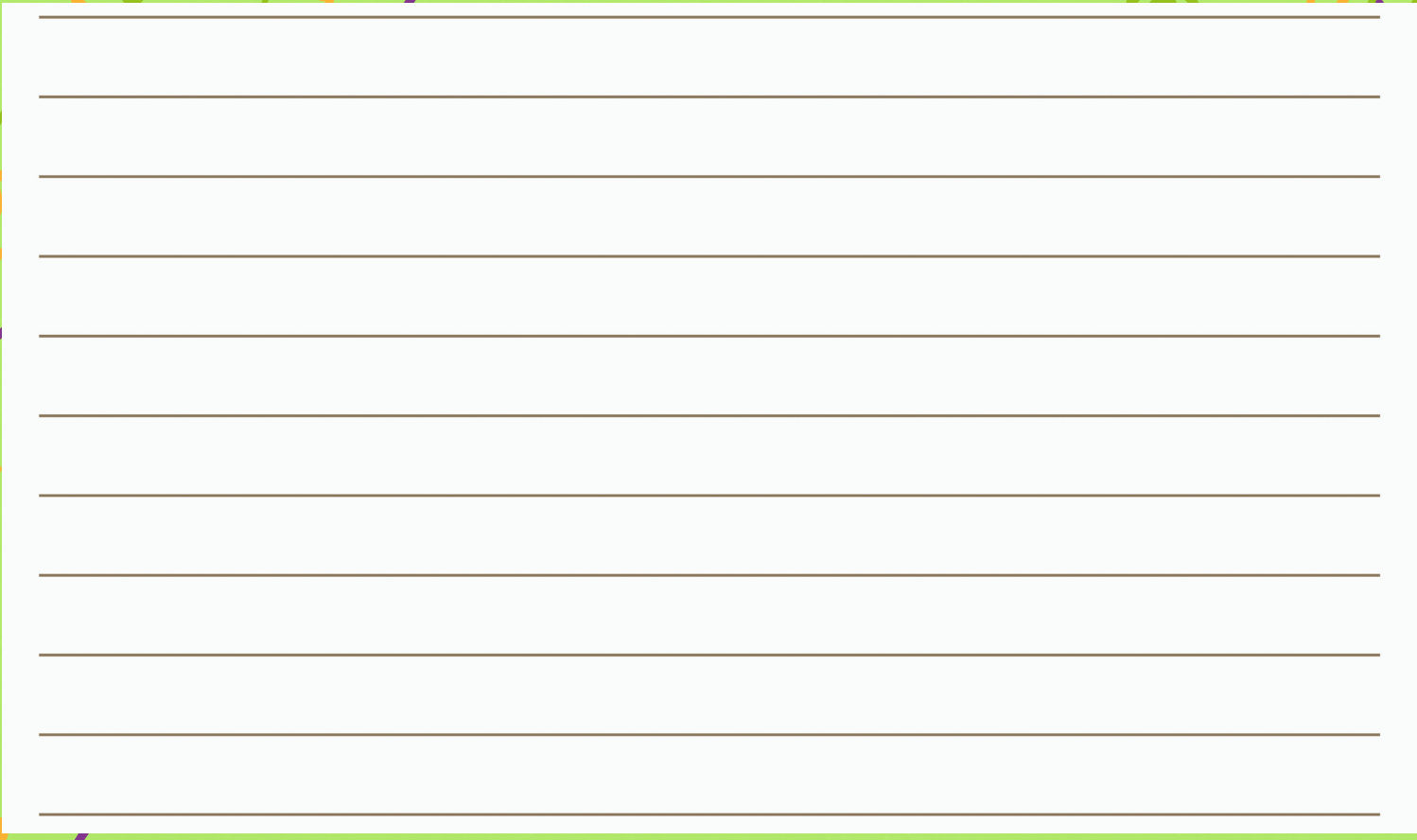
Jesus Is Buried

That evening a rich man named Joseph came to Jerusalem. He was a follower of Jesus from the town of Arimathea. Joseph went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus' body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give it to Joseph. Then Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He put Jesus' body in a new tomb that he had cut in a wall of rock. He rolled a very large stone to block the entrance of the tomb.

MY NOTES

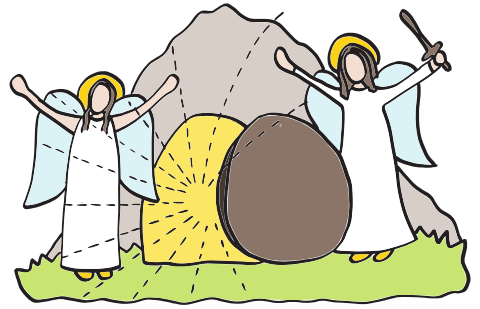
This was such a sad day. It must have seemed as though everything was wrong in the world. As the sky went dark I wonder what people were thinking, those who had called for Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus, the people who had lied about Jesus, the soldiers who had made fun of Him. The tomb is sealed, and the tomb is heavily guarded! Things seem impossible, don't they? But remember, NOTHING is impossible with God!

How does this make you feel?



The Easter Story.

Alleluia, He is risen!



Matthew 28 v 1 - 10 (edit)

The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. He was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb were very frightened of the angel.

The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. And go quickly and tell his followers. Say to them: ‘Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.’” Then the angel said, “Now I have told you.”

The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus’ followers what had happened. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings.” The women came up to Jesus, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go on to Galilee. They will see me there.”

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

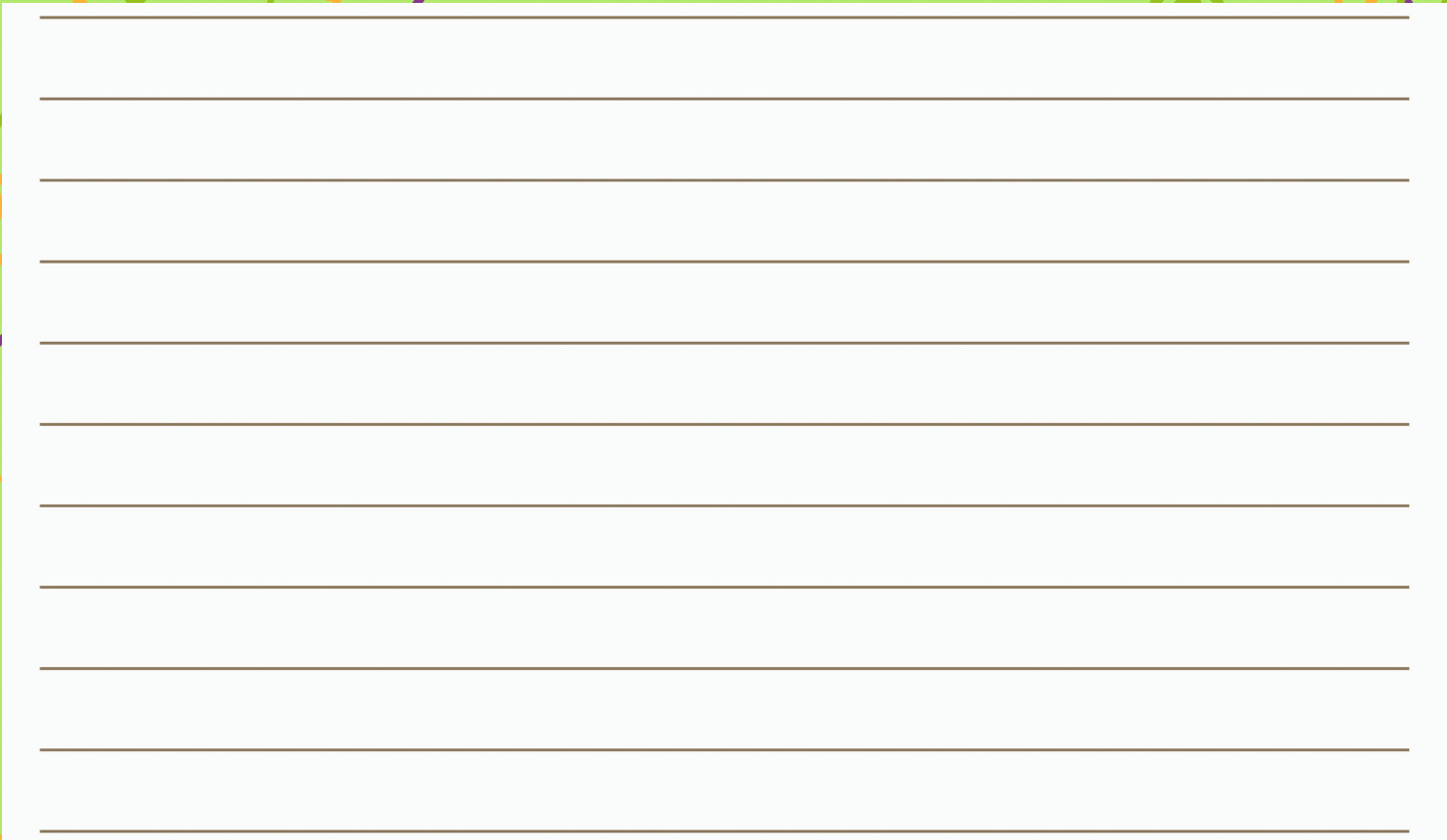
The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted.

Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

**JESUS IS
ALIVE!**

MY NOTES

What a change in three days! How wonderful and how amazing! Jesus' friends finally understood all that Jesus had told them would happen. He was alive! God's promises can always be trusted, even when we are confused and have doubts, we can always trust God to be true to His word. Write or draw how you think Jesus' friends were feeling when they heard the news and saw Jesus again for themselves.



Keep on reading

Your buddy is for life - they need to keep getting stronger and that happens when you keep reading the Bible together.

Here are some more passages for you to read, think, chat, draw and write about over the coming weeks.

Week 3

1. Apostles Witness Jesus' Ascension Acts 1
2. The Birth of the Church on Pentecost Acts 2



Week 4

1. Peter heals the man in Jesus' Name Acts 3
2. The Spirit gives boldness to Peter & John Acts 4:1-31
3. The Believers Remained Devoted Acts 4-5
4. Seven Men are Chosen to Minister: Acts 6



Week 5

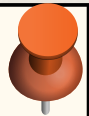
1. Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8:26-40
2. Jesus Transforms Saul's Life Acts 9:1-31
3. Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Tabitha Acts 9:32-43
4. Peter and Cornelius 10:1-22

Week 6

1. God Protects Paul's Life Acts 23
2. Paul's Trial Before Felix Acts 24
3. Paul's Trial before Festus Acts 25
4. Paul Shipwrecked on the Way to Rome Acts 27
5. Paul Arrives in Rome Acts 28



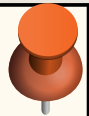
MY NOTES



Read the Bible verse and draw a picture or write down how it made you feel or what you thought about

A large, empty rectangular area with rounded corners, intended for drawing a picture related to the Bible verse.A series of horizontal lines on a white background, intended for writing down thoughts or feelings.

MY NOTES



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MY NOTES



Read the Bible verse and draw a picture or write down how it made you feel or what you thought about

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing a response to the Bible verse.A series of horizontal lines for writing, located below the large drawing box.



Buddy Adventure

Buddies LOVE adventures! So be sure to take your Buddy with you when you go somewhere new. They love going for walks and seeing new things. You can chat to them about what you can see in the town, or sit together in the park & chat. In the Spring there is lots to look at - the new leaves, raindrops on the window, flowers on the pathway. Your Buddy loves being with you.



Special Buddy

Just like us Buddies come in all different shapes, colours and sizes. Each Buddy is special, just like you.

God made you to be the special person you are - your laugh, your skills, your voice - everything about you is unique and God loves you just the way you are.

Every time you look at your Buddy remember how special you are.



Church of Ireland ✝
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

Buddy Care Guide



Church of Ireland ✝
Board for Ministry with
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When you get your buddy home

When you get home with your Buddy one of the first things to do is introduce them to EVERYONE in your house - especially any other little friends you have.

Buddies are super friendly creatures & always like to say hello :)



Love
your
Buddy



Buddies are for life not just for Easter!
They are made for love.
You can show your buddy you love them by chatting with them each day - they are very good listeners.
They love to chat with Jesus too, so together you can chat with Jesus about what you've been doing & how you're feeling, anything at all!

Feed your Buddy

Feeding your Buddy is the most important thing.

Unlike us your buddy doesn't eat food, Buddies get strong by reading the Bible with you. Don't worry if reading is a little tricky for you, use our Bible pack and read with someone in your home.

After you have read together you can draw a picture or write about your what that passage made you think or how it made you feel.

