

EASTER ASSEMBLY 6: The Easter Story

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- THEMES: Hot Cross Buns / The Easter Story / The significance of the cross for Christians
- AIM: To learn the facts of Easter and to understand the significance of the cross for Christians
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be read out by an adult, OR by a class of children. It contains a brief description of the history of the hot cross bun followed by a story version of the biblical Easter story and another final story which shows the significance of the cross for Christians.
- POWERPOINT: This assembly also comes with an optional PowerPoint version of the same assembly. Thumbnail images of each PowerPoint slide are included below next to the relevant section so that you will know when to change slides.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text = text that can be read straight out.*
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SONG 1: Hot Cross Buns

INTRO:

CHILD 1: *Would you like to hear a joke? What do you get if you accidentally spill a cup of tea on your pet rabbit? ... A hot cross bunny!!!*

CHILD 2: *So what is a hot cross bun? A hot cross bun is a sweet bun containing currants and spices which is traditionally eaten on Good Friday. Its name comes from the cross on top. In olden days, the cross was often cut into the bun.*



CHILD 3: *But sometimes more expensive hot cross buns were baked, with the cross added with pastry or icing. This was probably why some hot cross buns were "one a penny" and some were "two a penny." Nowadays hot cross buns usually have the cross made from a type of pastry.*

CHILD 4: *To Christians, the cross on the hot cross bun represents the cross which Jesus died on. The bread reminds them of the bread which Jesus shared with his disciples.*

CHILD 5: *The spices represent the spices that Jesus was wrapped in when they placed his body in the tomb. If you don't remember the Easter story, then listen well as we're going to share it with you now.*

STORY: *The Easter Story*

CHILD 6: *Two thousand years ago, a wonderful man called Jesus lived in a country called Israel. Jesus was amazing because he had said and done some remarkable things. He had healed the sick, he had calmed the sea, and walked on water. He had turned water into wine and had even raised someone from the dead!*



CHILD 7: *Now as we join the story, Jesus was on his way into the capital city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. News about Jesus had spread and so hundreds*

of people had turned out to welcome him. They shouted and cheered and even tore palm branches off nearby trees to wave in the air. Some lay them on the floor to make a sort of red carpet... or green carpet... for him to ride on!

CHILD 8: *Everyone seemed to be wonderfully happy! But sadly, not everyone in the crowd was that pleased to see Jesus. The religious leaders didn't like Jesus because they felt as though he was trying to take over from them. They started to plan a way to get rid of him once and for all.*

CHILD 9: *Now Jesus had a dozen followers called disciples, who had been with him through thick and thin for the last three years. Jesus knew that he didn't have much time left with the twelve, so he organised a special supper where he planned to share some important information with them. The disciples didn't realise that this would be their last supper together before Jesus would be killed.*



CHILD 10: *While they were in the middle of the meal, Jesus suddenly got up from the table, grabbed a basin of water and a towel and started washing the feet of all his disciples! The disciples didn't fully appreciate this at the time, but afterwards they realised that Jesus was teaching them how to serve one another and how they should never think of themselves as being more important than anyone else.*



CHILD 11: *Then after they had all finished eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and broke it into pieces. He shared the bread with his disciples telling them that it was a symbol of the way his body would soon be broken. Then he took a cup of wine and asked them all to take a sip from it. Jesus explained that this was a symbol of the way his blood would soon be poured out of his body.*



CHILD 12: *The disciples didn't like the sound of this. They didn't want their friend Jesus to die! But then Jesus had some even more disturbing news. He said that one of the disciples, someone in that room, would soon betray him! Everyone was shocked, but one of the disciples called Judas Iscariot immediately got up and left. He went to meet some of the religious leaders to tell them where, when and how they could get Jesus!*



CHILD 13: *Back at the meal, the other disciples were all saying how they could never betray Jesus. Jesus then turned to Peter*



WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of the Easter Story (around another one and a half pages in length)
2. It suggests then singing a further song: 'The Rock Got Rolled'
3. It then continues with a summary (which is a short story, explaining why the Easter story means so much to Christians). It then concludes with a prayer.