

Scene 7: The day in between

Bible

Matthew 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

Aim

To explain to the children what happened after the crucifixion and how Jesus' body was placed in a borrowed tomb, sealed with a large stone. This scene is a very short but necessary experience linking the darkness of the previous story to the light of Easter day.

Setting the scene

After Jesus' death, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected Jewish leader, asked Pilate for the body. Along with Nicodemus, Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus. He had Jesus' body prepared for burial with spices and linen cloths and placed it in his own new tomb. He rolled a stone in front of it. The women watched as this happened but there is no mention of the disciples. The despair which they all felt can only be imagined. However, the chief priests still remembered that Jesus had prophesied that he would rise after three days, so Pilate ordered a watch to be put on the tomb in order to prevent false claims by Jesus' followers.

Character(s)

Storyteller

Costume

None needed

Scenery

A darkened bare space. A gazebo with dark walls can be used as a tunnel between the crucifixion scene and the resurrection garden. The children will only be standing in the space for a short time while the storyteller explains what happened on 'the day in between' but it is important that there are no distractions so that they get the idea of being suspended in time after the drama of the crucifixion.

Props

No props are required.

Lighting

This should be as dim as is safely possible.

As previously mentioned, the storyteller appears after Peter has left the crucifixion scene. He or she invites the children to come into the darkened room.

Storyteller: Today everything has gone quiet, as we await the greatest event in the whole history of time. Jesus lies buried in a garden tomb. It is the Sabbath and people have stayed indoors. One man, Joseph of Arimathea, dares to go and ask Pilate if he can take Jesus' body for burial and it is now laid in his family grave. It took courage for Joseph to go to Pilate, for he is a secret follower of Jesus even though he is also an important Jewish leader. Joseph brought a linen cloth and took Jesus' body down from the cross. He wrapped it in the cloth and put it into a tomb that had been cut into solid rock. Then he rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Jesus' mother, Mary and his friend, Mary Magdalene, were watching and saw where the body was placed. Pilate, the Roman governor, ordered that the tomb should be guarded by soldiers.

All was dark and still. The disciples were still shocked and dismayed about what had happened to their friend. Their hopes and dreams for the future had been utterly destroyed. That is until God stepped in...

Come with me now into the light of Easter morning.