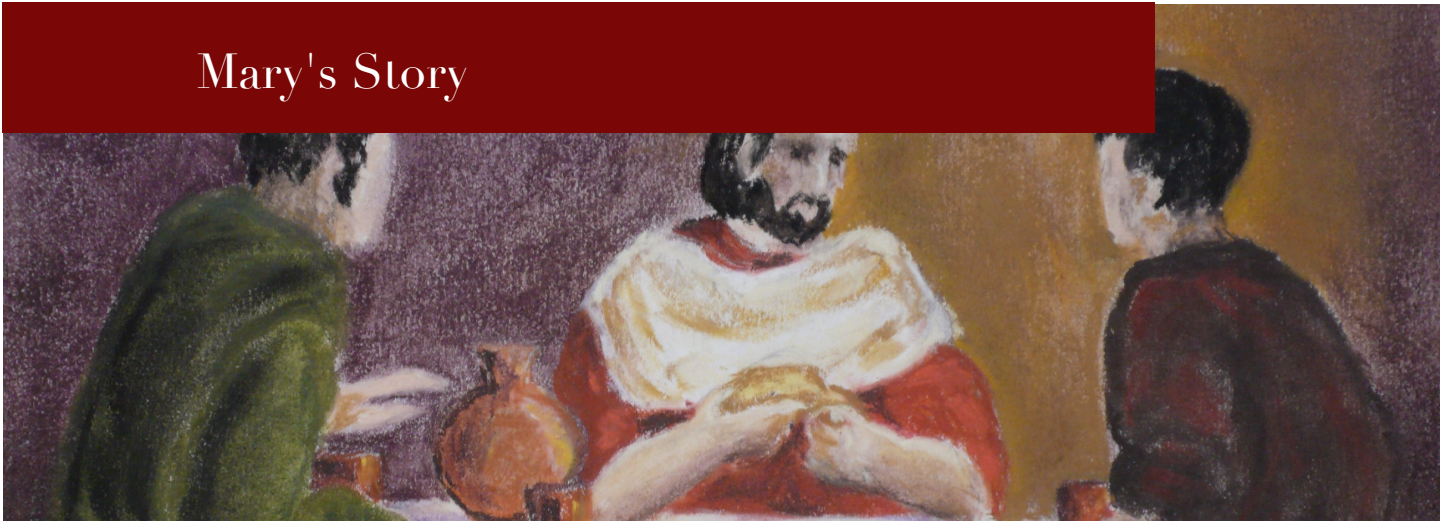


## Mary's Story



### Foundation Stage Easter Pause Day: Witnesses

#### Overall aim:

- To know the Easter story is about Jesus dying and coming back to life
- To know that Mary was one of the witnesses who met Jesus alive after his death

#### Outline of the day:

There are various sessions which are all designed to help the children to think about two main ideas in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection:

1. that Jesus chose to give his life for his friends
2. that God made Jesus full of life again after he had died and that lots of people saw him and ate with him.

There is an opportunity at the end of the day for the children to reflect on the story that they have heard and on the activities that they have done.

#### Preparations beforehand:

- In and out play area Nativity costumes, well, shop to buy food, kitchen to prepare food, lay a table and serve and share a meal with friends
- Pictures of happy children running/flying a kite
- Materials for making a kite
- Prepare a story basket (see Mary's story)
- Rehearse the story
- Become familiar with the song 'Celebrate' from Out of the Ark music
- Prepare 3 small pieces of fruit or mini eggs for each person for the last session
- 'Knuffle Bunny Too' by Mo Willems

Please be aware that you may find that there is far too much material, so please select what you need and not worry about items that cannot be fitted in.

## Overview of the Day:

Session Aim	Activity
<p>1 Free play set up in and out/now and then.</p> <p>Use nativity costumes and create an area for children to use in free play representing life in Jesus' time eg well, market area, temple etc. Perhaps do this prior to the day and use this play knowledge to have a meal as in Jesus' time.</p> <p>Jesus had close friends and he shared meals with them.</p>	<p>Introduce the <b>play</b> area by telling the children that the baby Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas time grew up to be a man. Jesus had many friends and He looked after them and He enjoyed sharing meals with them. In those days there were servants to help to serve the meal. Jesus became a servant.</p> <p>Role play buying food and preparing a delicious meal, chopping, cooking, laying the table, eating with your friends. Role play serving other people.</p>
<p>2 To link choosing to give a favourite toy to a friend with the Easter message (both are about making a choice to <b>give</b> something precious for friends Jesus giving his life).</p>	<p>Bring in favourite toy from home 'Knuffle Bunny Too' by Mo Willems</p> <p>How would you feel if you give your favourite toy to...? .....if they were not going to give it back?</p> <p>How do you think Jesus felt when he chose to give his life for his friends?</p>
<p>3 To know that the Easter story is about Jesus dying on a cross.</p> <p>To know that the Easter story is also about Jesus coming back to life again after he had died and eating meals with people like Mary.</p> <p>To know that Mary was a witness who saw Jesus die and then met him again after he had come back to life.</p>	<p><b>'Mary's story':</b></p> <p>Use a story basket and the story attached - see below</p> <p>Questions to use at the end of the story:</p> <p>Which part of the story did you like the best?</p> <p>Was there anything in the story that you did not like?</p> <p>Who do you think was unkind to Jesus in the story?</p> <p>Why do you think they were unkind to Jesus?</p> <p>What was the biggest surprise in the story?</p> <p>Where would you like to be in this story?</p>
<p>4 To learn and enjoy the song 'Celebrate' after hearing Mary's story.</p>	<p><b>'Celebrate'</b> is found in 'Sunday's Cool Volume 1' from Out of the Ark</p> <p>Clapping, jumping, dancing and waving actions.</p>

Session Aim	Activity
<p>5 To celebrate Jesus' resurrection that he came back to life and enjoyed eating and being with his friends.</p>	<p>Question:            How do we celebrate things e.g. birthdays today? (parties, food, music, presents...)            How did Jesus show that he was alive? (eating and talking with his friends, he allowed them to touch and look at his cuts from the cross)</p> <p>Make some party food and enjoy eating it together, remembering that this was how the disciples behaved when Jesus appeared back alive with them again!</p> <p>Why not think about including families by arranging for the children to take some of their party food home to continue the celebration at home. Can they explain what they are celebrating?</p>
<p>6 Reflect on the Easter story and the activities of the day</p> <p>An optional or additional reflection opportunity is to learn the song 'Hosanna' from 'Sunday's Cool Volume 1' Out of the Ark music</p>	<p><b>Think about the different parts of the day</b> perhaps it is the role play area, perhaps it was sharing your favourite toy or Mary's story, perhaps it was singing the song 'Celebrate', or sharing celebration food. Tell the children that they will have 3 mini Easter eggs and perhaps you will need to model what to do each of the 3 times:</p> <p>Before you take the Easter egg, think of something that you want to say <b>thank you to God</b> for from today. Eg:            'Thank you for lovely food to share'            'Thank you that Mary met Jesus when he came back to life again'            'Thank you for being able to jump around'            'Thank you that Jesus came back to life'</p> <p>Before you take the second egg think of something that you would like to <b>ask God for</b> from today. Eg:            'Please God, help me to share'            'Please God, help me when I am sad'            'Please God, help me to believe in you'</p> <p>Before you take the egg think of something that you are <b>sorry</b> for. Eg:            'Sorry God, that sometimes I don't share'            'Sorry God, when I am unkind to my friends'            'Sorry God, when I don't trust you.'</p>

## Preparation for Mary's story

This story is best told with the story teller and all the children sitting in a large circle. Everyone, including the story teller, keeps their eyes on the 'action'.

### Story basket:

You need a basket/box with a hinged lid which will be big enough to hold all the items for the story. You will also need a series of smaller baskets or containers in which to put groups of items inside the bigger basket/box.

### Inside the story basket:

- A sand coloured story cloth approx 1m sq
- A free standing tree. You can use blutack as a base for a cardboard tree
- In a separate container: a few large stones for rocks (you will need to practise making a 'tomb' shape with them.
- 1 flattish stone to be the stone in front of the tomb
- A free standing cross approx. 20 -30 cms. Again you can use blutack as the base for the cross
- In a separate container: a Jesus figure, a Mary figure and 6 'friend' figures. If you are using duplo/playmobile figures make sure that the figure of Jesus and Mary are different from each other and from the 'friends'
- In a separate container: spare figures for the end of the story if you have enough & would like to give the children the opportunity to put themselves into the story

### Setting: Mary's Story

*(Bring out the story basket)* I wonder what the story will be about today? I wonder where the story will happen? *(Take out the cloth and spread it carefully and slowly on the floor in front of you)* There is a garden in our story and so I will put a tree here. *(Place the tree in a suitable place)* Here is a cross *(Take out the cross and place it carefully at one side away from the tree)* and here are some rocks *(Take out the stones and arrange in tomb shape away from the tree and cross).*

Do you remember that I told you that Jesus had grown up from the baby that we remember at Christmas time and was now a man? Here is the story of what happened to him.

### Telling: Mary's story

Jesus *(Take 'Jesus' out of the basket and put him in front of you but facing to the side)* had many friends and he enjoyed sharing meals with them. *(Take the friends and Mary out of the basket and carefully put them facing Jesus)* One amazing day he shared a meal with 5,000 people and at other times he shared a meal with just his 12 best friends. Whether there were

lots of them or just a few Jesus always cared for his friends. *(Jesus goes up to his friends and 'talks' to them)*. In fact, Jesus cared so much for his friends that he even forgave them for the wrong things that they had done to each other and to God. Jesus did lots of other things that were just like God. His words were like God's words, His thoughts were like God's thoughts and when he forgave people, the people knew that only God could do that. *(While you say the next sentence make at least 4 of the friends turn their backs on Jesus and then walk them away from Jesus and back to the basket)* Some people became angry when he did this and even some of his friends turned away from him.

One Friday a very sad thing happened. Jesus had gone out to a garden to pray to God *(Move Jesus to the side near the tree and if possible bend his knees)* and some of the angry people came with soldiers and took him away. They put Jesus on a cross and left him to die. *(Take Jesus to the cross and stand him in front of it)*.

Jesus' friends were frightened and very sad but they did not want to leave Jesus dead on the cross so they took his body and carefully put it into a place for dead bodies called a tomb. *(Gently and slowly lie Jesus in the tomb)* and the soldiers who were sent to guard the tomb put a big stone across the front. *(Move flat stone as if it is very heavy into place)*. Jesus' friends thought that they would never see Jesus again. They thought that they would never laugh with him again. They thought that they would never enjoy eating a meal with him again. *(One by one lie his friends down to sleep)*

Jesus' friends wanted to go and visit the tomb but they had to wait all Friday night and all day and all night on Saturday. But on Sunday morning Jesus' friend called Mary couldn't wait any longer and she rushed to the tomb. *(Take Mary quickly to the tomb)*. When she got there she got a huge shock *(move the flat stone away from the tomb and quietly take Jesus out and put him back in the story basket - do this openly do not try to hide the body)*. Mary bent down and looked inside the tomb *(Move Mary appropriately)*. Mary knew that Jesus' body had been in the tomb but it was not there any more. She was very upset and she asked two angels who she met beside the tomb if anyone had taken Jesus' body away. The angels told her that Jesus had come back to life. *(Take Jesus out of the basket and place him near Mary but behind her)* Mary heard someone call her name. 'Mary' Jesus said and she turned around *(Turn Mary)* and saw Jesus alive and well. 'Rabboni' Mary said which means in her language 'My great one'.

Jesus told Mary to go and tell all his other friends that she had met him and that Jesus was alive again. *(Mary runs back to others who are still lying down and then she and they go back to where Jesus is.)* Mary and all the friends were so happy that they were able to enjoy Jesus' company again and over the next few days they had many happy times together

and shared lots of lovely meals together again. *(Sit Jesus down and make the friends all sit around in a circle with Jesus)*

**Talking about the story:**

1. Which part of the story did you like best?
2. Was there any part of the story that you did not like?
3. Who do you think was unkind to Jesus in the story?
4. Why do you think they were unkind to Jesus?
5. What was the biggest surprise in the story?
6. If you could be in this story where would you like to be? *(If you have some spare figures available in the box you could invite the children to take a figure and put it somewhere on the story cloth)*