

Easter Children's Drama

written by Silvia Purdie

used in the Milson Combined Church, Palmerston North

A dramatic engagement of kids of all ages in the Easter story.

This drama is designed to be easy to do, with no rehearsal. Copies of the words are simply given to those with Roles. Props are pretty easy. You do need a large wooden cross that can have nails hammered into it, and can be hammered onto a tree.

The kids move around different places in the church, preferably outside and inside. The spaces you need to have prepared are:

1: The 'Upper Room' ... a lounge with cushions or chairs, with a table set with bread and juice

2: 'Gethseme' ... preferably outside under a tree, or path/verandah. No props required.

3: Pilate's court ... a lounge, with a large chair for Pilate

4: 'Golgotha' ... we nailed the wooden cross into a large tree outside and this worked well.

5: Tomb ... we used a large storage cupboard. If outside could be a shed or cover over a space under a bush? Have something to lay Jesus' body on, e.g. a mat or row of chairs

6: back in the Upper Room again.

Roles:

Narrator

Jesus

Friend 1

Friend 2

Guards (2)

Pilate

Crowd

Angel

Props:

wooden cross

cup & bread on table

sheet

swords for guards

cloak for Pilate

chair for Pilate

hammer and large nails

tomb + door

angel costume

Easter Drama One

(Sitting around on cushions in the kids' room.

Table with cup and bread.)

Narrator: On the last night of his life, Jesus was having a party meal with his best friends.
Jesus said:

Jesus: I love you all so much

but soon I am going to be caught by the guards and killed by the Roman soldiers.
Look after each other.

Don't try to be boss but care for other people like a servant.

Narrator: Jesus gave them some bread to eat and they passed around a cup of wine, then
Jesus said:

Jesus: When you eat bread and drink wine together, remember me. I will always be with you.

Narrator: Then his friends said:

Friend 1: Please don't go, Jesus!

Friend 2: Yes Jesus, we promise to look after each other.

Narrator: Then Jesus lead them all outside in the dark into a special garden when he liked to relax and pray.

Easter Drama 2: Gethsemane

(Go outside under the tree. Guards have swords. Guards wait back and come in at their big entrance)

Narrator: When they got to the garden they sat down under the trees. They were so tired, they were exhausted! Jesus said:

Jesus: Please stay awake! Keep me company. Pray with me

Narrator: But all his friends fell asleep, just on the ground under the trees. Jesus stayed awake feeling very lonely and sad.

Jesus: Dear God, my Father. Please, I don't want to die! But I will go through with this if I have to.

Narrator: Then, suddenly, the Temple Guards came searching for Jesus and they found him, they grabbed him, and they dragged him away into jail.
All of Jesus friends suddenly woke up, terrified, and they took off into the night.

Easter Drama 3: Court

(Go to the main lounge. Pilate needs a red cloak in a large chair. Guards stand holding Jesus. Everyone else sits on the floor.)

Narrator: The Temple Guards declared that Jesus was guilty and deserved to be put to death for breaking the Jewish law. They took Jesus to the Roman Govenor, Pilate.

Pilate: Who is this man?

Guard: His name is Jesus

Pilate: And what has he done wrong?

Guard: He is a trouble maker! He says he is God's son! What rubbish! Crowds of people follow him.

Narrator: So Governor Pilate asked the crowd:

Pilate: Today is a special day. It is a feast day for your people. So I will let Jesus go if you want me to.

Narrator: But the crowd yelled out

Crowd: No! Kill him! Nail him to a cross!

Easter Drama 4: The cross

(Walk around the lawn ending up under the tree.

*Large nail & hammer
sheet)*

Narrator: Jesus was stripped of his clothes, whipped and beaten by the guards. People spat at him and laughed at him. The soldiers made him carry the heavy cross all the way up the hill to where the Roman soldiers put criminals to death on crosses.

When he got there they nailed his hands and feet to the cross

(Lay the cross on the ground and hammer 3 nails into it. Kids can participate in this)

Then they lifted it up high so that Jesus hung there.

Some of his friends stayed close by and cried for him

Friend 1: What a terrible day! How could this happen to you Jesus?!

Narrator: But some of his friends were too frightened that the guards would arrest them too so they ran away to hide

Friend 2: Help! I'm out of here! *(run away)*

Narrator: As Jesus died the sky went black, even though it was only lunchtime. Then his friends carefully lifted his dead body down off the cross, wrapped him in a special cloth and carried him to a tomb in a rock. The tomb had a stone made to cover the entrance. It was heavy but the guards rolled it over to shut the tomb tightly.

Easter Drama 5: The empty tomb

(Carry Jesus wrapped in the sheet to tomb. Angel hides nearby. Kids go back to Upper Room while Jesus hides. Leave the sheet draped long.)

Narrator: Jesus stayed in the tomb for two days. Early on Sunday morning his friends went to see the tomb and they were shocked when they got there.

Friend 1: What has happened? The tomb is open!

Friend 2: Let's look inside.

Narrator: They could hardly believe their eyes because inside the tomb Jesus body was gone, only the sheet was lying there. Then they heard someone talking to them. When they looked up they saw two angels sitting on the rocks

Angel: Why are you looking for Jesus here? He is not here! Don't look for him with the dead for he is alive!

Narrator: The friends got such a fright they ran all the way back home and told the others. So some more friends went to look in the tomb and they found it just like they'd been told, only they didn't see the angels.

Easter Drama 6: Back home

(Go back to the Upper Room. Jesus needs to be hiding ready to appear)

Narrator: All the friends got together in a house that evening, and they kept asking each other:

Friend 1: What is happening?

Friend 2: I don't know! Where is Jesus? What's going on?!

Narrator: Just then suddenly Jesus was just standing there with them. He showed them the nail holes in his hands and his feet, and because they were scared he said,

Jesus: Don't be afraid. I am not dead, I am alive, and I will always be with you, because I love you!

Narrator: After that, his friends were so amazed and full of joy they went everywhere telling everyone the great news:

Friend 2: Jesus is alive!

Friend 1: Jesus is alive!