

through the season

Introduction

In this section you will find some ideas for scene-setting activities and a weekly focus as you move through the season.

These ideas provide possible ways of linking all the weeks together which can be a helpful reminder to people of the thread of the story and the key aspects being focused on during worship.

This season the main suggested focus is the cross. If you do not have a free standing large cross, perhaps you could have one made. Or if you used a 'real' Christmas tree that is still floating around outside, perhaps you could make a cross from that. The cross should remain in a prominent place throughout Lent, Easter and up to Pentecost.

Each week a suggestion is given for an additional visual to go along with the cross. You can decide whether to only have that week's visual or build up a tableau by having the previous items remain at the foot of the cross.

Week By Week

Around The Cross

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| 18 Feb | Lent 1 | Story: John 11:1-44
Title: Jesus and Lazarus
Visual: A white sheet is placed, folded, at the foot of the cross with a bottle of perfumed oil. |
| 25 Feb | Lent 2 | Story: John 13:1-17
Title: Jesus the Servant
Visual: A large bowl of water, towel and bar of soap are placed around the cross. |
| 4 Mar | Lent 3 | Story: John 18:12-27
Title: Jesus Denied
Visual: A picture or ornament of a cockerel is placed by the cross. |
| 11 Mar | Lent 4 | Story: John 18:28-40
Title: Jesus and Pilate
Visual: A selection of large question marks cut from card or a sign saying "What is truth?" placed around or on the cross. |
| 18 Mar | Lent 5 | Story: John 19:1-16a
Title: Jesus Condemned
Visual: A whip, purple cloth and crown of thorns (these can be found to purchase online or ask someone in the congregation to make one either from hawthorn branches or from barbed wire) are placed around the cross. |
| 25 Mar | Palm Sunday | Story: John 19:16b-22 (or John 12:12-27)
Title: Jesus, Crucified Messiah
Visual: A sign hanging from the cross with the words "The Crucified King". |



**Holy Week**

Story: as per your own plans
 Title: Holy Week
 Visual: Empty the cross, all other visuals removed for this week.

29 Mar Maundy Thursday

Story: John 19:23-30
 Title: Jesus' Last Words
 Visual: Write out the final words of Jesus from the gospel passage and place these around or on the cross.

30 Mar Good Friday

Story: John 19:31-42
 Title: Jesus is Dead
 Visual: An empty cross at the start of the service but you could wrap the cross at the end of the service with cloth and flowers as per the suggested liturgy by Marci Glass (<https://marciglass.com/2016/03/25/wrapping-the-cross-a-good-friday-service/>). The liturgy could form the basis for the whole service on Good Friday.

1 Apr Easter Day

Story: John 20:1-18
 Title: Jesus Resurrected
 Visual: Either you could create a garden of flowers around the cross or have the cross prepped with floral arrangement oasis and invite people forward to place flowers onto the cross creating a colourful display.

8 Apr Easter 2

Story: John 20:19-31
 Title: Jesus and Thomas
 Visual: A combination of card question marks and exclamation marks attached to the cross or scattered around the cross.

15 Apr Easter 3

Story: Acts 9:1-19
 Title: Jesus and Paul
 Visual: A road map with a red line marking a highlighted route (ideally a map of ancient Israel and Syria showing Damascus) placed on the cross.

22 Apr Easter 4

Story: Acts 16:16-34
 Title: Paul and Silas
 Visual: A length of heavy chain and a bowl of water or your church font, if movable, placed around the cross.

29 Apr Easter 5

Story: Acts 17:16-31
 Title: Paul's Sermon at Athens
 Visual: An image of Areopagus near Athens placed on the cross.

6 May Easter 6

Story: Philippians 1:1-18a
 Title: Partnership in the Gospel
 Visual: A scroll or letter, quill pen, ink bottle on a desktop placed around the cross.

13 May Easter 7

Story: Philippians 2:1-13
 Title: The Christ Hymn
 Visual: The words 'goodness', 'kindness', 'loving', 'healing', 'forgiving' on large sheets of card scattered around or attached to the cross.

20 May Pentecost

Story: Acts 2:1-21 and Philippians 4:4-7
 Title: Rejoice in the Lord
 Visual: Decorate the cross with symbols of Pentecost (such as flames, doves, white/red/yellow streamers).