

Jerusalem: Jesus' last week

taking childhood spirituality seriously

Godly Play ^{UK}

Things for anyone to do, however young or old they are

Here is Jerusalem. It's not actually Jerusalem, of course, it is a model of Jerusalem. So many important things happened in Jerusalem, and so this week, a model can help us. This model is beautiful. It was made by people at the Bowthorpe workshop. Maybe one day you could have one – but not yet. We can't have much at the moment, because now is a waiting time.

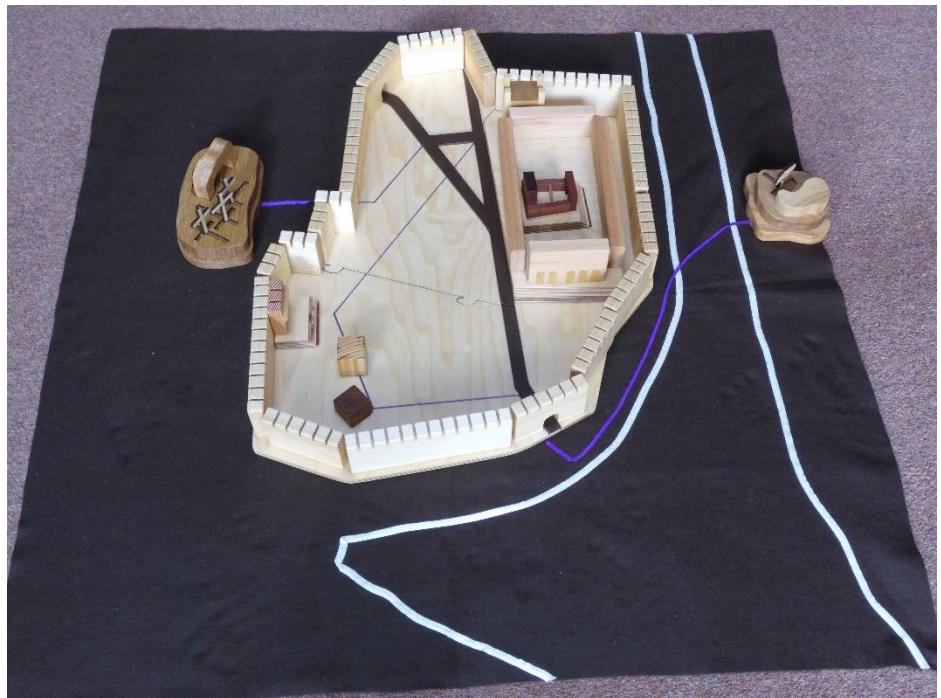
And of course, this is just a picture of a model. So perhaps you can build your own model. You could use Lego, or other bricks; or you could use junk, cardboard packaging and tubes. It doesn't matter what you use.

You could even make it outside, if you can go outside. If you can't make a model, maybe you could draw it – as a kind of map. There are all sorts of things you could do.

Inside the city walls you need some places:

- The Temple (it was massive!)
- A Last Supper house
- The high priest's house
- Pontius Pilate's house

And outside the city walls you need two places:



The Temple



The Mount of Olives



Golgotha, with three crosses

When you have made your own Jerusalem, here are a few things you might do. Just choose what you fancy ... don't do them all!

You could read the story of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem.

St Mark's Gospel, chapters 14 and 15 tells us the story.

Find it in the Good News Bible here: www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14-15&version=GNT

You can find a simple, short version here: https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/The_First_Easter_English.pdf

Perhaps you could cut some little people out of cardboard, and tell the story yourself, putting the people into your model. Or you could use little toy people – Lego people or Playmobil.

Sad happenings, sad poems and sad songs

What happened to Jesus was not the only sad thing to happen in Jerusalem. Many sad things happened there, because sad things happen – everywhere. One person, perhaps he was called Jeremiah, wrote some poems during one very sad time. If you would like to read them, you can find them here: www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations+1&version=NRSVA

Maybe you could write your own sad poem.

Some people have turned some of these poems into songs, or pieces of music. They are sad, but also so very beautiful. Maybe you could listen.

Thomas Tallis: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbczcKGgcwM

Edward Bairstow (these were written during the Second World War)

www.google.com/search?q=Bairstow%27s+lamentation&oq=Bairstow%27s+lamentation&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.6290j1j7&sieid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

A simple version:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkSjHZDmnEw&list=OLAK5uy_nk3tH2oaLqoOd0Na0kYcsN6kda1rq3QZY&index=12&t=0s

Maybe you could make up your own sad song.

Hot cross buns

You could make some hot cross buns, each with their own little cross, to remind you. There are lots of recipes for buns made with yeast. Here is a recipe in case you have not got yeast:

Quick soda bread hot cross buns

75g plain flour

25g raisins, sultanas or currants

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda. (Heaped

100g wholemeal flour

1½ tsp caster sugar

generous half)

25g oats

½ tsp salt

175ml natural full-fat yoghurt.

Preheat the oven to 220C, Gas 7. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper... or grease one. Stir all the ingredients, except the yoghurt, together in a bowl. Add most of the yoghurt and mix together to a soft dough. Add a little extra yoghurt if the dough is dry. Tip the dough out onto a floured work surface and knead for a few minutes until smooth.

Cut the dough into four pieces and shape into round buns, flatten slightly with your hand then mark a deep † on the top using a knife. Make sure to cut almost all the way to the bottom of the dough, so that the middle of the bread cooks all the way through. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes. You could make them shiny by brushing on some syrup or melted honey.

Make a cross

You could make a cross and use it to help you to think together. Just use ordinary things: two towels laid out on the floor would make a simple cross. If you put it in a corner, or outside (if it's not raining), you could leave it there for a while and come back to it. Find something to use to decorate the cross with. Some people have a collection of old buttons, or you could use Lego or bricks; broken-up orange peel would look nice for a day or two; washed yoghurt pots tops would be OK. (We need to use whatever we can get at the moment.) Every so often sit around your cross and talk about these questions. For each 'think' you could add a decoration to the cross.

I wonder who you are thinking of today/right now?

I wonder what is making you happy?

I wonder what is making you sad?

I wonder if there is anything to say thank you for right now?

You could say this prayer:

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus,
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Common Worship)

You could say this:

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: O Saviour of the world,

who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,

All: save us and help us we humbly pray.