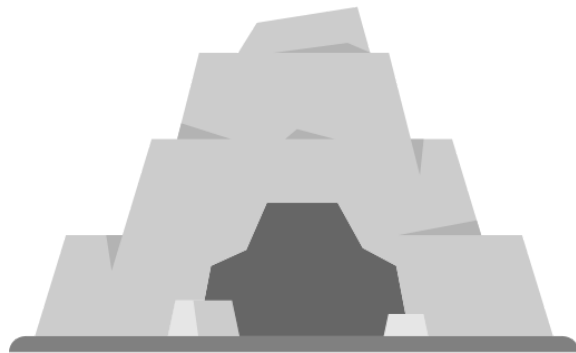


YOUTH LEADER SESSION

Suitable for use with any secondary school-aged young person

IT IS FINISHED! BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!



FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

To explore in Virtual Reality a first-hand experience of the resurrection and reflect upon the Christian perspective of why Jesus' death and resurrection is important in the Christian faith.



IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES

SESSION PURPOSE

To help young people consider why the resurrection is important and to think of the significance of the event and as the beginning of a whole new way of life.

To understand that Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross as a way of paying the price for everything we have done wrong and when people believe this they are given everlasting life with Jesus in heaven.

To consider the Gospel accounts of the resurrection itself, and the broader New Testament response to the new reality that it shows us (1 Cor.15, Phil. 2, Rom. 10).

Within this session there will be a Virtual Reality activity which can be downloaded via our website www.missionalgen.co.uk/vr

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PRAYER TIME

ACTIVITY - HUMAN Pictionary



Divide the group into teams, the teams must then form themselves and their bodies into a shape, word or model to depict each word in turn. Give each team 2 minutes to form their group into their representation of the word, then a leader decides which team has best depicted the word. Give each team a point per victory (its up to you what you do with those points and the victorious team)!

Use as many of the words below as you have time for, but try and finish with the word 'NEW' - it is not only a challenge but also ties in nicely with the rest of the session!

EMPTY - DEAD - ALIVE - TOMB - ANGEL - ROCK - NEW

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ACTIVITY - COPYCATS



It's like charades and Chinese whispers all rolled into one! You will need a leader with the list of words below to act as 'host' and the young people split into equal teams. The host gives the first word to one member of each team, who acts out a word or phrase to the next team member (the team should all be lined up, facing away from the acting member, only turning around when it is their turn to see the message). The second team member then copies that action to try and communicate it to the third, and so on until the final team member 'receives' the message. The final member of the team runs back to the host, tells them what they think the message was. The host records whether they got the correct message or not (but does not tell them at this point) and gives this team member the next word on the list, and the process begins again. The team at the end of the game with the most correct messages wins.

The game's length can be controlled by the size of each team (bigger teams means each message takes longer), and you can always add some of your own words. Try these though:

ROLLERCOASTER - SHOCK or SURPRISE - RUN - CRY - DOUBT



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BIBLE PASSAGES

Matthew 28

Mark 16

Luke 24

John 20



BIBLE FOCUS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Using two or more of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection encourage the group to look for the things that are the same and things that are different within what is recorded. What do the group find to be the underlying consistent themes? What are the central truths that the Gospels all communicate?

Use this as an opportunity to speak about the centrality of the resurrection to Christian hope. Quite simply, without the Resurrection, the Crucifixion is not the victory that we as Christians hold it to be. Take a moment also to explain and consider that the resurrection life Jesus invites us to be a part of is something which his physical resurrection has begun, and which continues everyday for us all, as well as a promise of all that is to come. You might use texts such as Romans 6:1-5, or 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 to further the discussion if you have time and a group who engage well with discussion.

It may also be worth bearing the following passage from 'The Meaning of Jesus' in mind for any who struggle with the differences between the Gospel accounts:

Despite the scorn of some, lawyers and judges have regularly declared that this [the differences between the different Gospel accounts of who arrived at the tomb, how many shining men were there etc] is precisely the sort of evidence they find in a great many cases: this is what eyewitness testimony looks and sounds like. And in such cases the surface discrepancies do not mean that nothing happened; rather they mean that the witnesses have not been in collusion.

Finish off this section by reading:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;
and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.
Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26



VR - RESURRECTION OF JESUS



In the resurrection VR you are able to see what it might have been like in the tomb when Jesus rose from the dead. This moment in history was and still is a huge deal.

Using the app MGVR, watch a 2 minute Virtual Reality simulation of Jesus in the tomb. Experience the moment when he was raised from the dead (symbolized by a bright light) then observe the tomb door opening and the words 'He is risen'.

Young people will be immersed into a 360 Virtual Reality experience of what the resurrection may have been like. This will be split in to 3 stages of simulation.

1: Outside the tomb - seeing the guards and the stone rolled over the tomb entrance

2: Inside the tomb - seeing where Jesus' body was laid and capturing the moment of Jesus being raised from the dead symbolised as a bright light as the tomb stone rolls open

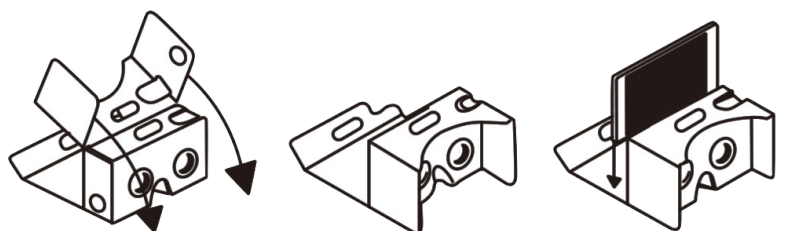
3: Outside the tomb looking in to the tomb - seeing that it is empty and then seeing the words 'He is risen'

Once the virtual reality activity is over ask the young people to stop and reflect on the resurrection experience and to consider why it is important to Christians around the world today.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is central to the Christian faith. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus which, although it involves many miracles and signs and wonders that point us to who God is and his hopes for humanity, does not hold full significance without placing it in the perspective of Jesus' life and teachings and what was achieved through his death and resurrection.

SETTING UP VR HEADSETS

To help you set up your virtual reality headsets we suggest you visit www.missionalgen.co.uk/vr Here you can check you have all you need to be able to watch the resurrection in VR.



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GROUP - DISCUSSION OPTIONS



Pick an activity or two from the list below that will help the young people process the information they have taken in during the Bible Focus, centring around the fact that whatever variation in details we might see, all four Gospels, plus lots of other new testament materials agree on the fact that Jesus died, and then was fully alive again.

1. You could use a thought shower on a large piece of paper to think together about why this is important to Christians.
2. You could look together at 1 Corinthians 15:20, and offer the group a short time of silence to consider what it means to them that Jesus is the first of God's new creation, but that we are called and renewed because of Jesus' resurrection. Invite them to spend a moment thinking about which areas of their lives they would like to see God make 'new'.
3. You could invite the group to think about which of the different characters in the resurrection narratives they identify with (and why). Do they identify with the women in their confusion, Peter in his impatience to see what has happened when he's told, Thomas in his doubts, or any of the other characters? You could then split them into groups based on who they have identified with and invite them to speak about what the resurrection might have meant to the person they've identified with. How might they have felt when they saw the empty tomb/graveclothes/scars in Jesus hands? Invite feedback afterwards from each group.

READ OUT

The Easter Journey for Christians is so important. It allows the Church and Christians across the world a chance to stop and reflect on the importance of Jesus', life, death and resurrection.

Scripture teaches us in Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". This means that a barrier has come before us and God because of our action and reactions. Sin prevents us from truly living a fulfilled and freed life and therefore required Jesus action upon the cross.

Continue over the page

Jesus death and resurrection enables us to find forgiveness as well as the reconnection to God through his Son Jesus. Jesus came to this earth to offer to all that believe and trust to God forgiveness and healing.

As with other Christian festivals, it can be easy for Easter to come and go without thinking about what it actually means, what the significance is to our own lives and how important it is. Today you were given the opportunity to immerse yourself in a 360 interpretation of the resurrection of Jesus and to explore why Easter is central to Christians and what it can mean personally to you.

Easter is a great time to share the important message of a new beginning but the message of resurrection is not just a once the year message. The mandate of the church and Christians across the world is to communicate that Jesus came into the world to give us personal forgiveness and freedom and we are to reveal this truth by sharing how it has helped transform our lives.

Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross as a way of paying the price for everything we have done wrong. Explain that Christians believe that we have to accept this gift.

Christians believe that Jesus came back to life after being in the tomb for three days.

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ACTIVITY - COIN CLEANING



All together - science experiment using vinegar to clean coins.

The dirty coin represents us and our wrongdoings (sin), the vinegar and the salt represent how Christians believe God makes all things new (1p coin looks clean when placed in vinegar and salt).

During this activity each person will be asked to place a dirty 1p coin halfway into the bowl of salt and vinegar. The coin will then become half clean and bright. This will then help emphasise the meaning of the cross and how when we accept Jesus with our whole hearts we are made new by his action upon the cross.

Continue over the page



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Then consider the importance of the resurrection. Christians believe the death and resurrection of Jesus gives each of us a chance to live in freedom from guilt, shame and the things we have done wrong. We believe that accepting Jesus' gift of dying on the cross and accepting that he was raised from the dead that they can have a new abundant life.

Ask your young people if they ever find forgiving people hard? Invite people to share where appropriate?

Explore why the Church understands Easter is a seasonal time of the year when we celebrate forgiveness. As you do this hand out to every young person a pre-cleaned coin to take home to help them prayerfully consider the forgiveness Jesus gives us the chance of in the resurrection.

Items needed: 1p coins for every young person (and some extra for the experiment), big bowl, 500ml of white vinegar, 4 tablespoons of fine grounded salt, towel to dry the coins after the activity.

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GO - MISSION ACTIVATION



Encourage the young people to think about where they long to see areas of 'new life' - in their schools, their friends, their communities or further afield.

When they've had a couple of minutes to think about this, split them into groups with the simple question on a sheet of paper on the floor/table in the middle of each group:

'WHAT COULD YOU DO ABOUT IT?'

Give the group some time to really reflect on this question, and as the time goes on, encourage them to tighten their focus to get to achievable concrete actions (something to do/ say/ pray), and to decide if this is something they will do as a group, or individually. Most importantly, ask the groups to commit to each asking one other member of the group over the next week if they have actually kept to their intention. Feel free to ask them yourself next session too!

PRAYER - ACTIVATION



‘Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?’ [Luke 24:32 NLT]. So said two of Jesus followers after an encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus (you can read the full story in Luke 24:13-34). The resurrected Jesus completes our understanding and reveals to us who God is and what the Bible still has to say to us, drawing us more and more into His story.

Give plenty of time to this prayer activity - you could have some background music on if this will work for your group.

Place a large picture of a road or path (or mark one out in some other way), and ask the young people to place people on that road who they want Jesus to reveal himself to. You could give the group paper cut outs of people, pens and post it notes, the time to shape and design their own people, or even invite them to stand on the road themselves whilst thinking about someone else, as a way to prayerfully bring to God those from in their circles who they want to get know Jesus. Young people might even be invited to ‘walk the road’ themselves as a way of praying that they want to walk more closely with Jesus themselves and would like him to make their own hearts ‘burn within them’.



OTHER VR AND AR YOUTH LEADERS RESOURCES

Building upon the trend of smart phones, live stream, and panoramic 360° interactive photos and videos, we are creating youth work discipleship apps using Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality accessed via smart phones. We are seeing church leaders, youth workers, chaplaincy teams and parents connect with their young people and explore faith and relationship with Jesus. We have also researched how this level of technology is helping to put the church back onto the interest list of young people as they use our VR & AR apps resources. Why not see other VR and AR resources we have by visiting www.missionalgen.co.uk/vr

