

Three Friends and the Miracle Man

The Script

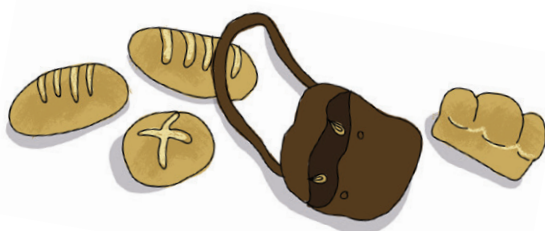


The Basics

If you're planning an all-age Easter service, we have just the thing for you! Explore the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and bring *Three Friends and the Miracle Man* to life at your church with this free script!

You might decide to perform the script straight through. However, we've also suggested some stopping points and included ideas for prayer, songs, Bible readings, reflection and various activities. Feel free to customise! There are a few accompanying resources you might want to use too (see below).

You'll need a service leader, four actors, a band of extras (we'd recommend at least three) and a few props – most of which you can easily make.



Character Information

- ★ **Miriam** – around 12 years old, (Jairus' daughter)
- ★ **Simeon** – around 7 years old, (the boy with five loaves and two fish)
- ★ **Tim** – around 10 years old and works in the temple in Jerusalem
- ★ **Jesus** - (the Miracle Man)
- ★ **A band of extras**
[x 3 at least] – these extras are hugely important! They will wave palm leaves, throw coats, turn blocks (more on these later), make sound effects and much more!



Actors do not need to be the same age as the characters they portray.

They have quite a few lines to learn, stage directions to remember and will need to rehearse!

Props

★ Simeon's bag of bread

You could use real bread or toy plastic loaves if you have them.

★ 8 Box blocks / Large signs

Each block or sign will have one of the following phrases written in large letters that can be seen from the back of the church: crowd-feeding, story-telling, life-giving, donkey-riding, people-healing, death-beating, fully-forgiving, Miracle Man.

★ Palm leaves to wave

★ Coats to lay down

★ A tomb

Don't panic! This can be an imaginary space 'off-stage'.

★ Party poppers / party blowers

Enough for your band of extras or why not your whole congregation?!



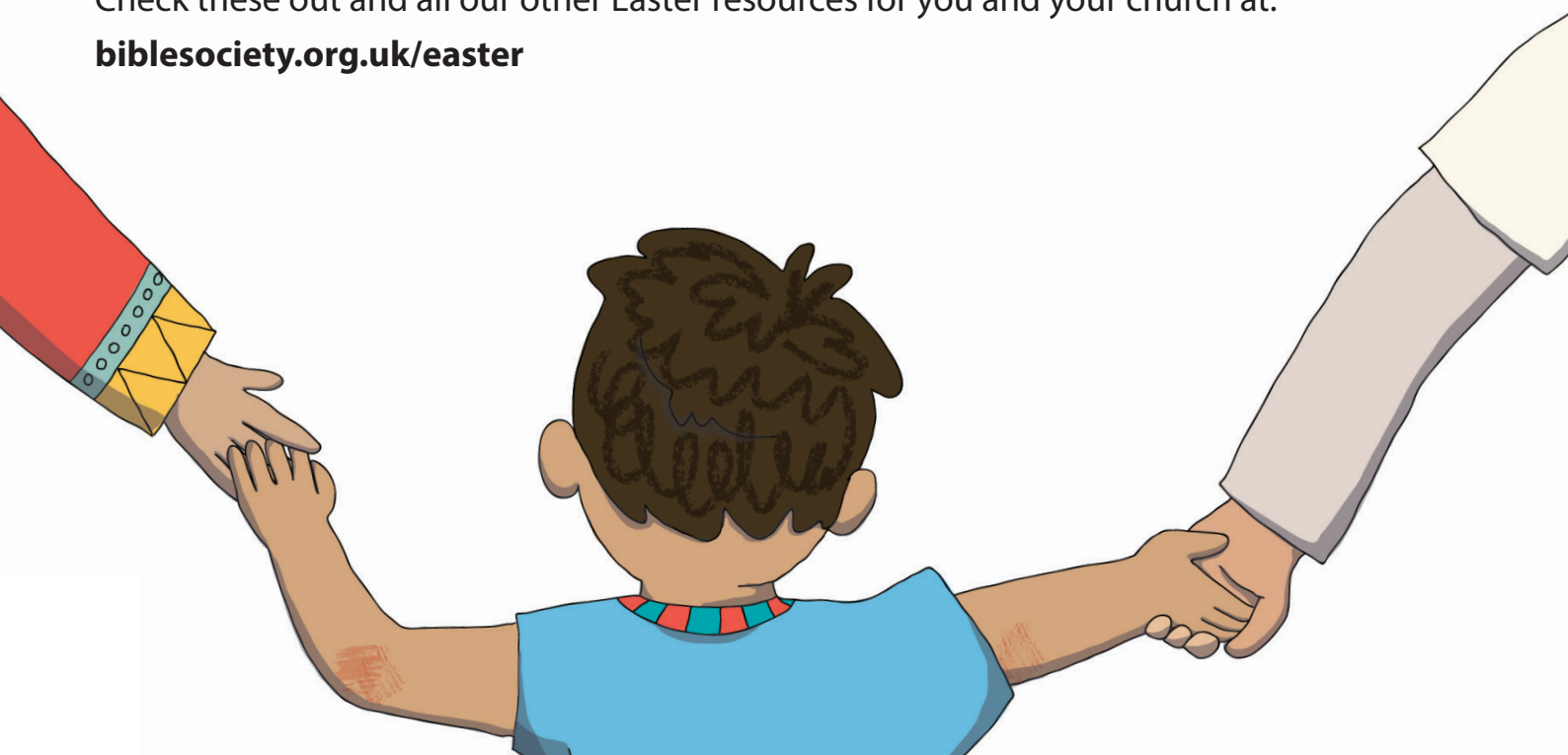
Accompanying resources

This script is based on our children's story, *Three Friends and the Miracle Man*. Why not give copies away as gifts at the end of the service? Order online at special subsidised prices.

We have created a free **video animation** of *Three Friends and the Miracle Man* that you can download or stream and show in your church services. And for the younger children or those who like to get artistic, we have created **colouring sheets** which are free to download.

Check these out and all our other Easter resources for you and your church at:

biblesociety.org.uk/easter



The Script

SERVICE LEADER

Welcome to our service! Today we'll be exploring the Easter story through a fantastic dramatic performance!
Watch out for opportunities to get involved... But first, let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father

Thank you for sending your son Jesus into the world to live among us. Thank you for all the extraordinary things he said and did which give us a glimpse of what your kingdom is like. Help us to understand what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus means for us and to share this amazing news with others.

Amen.

Enter Miriam, rushing from stage left to centre stage. Simultaneously, enter Simeon rushing from stage right to centre stage. Miriam is huffing, puffing and wiping her brow, whilst Simeon is struggling along with a bag full of bread.

Miriam and Simeon collide centre stage.

SIMEON

Ouch! My head!

Notices bread spilling out of bag onto ground and scrambles to pick it up.

Oh no, my bread!

MIRIAM

Oooops! I'm sorry. Are you okay? *Tries to help Simeon.*

Why is a small boy like you carrying so much bread anyway?

SIMEON

Hands on hips, crossly.

It's not just any bread! It's crusty, fresh, yummy bread from my dad's bakery! And it's for someone special who needs my help.

MIRIAM

Someone special? Well I bet he's not as special as MY friend!

SIMEON

Crossing arms, confident he's about to win the argument.

Yeah? Well I bet MY friend is way better and cooler than your friend.
After all, he's the Miracle Man!

MIRIAM

Wait... That's who I'm talking about too!

SIMEON

Forgetting to argue in his concern for the Miracle Man.

Well I heard he's in trouble – locked up and not looked after! What if he needs food?
Gesturing with a loaf of bread.

MIRIAM

Worriedly.

I just don't understand what he could have done wrong!
Since I met him, I've never been the same.

SIMEON	<p><i>Excitedly.</i></p> <p>Me too! I'll never forget the day I met him. Loads of people in my village went to listen to him tell stories about God. Well I couldn't miss out – I LOVE stories! Everyone was having such a good time...we stayed so long our bellies grumbled. And I was the only one who'd brought any lunch!</p> <p>Two fresh fish and five crusty, warm, yummy loaves of bread...just the right amount for a growing young boy.</p> <p><i>Slapping belly and licking his lips.</i></p> <p>I was just about to tuck into my fish sarnie when a friend of his asked for it. The Miracle Man prayed, handed out my lunch and somehow fed 5000 families!</p> <p>Now everybody calls me "Fish-sarnie-Sim" and we all call him the crowd-feeding, story-telling Miracle Man.</p>
EXTRAS	<i>Turn around the two blocks on stage which say crowd-feeding and story-telling</i>
MIRIAM	That's incredible!
SIMEON	<p><i>Dreamily.</i></p> <p>Now I always bring snacks just in case he needs it.</p> <p>Can you imagine a miracle with cake?!</p>
MIRIAM	<p><i>Impatiently.</i></p> <p>Let me tell you what happened to me! I was sick...not 'ate too much delicious cake sick', but really sick.</p> <p>My Dad (he's called Jairus), rushed out to find the Miracle Man as fast as his legs could go! But when the Miracle Man arrived, I was already gone.</p> <p><i>Miriam pauses here, letting the meaning of this sink in.</i></p>
SIMEON	<p><i>Confused.</i></p> <p>Where did you go? To the shops?</p>
MIRIAM	No! I was just gone...full stop!
SIMEON	<p><i>Confused and a little scared.</i></p> <p>You died????</p>
MIRIAM	<p><i>Excitedly.</i></p> <p>Yes! BUT THEN he brought me back to life!</p> <p><i>Emphasising the awesomeness of what happened to her.</i></p> <p>I went from not alive, back to alive again and it's all thanks to the life-giving Miracle Man!</p>
EXTRAS	<i>Turn around the block on stage which says life-giving</i>

SIMEON	<i>Simeon looks at Miriam a little suspiciously. He takes some bread from his bag and throws it at her head!</i>
MIRIAM	Ouch! <i>Picking up the bread and looking at Simeon as if to say, why would you do that?</i>
SIMEON	Phew! Well, only an alive again person would feel that... <i>Simeon and Miriam exit stage right perhaps munching on some bread!</i>
EXTRAS	<i>Place some palm leaves and a coat on the stage during the song and/or quick quiz.</i>



Our God Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2010 sixsteps Music, Thankyou Music, Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com songs, Atlas Mountain Songs

SERVICE LEADER

[QUICK QUIZ with just the children (parents can help if appropriate)? You might want to give out some chocolate prizes, ensuring as many children receive them as possible.]

We've just heard about some extraordinary things Jesus did. Now I have some prizes up for grabs for anyone who can tell me any other miracles Jesus did...

i.e. Turning water into wine, walking on water, calming a storm, miraculous catch of fish, casting out demons, healings etc

Bonus question: Does anybody know the name of anyone apart from Jairus' daughter who Jesus raised from the dead?

i.e. Lazarus

Wow! It's amazing how many miraculous things Jesus did! But why did he do them? He wasn't just trying to impress people (although they certainly were amazed). He is God's son and he wanted to show people what God and life with God is like! Let's find out more...

Enter Tim looking sad and distressed. Walk to front of stage and slump down head in hands.

Enter Miriam and Simeon stage right looking tired, slowly walking across the stage.

There is a rustling, crunching sound as they step on the palm leaves.

MIRIAM *Looking down at her feet on hearing the sound of the rustling/crunching.*
How strange...who left all these palm leaves on the ground?

SIMEON *Tripping over the discarded coat on the ground.*
Aahhh! Owwww. And whose coat is this?

TIM *Turning round at the sound of the commotion. Answering sadly.*
They were put there to welcome the special one.
Bursting into tears.

SIMEON *Rushing over to put his arm around Tim.*
Why are you sad? Can I get you anything? Would you like a snack?
Snacks always cheer me up.

MIRIAM Wait! The palm leaves were to welcome who?

TIM The Miracle Man of course!

EXTRAS *Wave palm leaves and lay down more coats throughout Tim's next bit of dialogue.*

TIM *Still speaking sadly but with a simultaneous sense of the excitement as he remembers Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.*

He rode into town on a donkey and crowds came to welcome him! It was one of those special moments you'll never forget. Some laid down coats or palm leaves, some bowed, some danced and some sang, "God is the greatest, praise him forever!"



John 12.12-18



Hosanna Carl Tuttle © 1985 Shadow Spring Music

SIMEON *Excitedly.*

No way! We've come to find the Miracle Man!

TIM *Ignores Simeon but continues remembering Jesus' amazing miracles.*

A bit later I saw him the temple where I work, making people better. People who couldn't see, could see! People who couldn't walk, suddenly started running, jumping and skipping...

Breaking down into sobs again.

I just couldn't help but thank God for the **donkey-riding, people-healing, Miracle Man!**

EXTRAS *Turn around the two blocks on stage which say **donkey-riding** and **people-healing***

MIRIAM *Looking confused.*

So... why are you sobbing and sniffing?

TIM Because... they took him.

Realising more explanation is needed.

Some people didn't like him – I think they were jealous. But he wasn't afraid of telling the truth, I even saw him tell people off in the temple when they did bad things.

Shock, disbelief and grief.

But then, some people took him and hit him. They nailed him on a cross so everyone could see. They pointed and laughed even though he was really hurt.

SIMEON *Bottom lip wobbling in worry.*

But what did he do?

MIRIAM *Desperately.*

There must be some mistake! Quick... we have to rescue him!

TIM It's too late. He's gone!

Simeon and Miriam gasp as they realise Tim is telling them the Miracle Man is dead. All of the children slump to the ground and sob. They put their arms around each other's shoulders and stay in this position throughout the Bible reading, reflection and song.

**SERVICE LEADER**

You might like to take this time to reflect on the cross. You may want to use the reflection below, leading into a minute's silence / prayer.

It's shocking to hear that people wanted to kill Jesus, the Miracle Man who fed 5000 families, healed the sick and even brought people back to life. It's hard to understand why people didn't love or even like him! The way he was treated was totally unfair!

And yet, this was actually what Jesus came to do. He was willing to die for us, so that we could be made right with God and have eternal life with God!

That starts now. And this is the most miraculous thing Jesus did!

Let's be silent for a minute to think about Jesus' incredible love for us, to say sorry for the things we have done wrong and to thank God for his grace and forgiveness.

MINUTE'S SILENCE to reflect – think, repent, thank. You may want to finish by praying.

**How Deep The Father's Love For Us** Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music**MIRIAM**

Gasping and springing to her feet with hopeful excitement as she has an idea.

Wait! He made me alive again! What if God could make him 'alive again' too?

TIM

Quick, follow me! I know where his tomb is!

Tim, Miriam and Simeon rush stage right and appear to be looking into a tomb. Realising the tomb is empty they look at each other in excitement.

MIRIAM

Jumping up and down, shouting with excitement.

He did it! He's alive again too!

TIM

Cautiously.

But how can we be sure? What if someone stole his body?

SIMEON

Wait! The Miracle Man had special friends who were fishermen, right?

If anyone would know what's happened to Jesus, it would be them!

TIM

Couldn't hurt to look?

Tim, Miriam and Simeon set off quickly, exiting stage left.

SERVICE LEADER

The amazing news is that God did indeed raise Jesus to life! The tomb was empty and Jesus appeared fully alive again many times to many people. He is alive right now and will be forever.

And this is the hope we have. The Bible says that even though those who belong to Jesus will die, they too will be raised by God to new life with him.

**Resurrection Hymn (See What A Morning)** Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music

Tim, Miriam and Simeon enter stage left looking extremely tired.

EXTRAS

The sound of waves crashing on a beach could be played in the background, or the sounds could be made by the extras.

The children start to sniff the air as if they can smell something absolutely delicious. They look around eagerly, then 'spot' the congregation as if they're the ones having a BBQ.

SIMEON

Hmmmm, smells delicious! And look at all the fish they've caught! One thing's for sure, there's a fisherman somewhere and I think he may know about the Miracle Man.

JESUS

The actor playing Jesus emerges from the congregation and walks towards the children.
Do you know why the Miracle Man died?

The three children look at each other, puzzled.

TIM

Because some people thought he was bad?

JESUS

Smiling.
He died to forgive all the bad things and all the sad things that were ever done or said.

TIM

Taken aback.
But he can't forgive ALL the bad things and ALL the sad things that ALL the mean people did and said!

JESUS

But why not?

MIRIAM

Because, some of it was too bad or too sad.

JESUS

But that's just it. The Miracle Man died so that anyone could be forgiven, no matter how bad the bad things were and no matter how sad the sad things were.

SIMEON

But why? Doesn't seem very fair to me?

JESUS

Jesus kneels down in front of the children, looking into their eyes one by one.
Because he loves you. That's why.



John 3.16-17

SIMEON

Tugging Jesus' sleeve.
But Mr grown-up sir, my friend Miriam thinks he's alive again. Is he really?

JESUS

Smiling at Miriam.
He's not just alive again. He's alive again, forever... full stop!

MIRIAM

Joyfully.
He's the **death-beating, life-giving and fully-forgiving Miracle Man!**

EXTRAS	<i>Turn around the two blocks on stage which say death-beating and fully-forgiving</i>
JESUS	<i>Standing up, smiling.</i> I couldn't have put it better myself.
SIMEON	<i>Looking around eagerly.</i> So where can we find him?
MIRIAM	<i>Looking at Jesus in sudden wonder.</i> He's right here!
SIMEON	<i>Realising for himself and shouting out in excitement.</i> Jesus!
TIM	It really is you! <i>The three children and Jesus have a group hug. Smiling and laughing.</i>
EXTRAS/ CONGREGATION	<i>Let off party poppers/blow party blowers and 'WHOOOP' to celebrate that Jesus is alive again...</i>
JESUS	You three have been on quite a journey!
SIMEON	<i>Shyly</i> I'm sorry Jesus. I came all this way but my bread is gone.
JESUS	Not just any bread 'Fish-sarnie-Sim!' Crusty, fresh, yummy bread that tastes delicious with fish! But don't worry. I knew you'd come so I made sure we had extras! <i>Jesus and the children sit down together as though ready to eat.</i>
MIRIAM, SIMEON AND TIM	<i>Staying seated with Jesus but addressing the congregation, speaking in unison.</i> We'll never forget Jesus! The one who loves us more than we could ever know.
ACTORS AND EXTRAS	<i>The actors and extras could hold up the blocks in order including the last block which says MIRACLE MAN.</i>
EVERYONE IN UNISON	<i>Everyone speaking in unison using the blocks to help</i> The storytelling, crowd-feeding, life-giving, people-healing, death-beating, and fully-forgiving Miracle Man!



He Has Risen Gerald Coates | Noel Richards | Tricia Richards © 1993 Thankyou Music



The Wonderful Cross Chris Tomlin | Isaac Watts | J. D. Walt | Jesse Reeves | Lowell Mason
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This Is Our God Reuben Morgan © 2008 Hillsong Music Publishing



Rejoice Graham Kendrick © 1983 Thankyou Music

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Here at home, where the Bible is readily available but rarely read, we're introducing a new generation to the life-changing stories it contains and helping people engage with it better so that the Bible will continue to shape our communities.

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Everything we do is driven by one conviction: that when people engage with the Bible lives can change, for good. So if the Bible has made a difference to your life, please join with us through prayer and support to bring the Bible to life around the world.

biblesociety.org.uk

Find more resources to help you share the amazing news of Easter at:

biblesociety.org.uk/easter

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