

EASY EASTER
POP-UP
SERVICE

THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL



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Easy Easter
Pop-Up Service

A few ideas and tips to help with your Easy Easter Pop-Up Service

What should you do before the service?

Let people know they can come dressed as The Women at the Tomb, the Angels, Peter and the Other Disciples or have some items those that attend can use to dress up.

Before the service, give the script to those reading aloud so they can prepare.

How many people do I need to tell the story?

We suggest you have an enthusiastic Narrator with a lectern/pulpit/music stand on one side and the person playing Jesus on the other side, also with a lectern/pulpit/music stand. They have the most lines and this arrangement will allow them to read from the script. Between the Narrator and Jesus, it would be helpful to have something that stands for the empty tomb. It doesn't have to be elaborate. A high table with folded cloths on it would do.

It will also be helpful to have a leader for each group of those who dress up or want to participate – the Women at the Tomb, the Angels, Peter and the Other Disciples. They will lead the actions of their respective groups. And, again, it will be helpful if they have fun with it. (For example, 'Come on, Women at the Tomb. The stone has been rolled away. Let's all give a big gasp!').

The lines **in bold** are what those characters are meant to say. You can either have the leader say it, or have the rest of the people playing that character repeat it after.

How do we pick the songs?

We've suggested ideas for themes of songs so we're leaving you as little work to do as possible. But use whatever you like and feel comfortable singing.



Now here's the script:

Narrator

Welcome to 'The Greatest Miracle of All!'

My name is _____ and I will be narrating our story today. And, more or less, directing our Easy Easter Pop-Up Service.

On the other side is my friend _____, who will be playing the part of Jesus.

Many of you have come dressed as characters from the Easter story. Thank you for that. From time to time, we will be asking you to come to the front and help us tell the story.

You simply have to follow the lead of our helpers here. Move when they move! Repeat what they say. Do what they do!

So let's give a great big 'Who moved the stone?' for _____, who will be leading The Women at the Tomb.

And let's give a great big, 'He is not here. He has risen!' for _____, who will be leading our Angels.

And let's give a great big, 'It's a ghost!' for _____, who will be playing Peter and leading the Other Disciples.

Now let's sing together (*we recommend a quiet song here, focused on the crucifixion and death of Jesus to give some sense of how the women feel as they approach the tomb*) and as we do, would all the Women at the Tomb go to the back and stand with your leader.

(As this first section is read, the Women at the Tomb walk slowly and sadly to the front, then stand on one side of the 'tomb'. If your building allows it, you might even want to dim the lights during this section.)

Narrator

It was dark. Dark before dawn. And dark in the hearts of the women that crept to the tomb.

Their friend Jesus was dead, and sadness surrounded them like a shadow. But Mary Magdalene and Joanna and another Mary, the mother of James, had a job to do. They had to cover their friend's body with spices, according to the custom of that time.

It would not be an easy job, to look again at the wounds he had suffered before his death. But they were determined to do this one last act of kindness for their friend.

Silently they went, and as dawn broke, they saw the tomb. And each one gasped, surprised.

The Women at the Tomb

All gasp.

Narrator

The stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away!

They went inside. There was no body. And their surprise turned to confusion.

The Women at the Tomb

Where is he? What happened? Who has taken him?

Narrator

And with those questions in mind, let's sing another song (*ideally, one that mentions the empty tomb*).

(As the song is sung, the angel group goes to the front and stands on the other side of the 'tomb', opposite the women.)

Narrator

And that is when two angels appeared, white and bright and frightening. And the women fell, face down on the ground, confusion replaced by fear.

(They can either do this, or not.)

Angels

Why are you looking for your friend here? This is a place for dead people. But your friend Jesus is alive, for he has risen!

Narrator

The angels went on. 'Back when you were with him in Galilee, he told you what would happen. Remember? He said that the Messiah would be handed over to evil men and crucified. And then rise again in three days' time.'

Of course they remembered! And as they hurried to tell the rest of Jesus' disciples their good news, it all came flooding back.

So let's go with them and sing a good news song to celebrate the risen Christ.
(Sing a big boisterous resurrection song here!)

(During this song, the angels go back to their seats, but the women stay and are joined by Peter and the other disciples on one side up front. You may want just one woman to remain and the children to return to their seats if kids are getting tired of standing.)



Narrator

But when they got there and said what they had seen, no one believed them! The Other Disciples thought they were making the whole thing up.

So off Peter went, to see for himself. And when he went into the tomb, he found nothing but the linen cloths in which Jesus' body had been wrapped. And like the women, he went back to the others, amazed.

(Peter goes into 'tomb' then back to the others.)

Narrator

It got them all talking, that's what it did.

Peter and Disciples

Where is Jesus now? Why didn't we expect this? What's going to happen next?

Narrator

They talked about it all day, in fact. And then that evening, two of the disciples who had gone back to their home in Emmaus came rushing back with the news that they had actually seen Jesus and talked with him on the road.

And that's when Jesus appeared to the rest. Just like that, in the room, out of nowhere!

(Person playing Jesus appears at the lectern opposite Narrator.)

Narrator

The disciples were terrified.

Peter and Disciples

It's a ghost!

Narrator

But Jesus put their minds to rest.

Jesus

'Ghosts don't have bones. Touch my hands and feet, and you will see. It's me! And, come to think of it, I'm feeling a bit peckish.'

Narrator

So they made him a little meal. And through a mouthful of fish he added.
(You can act this out and give Jesus bite to eat, if you like.)

Jesus

'Ghosts don't need to eat, either!'

Narrator

Finally, he talked them through all the things that Moses and the prophets and the psalms said would happen to the Messiah. He helped them to understand that God's special promised one was always supposed to die and be resurrected, and that he had come to turn people's hearts back to God and forgive them of all the wrong things they had done.

Jesus

'You are my witnesses. You watched everything I did, heard everything I taught. And now you see me here, alive! So go and tell the world, starting right here in Jerusalem.

But don't go just yet, for I have one more gift to leave with you. The promise of my Father that will give you the power you need to do what I have asked.'

Narrator

And then, as quickly as he had come, Jesus left.

So let's sing one final song to celebrate the risen Christ.

(You can sing a hymn either about the resurrection or the need to tell the world about Jesus.)





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Find more resources to help you share the big story this Easter at biblesociety.org.uk/easter

