

ACTING OUT

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER

by Jean Stangl



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Acting Out

Christmas and Easter

Four pantomimed Bible Stories

by Jean Stangl

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INTRODUCTION

Make Bible stories come alive with this unique approach to storytelling. These “moving” Bible stories allow children to actively participate in the story through physical involvement.

An adult reads the story, emphasizing the italicized word or phrase, and then pauses to allow time for the children to perform the action through creative expression. Children should be instructed to listen for directions and to wait for the pause before executing the actions.

A variety of movement concepts, along with expressions of emotion, allow children to move about and act out parts of the story. Not only will the Bible story be reinforced, but children will also be exercising, practicing motor skills, and exploring free, creative movement. If children become overstimulated, order can quickly be restored by inserting the word “Freeze!” The movement is spaced to allow time for resting and listening. No speaking parts are required for the children.

This exciting “let’s get physical” technique holds special appeal for children up to about age ten. It is appropriate for use in Christian schools, Sunday school, and church holiday programs.

For some stories you will need to assign character parts. Others contain only one character, which is to be assumed by all participants.

The activity stories may be performed by small groups within the classroom. An activity room or outdoors might be more suitable if the story-activity is to involve the entire class.

When presenting the stories, allow children as much freedom as possible in order for them to be uninhibited and creative in their movement expressions. Even though the stories may be familiar, this innovative method for Bible learning, which involves the kinetic sense, will not only foster memory and

sequencing skills, but will also provide a fun experience.

COSTUMES

Costumes are optional.

1. **Let's Go to Bethlehem.** Shepherds — head coverings.
Chorus — capes.

Materials:

Shepherds — double sheet of newspaper or newsprint, yarn.

Chorus — white butcher paper, tape, red ribbon.

Directions:

Shepherds — Press a sheet of newspaper tightly over the top of the head. Tie the yarn around your head to hold the newspaper in place.

Chorus — Cut a circle from the butcher paper. Cut another circle from the center of the first circle that is large enough to slip easily over a child's head to form a cape. Make a bow from the ribbon and tape it to the front of the cape.

2. **Mary and Joseph.** Marys — head circles and shoulder wraps. Josephs — sleeveless coats.

Materials:

Mary — Chenille pipe cleaner and a long strip of shelf paper.

Joseph — Double sheet of newspaper or newsprint.

Directions:

Mary — Shape the pipe cleaner into a circle to t on top of a child's head. Shape the shelf paper strip so it ts around the shoulders and falls under the child's arms.

Joseph — Open the newspaper at. Fold both sides toward the center and crease along the folded edges. Cut large armholes.

3. **That Last Week.** Disciples, Crowd Members — headbands.

Materials:

Two-inch-wide stripes of tagboard, stapler, tape, 3" x 5" cards in two colors, felt-tip markers.

Directions:

Cut a two-inch strip of tagboard long enough to t around your head and overlap. Staple the overlap. Write either "disciple" or "crowd" on the card. Staple to the front of the headband. Cover the staples with tape. If the entire group plays both roles, staple one card to the front and one to the back of the headband and turn it around as needed.

4. **The Forty Days After.** Disciples, Women — Reversible neck tags.

Materials:

Yarn, 3" x 5" cards in two colors, hole punch, felt-tip markers.

Directions:

Glue two different colored cards together. Write "disciple" on one side of the card and "women" on the other side. Punch two holes in the top of the card. Cut a piece of yarn about 24 inches long. Thread the yarn through the holes and tie the ends together so it ts over the child's head and the card rests on his or her chest.

Let's Go to Bethlehem

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CHARACTERS: SHEPHERDS — Any size group. CHORUS — Any number.

COSTUMES: Shepherds — head coverings. Chorus — capes.

Chant and songs are optional. Favorite carols may also be substituted. Write the chant and song titles on large ash cards and use as cue cards.

READER: One night some shepherds were out in the eld watching over their sheep. They were less than a mile outside the city of Bethlehem. The sheep had settled down for the night. The shepherds' job was to protect the sheep while they slept.

You are one of these shepherds. *Look out over your sheep. Move to the right and bend over. Pat the tiny lamb. Tiptoe softly among the sleeping animals. Step over the mother and her new baby. Use the crook of your staff to reach far to the right and pull a little lamb back into the fold. Pick up the lamb and cuddle it in your arms. Place it carefully between two sheep and stroke its back.*

You are tired. *Stretch, yawn, and rub your eyes. Lean back and rest your elbows against the huge rock. Your eyelids droop and your head wobbles. Look up and open your eyes wide. Now walk around, circling the ock. Stop. Stand on one foot, turn around, cross your legs and sit. You look out over the ock, turning your head from side to side. All is well. Your head starts to nod; you look up. Your chin falls to your chest. Straighten up quickly! You must not fall asleep. Your job is to keep the wild animals away and to make sure the sheep don't wander off.*

Place your hands on the ground in front of you and push yourself to a standing position. Place one hand on your lower back and slowly lean backward. Stand up tall. Hold your staff with both hands and raise it above your head, stretching up on

1 *your toes. The night is quiet and peaceful. You look at the*
 2 *stars, then around at the sheep and smile.*

3 *Your eyes move toward heaven. A bright light is shining*
 4 *all around you. You see an angel. Jerk back and look*
 5 *surprised; look frightened. Rub your eyes. Use your hand to*
 6 *shade your eyes from the bright light.*

7 *The angel says, “Don’t be afraid. I have great news for*
 8 *you. In Bethlehem on this very day, Christ the Lord was*
 9 *born. If you go to David’s city, you will find him. You will*
 10 *know him when you see him, for he will be wrapped in a*
 11 *long piece of cloth and will be lying in a manger.”*

12 *Suddenly the sky was filled with a crowd of heaven’s*
 13 *angels. They were praising God and saying:*

14 **CHORUS (or READER):** *(Chanting) “Glory to God in the*
 15 *highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people.”*

16 **READER:** *Then the angels went away to heaven.*

17 *Talking with your hands, you turn to the shepherd on your*
 18 *right, turn to the one on your left, then to the one behind you.*
 19 *You are excited, happy, but puzzled.*

20 *Someone says, “Let us go right now to Bethlehem and*
 21 *see this thing which has happened that the Lord’s angels*
 22 *have told us about.”*

23 *You nod three times.*

24 *The shepherds turn toward the city. It is almost a mile to*
 25 *Bethlehem, so you hurry along the path. You are anxious to*
 26 *get there, so you walk faster. Soon you are jogging, then*
 27 *running (in place). You look tired; slow down. With the back*
 28 *of your hand, you wipe your forehead. You look down and see*
 29 *something in your path. Jump over it. Be careful — you’re*
 30 *tripping! You fall to your knees. Clench your teeth and tighten*
 31 *the muscles in your face. Relax. You’ve only stubbed your*
 32 *toe! Rub it gently.*

33 *But you must hurry. Quickly get to your feet. Hop about in*
 34 *tiny circles. Walk on your heels for a while. Carefully lower*
 35 *both feet to the ground and limp along. You must go on.*

1 If the shepherds got tired of walking that night, they
2 may have skipped. *Skip along with them. Take short, gasping*
3 *breaths. Breathe deeply. Take one more deep breath.*

4 What would you do if you were one of the shepherds
5 and came to a small stream? A small hill? A large rock in the
6 pathway? A winding trail? (Allow sufficient time for each
7 expression of action.)

8 Soon you arrive in Bethlehem. You stop and look up the
9 street, then you look down the street. You turn around twice
10 and squint your eyes. You point toward the stable and motion
11 to your friends to follow you. Walk quickly in the direction of
12 the stable. Suddenly you stop. You freeze. There in front of
13 you is the stable the angels told you about. Straighten your
14 shoulders and hold your head high. Brush the dust from your
15 clothes. Now stamp your feet to knock the sand from your
16 sandals.

17 Duck your head and tiptoe quietly through the doorway.
18 Kneel down by the manger. Show me how your face might look
19 if you were one of the shepherds and looked in the manger that
20 night.

21 The shepherds were chosen by God to be the first to see
22 Jesus. They knew he was the Savior, the one they had
23 been waiting for.

24 Fold your hands; bow your head; close your eyes. "Dear
25 God, thank you for sending Jesus, just as you promised."

26 **CHORUS:** (Sing) "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus."

27 **READER:** Nod to Joseph and smile at Mary. Stand up and
28 remember to duck as you back out the doorway.

29 The shepherds walked about. Hold up one hand and, with
30 the other hand, motion for the people to come. You want them
31 to hear the good news that the Savior is born!

32 The people were amazed, for they had waited a long
33 time for God's promise.

34 You look happy. Jog along with the shepherds back to the
35 eld where the sheep are sleeping. Stop. Slowly move your eyes

1 *back and forth across the sleeping ock. Cross your legs and*
2 *sit down. Turn your head to one side and listen.*

3 **CHORUS:** *(Sing)* **“Away in a Manger.”**

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Mary and Joseph

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CHARACTERS: MARY — Any number. JOSEPH — Any number.

COSTUMES: Marys — head circles, shoulder wraps. Josephs — sleeveless coats.

(JOSEPHS stand in a line on one side of the room; MARYS on the other side.)

READER: Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married.

They walked quickly to meet each other. They smiled. Joseph reached out his hand. Mary grasped his hand with both of her hands. They both started talking at once, using their hands. Mary let go of Joseph's hand and spun around. Joseph leaped into the air. Joseph, tell Mary about your new clothes, using your hands to describe them from head to toe. Mary, tell Joseph about your new clothes, using your hands to describe them from head to toe.

Mary and Joseph waved good-bye, turned, and skipped home.

Mary was at home. Maybe she was busy making bread — mixing and stirring, then kneading the bread. She jumped. She looked startled and surprised. She raised her head and saw a stranger.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I have a message from God. The time has come for him to send his Son into the world. He has chosen you to be the mother of this special baby."

Mary rubbed the bread dough from her hands and sat down. She wiped her forehead with the back of her hand and folded her arms across her chest. Mary tilted her chin, turned her head slightly, and listened. She wondered, "How can this be, as Joseph and I are not yet married?" She shook her head slowly, back and forth, back and forth.

"The power of God will come upon you. The child

1 will be born, and you shall call him Jesus,” said the
2 angel.

3 Mary *nodded*. “Let it be according to your word,” she
4 said. Mary *placed both hands over her heart and bowed*
5 *her head*.

6 Mary *came to her feet*. She would go and stay with her
7 cousin, Elizabeth, for three months. Mary *started*
8 *gathering some clothes from the lower shelf and then from*
9 *the upper shelf*. She *folded and arranged them just right*.
10 She *looked at the stack of clothes and counted them to*
11 *make sure she had not forgotten anything*. She *added a*
12 *few more things, and then she wrapped and tied everything*
13 *into a bundle*.

14 If it was not too far, Mary may have *loaded the bundle*
15 *onto a donkey*. Then she *tied a rope around its neck*. Mary
16 *walked briskly along the road, tugging on the rope*. She
17 *stopped, shook the sand from her right sandal, walked four*
18 *steps, then shook a pebble from her left sandal*.

19 If it was a long trip, she may have chosen a camel to
20 ride. First she *stomped her feet three times, commanding*
21 *the camel to kneel*. Mary *lifted the bundle up and placed*
22 *it on the camel’s hump*. She *tied a rope around the camel’s*
23 *neck and wrapped the other end around her hand*. Then
24 Mary *climbed on, clapped her hands, and off she went,*
25 *bouncing up and down as she traveled to Judah to see*
26 Elizabeth.

27 Joseph was a carpenter. He *measured a piece of wood*.
28 He *sawed and hammered, and sawed and hammered*.
29 Joseph *looked worried*. He *started sweeping the oor,*
30 *stopped, and leaned on the broom*.

31 After Mary returned to Nazareth, Joseph learned she
32 was expecting a baby.

33 He *shook his head*. Then he *bent his shoulders and*
34 *placed his head in his hands*. Joseph *might have sat down*
35 *and dozed off, or he may have been lying on his mat*

1 *sleeping when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in*
2 *a dream.*

3 **“Don’t be afraid to get married to Mary,” the angel**
4 **said, “for this baby is God’s son. You shall call his name**
5 **Jesus, for he will be the Savior of the world.”**

6 *Joseph sat up, rubbed the sleep from his eyes, stood up,*
7 *and dressed for the wedding.*

8 *Marys take tiny steps and Josephs take large steps*
9 *toward each other. All join hands and circle slowly to the*
10 *right, then to the left. Drop hands and walk slowly away as*
11 *couples.*

12 **When it was almost time for the baby to be born,**
13 **Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to have their**
14 **names written in the tax book.**

15 *Joseph sorted through their clothing, picking out this*
16 *and that. He stuffed it in a bag, threw the bag over his*
17 *shoulder and carried it outside. Mary gathered some food*
18 *and wrapped it carefully. She reached up and took down*
19 *some cooking pots and bowls and placed them beside the*
20 *food. She loaded them in her arms and tiptoed outside.*
21 **Mary and Joseph worked together, lifting the bundles onto**
22 **the donkey and tying them in place. Mary checked**
23 **everything carefully. Joseph walked quickly back inside the**
24 **house and looked about to see if they had forgotten**
25 **anything. He backed out of the door and slammed it shut.**
26 **Joseph bent over and picked up a rope. He tied it around**
27 **the donkey’s neck and led the donkey along the road. Mary**
28 **walked beside Joseph. Joseph took big steps. Mary took**
29 **large steps to keep up.**

30 **When they arrived in Bethlehem, the streets were**
31 **crowded with people and animals. Joseph led the**
32 **donkey around in circles. Mary zig-zagged among the**
33 **people. They stopped at an inn, but the rooms were full.**
34 **They plodded up the steps to another place, but there**
35 **was no room there either. Joseph gave the rope to Mary.**

1 *She held it tightly with both hands. Joseph hurried to the*
 2 *house at the end of the street and knocked on the door.*
 3 *Joseph returned to Mary, dragging his feet and shaking*
 4 *his head. Then he pointed to a stable. Mary and Joseph*
 5 *walked quickly to the barn. It was almost time for Mary's*
 6 *baby to be born. Joseph made a mound of hay. Mary sat*
 7 *on it. She carefully sorted through the bundle of clothes,*
 8 *looking for a long piece of cloth. Joseph emptied out the*
 9 *manger and carefully lled it with fresh, clean hay, making*
 10 *a little bed.*

11 *That night baby Jesus was born. Mary took the long*
 12 *piece of cloth and wrapped it around and around and*
 13 *around the baby. She held the baby in her arms. She*
 14 *smiled and then rocked the baby in her arms, singing softly.*
 15 *Joseph tiptoed over to the manger. He stood by Mary, rst*
 16 *on one foot, then on the other. He smiled, too. Mary very*
 17 *gently laid the sleeping baby in the manger. She lay down*
 18 *beside him, resting her head on her arms. She closed her*
 19 *eyes and fell asleep. Joseph slid his feet along the dirt oor.*
 20 *He looked around and then up and down to make sure his*
 21 *family was safe. He sat down and leaned his head against*
 22 *the barn wall, closed his eyes, and fell asleep.*

23 **When the baby was about eight days old, he was**
 24 **called Jesus, the name given to Joseph and Mary by**
 25 **the angel.**

26 **When Jesus was about forty days old, he was taken**
 27 **to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph got up early. They**
 28 **yawned, rubbed their eyes, and stretched. Mary dressed the**
 29 **baby and cradled him in her arms. Joseph sawed and**
 30 **hammered and made a small cage. He caught one pigeon,**
 31 **then another, and put them in the cage. Then he pushed**
 32 **the cage door shut. The pigeons were their offering to be**
 33 **made when they presented Jesus to the Lord. This was**
 34 **according to the law.**

35 **Joseph and Mary may have bounced along on the back**

1 *of a donkey; they may have walked briskly along the way,*
2 *kicking tiny pebbles in front of them. Mary switched the*
3 *baby to her other arm; Joseph switched the cage to his*
4 *other hand.*

5 *They slowed their walk, stopped, and looked up at the*
6 *temple. Mary and Joseph walked up the steps to the*
7 *temple door and both used their empty hands to push*
8 *open the heavy door. They slowly walked inside.*

9 *They were greeted by Simeon, a man in the temple.*
10 *Joseph and Mary smiled and nodded. Mary handed the*
11 *baby to Simeon. He took the baby in his arms and*
12 *blessed him. He told them many things about the future*
13 *of the child.*

14 *Mary and Joseph looked surprised. They turned, facing*
15 *each other, then looked at the baby, and then looked at each*
16 *other again. They nodded their heads several times. Joseph*
17 *took a few steps to the side and gently placed the pigeon*
18 *cage on the altar.*

19 *When the couple had performed everything*
20 *according to the law, they turned, walked slowly through*
21 *the open door, down the steps, and hurried along the road*
22 *to their home.*

23 *Sometime before Jesus was two years old, Mary went*
24 *to sleep on her mat. She put one arm around the baby and*
25 *pulled him close to her. Joseph unrolled his mat, curled*
26 *up, and went to sleep.*

27 *An angel appeared in his dream and told him to take*
28 *the child and his mother and see to Egypt, and stay*
29 *there until the angel told him to leave. The angel told*
30 *him that the evil King Herod was searching for their*
31 *child to kill him.*

32 *Joseph jumped up, rubbed his eyes, and stretched both*
33 *arms above his head. He walked over and shook Mary*
34 *gently. She turned over. He shook her again. She sat up*
35 *and looked at Joseph. He whispered to her. She stood up*

1 *and quickly started getting some things together. Mary*
2 *picked up the baby and went outside to meet Joseph.*
3 *Joseph untied their little donkey and led it to the door. He*
4 *helped Mary and the child onto the donkey, and then*
5 *grabbed the rope. He trotted along, tugging on the rope.*
6 *Mary held the baby close to her as they bounced and jerked*
7 *along the way. They stopped.*

8 The family stayed in Egypt until Herod died, and
9 then they returned to their own city, Nazareth. The
10 child grew and became strong and lled with wisdom.
11 The favor of God was upon him.

12 When Jesus was about twelve years of age, his
13 family made their annual trip to Jerusalem for the
14 Passover feast. This may have been the rst time Jesus
15 went with them.

16 Joseph and Mary *walked along the dusty road with*
17 *many other families. They nodded to people they knew,*
18 *waved to others, talked, and laughed. Since it took several*
19 *days, they camped out. They stopped, yawned, and then*
20 *unrolled their mats every night. In the morning they*
21 *stretched, rolled up the mats, and walked on.*

22 They stayed in Jerusalem about a week. Then Mary
23 and Joseph *packed their things and started walking home.*
24 *They stopped that night. They both looked around and*
25 *did not see Jesus. They pushed through the long line of*
26 *people. They asked their friends and relatives if Jesus was*
27 *with them. Mary and Joseph searched and searched; they*
28 *shook their heads and looked worried. The next morning*
29 *they ran (run in place) back to Jerusalem. They hurried*
30 *up and down steps, knocked on doors, and looked up and*
31 *down the streets. Finally they pushed open the door of the*
32 *temple and looked in. They sighed and a happy look came*
33 *upon their faces; they had found Jesus!*

34 Jesus was sitting among the teachers, listening to
35 them and asking questions; and everyone who heard

1 him was amazed at his answers. He told Mary and
2 Joseph that they should not worry about him, for he
3 needed to be in God's house, taking care of his
4 heavenly Father's business. Together, they *walked*
5 *quickly back to Nazareth.*

6 And Jesus grew and grew and grew, until he became
7 a man.

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That Last Week

CHARACTERS: DISCIPLES — Each child plays all roles. CROWD
— Entire group.

COSTUMES: Headbands — a card on the front reads “disciples” and
a card on the back reads “crowd.” The headband is turned at the
appropriate time. If each child is a part of only one group, make
headbands with only one name card.

READER: Let’s see what took place on that last week
before the first Easter. You are one of the disciples. You
were there.

Saturday. Jesus and his disciples were *walking along the road on the way to Jerusalem. You start up a small hill, walking slower and slower. You pick up a stick and lean on it as you walk along. Up, up you climb, and then down the other side. You leap over a large rock, tiptoe through the mud, stomp your feet, and shake the mud from your sandals. You stop at Bethany and knock on the door of Simon, a friend. Here you will spend the night.*

After washing your hands and feet, you sit down at the table and eat the food that has been prepared for you. After the meal, you turn your head, and your eyes follow a young woman as she comes into the room and goes over to Jesus. She is holding an alabaster jar of expensive perfume. You stare at her. She breaks the jar and pours it over his head. You look surprised and shocked. Someone asked why she was doing this. You look puzzled, shake your head, shrug your shoulders, and put out your hands, palms up.

Jesus told you and the others that what she was doing was a beautiful thing. She was anointing his body before his burial. You look at Jesus, and then look away. Your face has a sad expression.

1 Sunday. The twelve disciples *walked beside Jesus.*
2 When they were almost to Jerusalem, they *stopped.* The
3 disciples *listened closely* as Jesus told two disciples what
4 to do. You are one of them.

5 The two disciples *walked quickly into the next village.*
6 They *looked around, then up and down the streets.* They
7 *took two big leaps and then looked around a corner.* There
8 they saw a donkey and a colt just as Jesus had said.
9 The disciples *patted the animals gently and rubbed their*
10 *ears.* When asked what they were doing, they *used their*
11 *hands to explain,* as Jesus had told them, “The Lord has
12 need for them.” They *untied the donkey and the colt and*
13 *led them slowly back to Jesus.* The disciples *took off their*
14 *coats and placed them carefully on the colt’s back.* They
15 *smoothed out the wrinkles, patted the donkey, and stroked*
16 *its mane.* Jesus sat on the donkey. The disciples *walked*
17 *a few steps beside him.* Then they all *turned and walked*
18 *west into the city.*

19 As they *twisted their way in and out and around the hill*
20 *country, they heard a great noise.* The men *placed their*
21 *hands over their ears, then they shaded their eyes with their*
22 *hands.* They *looked to the right and to the left, then their*
23 *eyes moved slowly over the large crowd of people.*

24 The crowd *edged their way along the road.* They *took*
25 *off their coats and laid them on the road.* They *cut palm*
26 *branches and tossed them on the path along the way.* The
27 people *cut more palm branches and waved them in the air.*
28 The crowd was *shouting, singing, and jumping up and*
29 *down.*

30 The disciples *clasped their hands over their ears and*
31 *then joined their friends, waving their arms above their*
32 *heads and stamping their feet.*

33 “Who is it?” strangers asked.

34 “It’s Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee,” someone
35 answered.

1 Monday. The disciples *followed Jesus into the temple.*
 2 They had to *walk sideways and push their way through*
 3 *the crowd. Inching their way along the courtyard, they*
 4 *stopped suddenly, put their hands on their hips, and shook*
 5 *their heads.* Some men had set up booths and were
 6 selling things. Moneychangers were cheating the
 7 people.

8 When Jesus saw this, he was angry. "God's temple is
 9 a house of prayer," said Jesus, "but you have turned it
 10 into a den of robbers." He turned the tables upside-
 11 down and drove the men out of the temple.

12 Tuesday. The disciples *walked briskly with Jesus to the*
 13 *temple. You stand quietly with your eyes on Jesus. You tilt*
 14 *your head from one side to the other, listening to every*
 15 *word.*

16 The chief priest, the scribes, and the elders
 17 questioned Jesus and tried to find fault with him. You
 18 *smile.* Jesus always knows how to answer them. You
 19 *stand tall and erect* as Jesus tells many parables. You
 20 *follow Jesus from place to place. You stop when he does.*
 21 You *lean against the wall and shift your weight to your*
 22 *right foot, and then to your left.* You have been in the
 23 temple for a long time. You *yawn,* but you never tire of
 24 hearing Jesus talk and answer questions. You *follow*
 25 *Jesus through the door of the temple and down the steps.*

26 Wednesday. Wednesday was probably a day of quiet
 27 rest for Jesus and his disciples. They were probably in
 28 Bethany at the house of their friends.

29 You would be *eating, walking around, or maybe sitting*
 30 *down and leaning against a tree.* At night you would *roll*
 31 *out a mat.* It might be crowded, so you would need to
 32 *curl up, drawing in your legs, then your arms, and bending*
 33 *your head down.*

34 Thursday. The disciples *went to Jesus with outstretched*
 35 *arms. They shrugged their shoulders, asking where they*

1 were to eat the Passover. They followed his
2 instructions. The disciples *walked into the city, stopped,*
3 *and looked around.* They pointed to a man carrying a jar
4 of water. They *followed him up the steps* to a large room.
5 The disciples *busied themselves preparing for the Passover.*

6 When it was evening, Jesus and the disciples *sat*
7 *down at the table.* He told them that one of them would
8 betray him that night. The disciples *looked sorrowful.*
9 They *wiped their eyes, then opened their eyes wide.* “Who
10 is it?” they wondered.

11 Jesus blessed the bread and broke it. He took the
12 cup and gave thanks. The disciples *ate the bread and*
13 *drank from the cup.* Then they *got up from the table,*
14 *opened the door, and walked carefully down the steps.* They
15 all *walked rapidly* to a place called Gethsemane. They
16 *stepped carefully through the dark night, going around*
17 *bushes, jumping over small rocks, and leaping over*
18 *whatever was on the path.*

19 Jesus took three of his disciples (you are one of
20 them). They *walked farther into the garden.* The three *sat*
21 *down,* as Jesus told them to. They were to wait while
22 he went to pray, but the disciples *fell asleep.* *Hold up one*
23 *nger.* Jesus returned; they *woke up.* Jesus went off to
24 pray; the disciples *fell asleep.* *Hold up two ngers.* Jesus
25 returned; they *woke up.* Jesus went off to pray; they *fell*
26 *asleep.* *Hold up three ngers.* The third time he returned,
27 he let the disciples sleep. *Sleep, sleep.*

28 The disciples *jumped up and listened.* They heard
29 noises and saw lights *ickering.* Judas had come with
30 a band of armed men to arrest Jesus.

31 All the disciples (except Peter) *ran away.* The trial
32 lasted all night.

33 Friday. (*Listening time.*) The council, the high priest,
34 and the Roman governor, Pilate, could not agree on
35 what to do with Jesus. No one wanted to say if he was

1 guilty of any crime or if he should be set free. Finally
2 they turned him over to the angry crowd to be
3 cruci ed.

4 The soldiers led him away. Jesus died on the cross
5 for the sins of the whole world. Before he died, he
6 asked God to forgive the people who brought about his
7 death. The dead body of Jesus was wrapped in linen
8 cloth and laid in a tomb owned by a friend of his.

9 Saturday. Jesus was arrested on Thursday. He was
10 cruci ed and buried on Friday. By early Sunday
11 morning, he had already arisen from the tomb. There is
12 no mention in the Bible of what took place on Saturday
13 except that it was the Sabbath, a day of rest.

14 If you were one of the disciples, *show me how your*
15 *face might look on that Saturday, how you might walk*
16 *about, how you would eat, and how you would try to rest*
17 *or sleep.*

18 That last week had been a very long week! But
19 Sunday will be a happy day, for the disciples will hear
20 the good news that Jesus is alive!

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