## **Religions of the World:**

Storytelling from the BBC for 4-7 year olds in RE

## Background for the teacher

In this programme, children will hear the story of the first Easter. The programme neither avoids nor dwells upon the events of Jesus' death on Good Friday: this is an essential part of the story, but this age group do not need 'gory details'. Notice that the story could be alarming to pupils, which is why it is told in a low key way here. They will learn about the story of the Empty Tomb and the different people who came to believe Jesus had been raised from the grave.

Programme 3: Christianity.

Story: The First Easter: Jesus died and came alive.

Keywords: Religion, Easter, grave / tomb, believe.



Three of Jesus' women friends went to his grave on Sunday morning, but the body was not there.

## Learning Idea 1: Who felt what and why?

Good RE often connects to social and emotional learning, for children working to the Early Learning Goals and also for Infants. Ask the class to try and remember all the people in the story and say for each one: what did they do? What did they feel?

Who, in the story, felt: Jealous? Sad? Scared? Amazed? Happy? Puzzled?

Can the children describe what made the people feel like this? Can the children say when they have felt these emotions? Can they connect these events with the emotions (mix them up a bit!):

- Someone else has a present which you would like. [Jealous]
- You cannot find your favourite toy. [Sad]
- You are out with your mum: suddenly you cannot see her anywhere. [Scared]
- You find out a big wonderful surprise, way better than you expected. [Amazed]
- You are going to spend all weekend with your favourite people. [Happy]
- Something very mysterious has happened and you can't understand it at all. [Puzzled]

**The Quiz:** Ask children to watch carefully and see if they can answer the questions. Teams of three are good for this.

- Why were some leaders jealous of Jesus? He had lots of followers
- Jesus was crucified outside a city. Which city? Jerusalem
- 3. How was Jesus killed? He was crucified on a cross.
- 4. What special name is given to the day Jesus died? Good Friday
- 5. What was used to close the tomb or grave? A huge round stone
- 6. What did the figure in white say to Jesus' women friends? 'Don't be afraid, Jesus is alive again'
- 7. Why did the women feel confused? Because they could not work out why the grave was empty.
- 8. Why do you think Mary was crying? She was sad about Jesus being dead.

## Learning Idea 2: Little Questions, Big Questions

Discuss the idea that questions can be of different sizes, and ask the children to say which of these is the 'biggest':

- What was the cross made from?
- What made Jesus' friends cry?
- How could Jesus come alive again?

Ask the children with talking partners to think up some little questions (sometimes using 'what... when... who...') and some big questions (often starting 'why... what if...') about his story. Select the biggest questions of all, and write them in huge letters on massive sheets of paper on the floor. Sit around them in a circle and consider: can we think of some answers? Big questions often have more than one good answer! Can the TA write suggested answers around the biggest questions?

- 9. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do? Spread the good news.
- 10. What do Christians like to remember at Easter? Jesus dying and coming back to life.