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## 1. Luke 22:39–46

### Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

# 1. The Garden

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## Story

Jesus had only ever loved and helped people, He had never lied, or stolen or spoken unkindly about anyone, He had never done anything wrong - ever! But He knew that evil men were coming to take Him away and kill Him. Even though Jesus is God, He is also human which meant He did not want to die, so He went to pray to His Father for help.

Whilst He was praying one of Jesus' friends betrayed Him. Judas had been one of Jesus closest companions, but he was greedy for money, and sold Jesus out, bringing an army of thugs to arrest Jesus. These men took Jesus away to a place where they would put Him on trial, tell lies about Him, beat Him and spit on Him.

Although Jesus was innocent, they were evil and said He was guilty - but they couldn't kill Him, they had to take Him to the Roman officials to do that...

## Activity

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- Colour in your pot sleeve and cut it out. Rainbow shape is the right way up!
- Stick double sided tape to the back of the sleeve and stick onto your pot.
- Place your pot into a sandwich bag and take to Jacob, Andrew, Rachel to be filled with compost.
- This is the start of your Easter garden!

## Remember

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This is the beginning of your easter Garden. Whenever you are in trouble, whenever you are worried and the world seems to be pressing in on you remember that even Jesus prayed for help.

You can pray to the Father in heaven too - any time! He will always hear our prayers if we trust Him.

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## 2. Mark 15:2–15

### Jesus Delivered to Pilate

And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

## 2. The Governor's House

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### Story

The evil religious leaders brought Jesus to Pilate and asked him to officially sentence Jesus to death, but it didn't take Pilate long to realise that Jesus was innocent. Pilate was not a stupid man, but he was a weak man. He was scared of the people so he gave them the choice "do you want me to set free Jesus this man who has done nothing wrong? Or do you want me to release Barabbas, a murderer?" Pilate was sure they would rather set Jesus free, but the evil men had got the crowd so worked up that they shouted "Give us Barabbas - crucify Jesus! Kill Jesus!" Pilate was too weak to do what was right, so he sent Jesus off to be tortured and then crucified.

Jesus is the innocent one who dies so that the guilty one can go free. Just like Jesus took Barabbas's place  
- He also takes our place - He dies so that you can go free...

### Activity

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- Colour in your Barabbas figure.
- Maybe you could draw Barabbas as yourself - to remember that Jesus has taken **your** place.
- Cut out your figure following the dotted line.
- Using the glue pen, stick a lollipop stick to the back of Barabbas, making sure to leave some of the stick sticking out underneath Barabbas.
- Place your lollipop stick into the compost, so the card rests just above the compost (that way it won't get wet when you water your garden!)

### Remember

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Jesus has taken your place in death so that we can be set free and enjoy the real life of heaven!

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### 3. Luke 23:33–46 & John 19:28–30

#### The Crucifixion

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

#### The Death of Jesus

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### 3. The Cross

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#### Story

When they had finished torturing Jesus they put a crown of thorns on His head and led Him to the top of a hill outside the city of Jerusalem. When they got there they crucified Jesus, nailing Him to a cross. While He was on the cross people shouted abuse at Him, even one of the men he was crucified next to insulted Him. But the other man being crucified could see that Jesus was truly God and he asked Jesus to forgive him and he became a Christian! Jesus told him that that very day he would be in heaven with Him.

While Jesus was on the cross the sky went dark, and the sun stopped shining. God was being murdered. There was no light. When Jesus decided that it was time - He called out "it is finished!" And He died.

Jesus had finished the work of redemption. He had finished beating the devil. He had finished defeating death. He had finished His mission. This means there is nothing else for us to do! Death is defeated and it cannot harm those who trust in Jesus.

#### Activity

- Decorate your cross, starting by writing the word 'finished' across the middle.
- Cut out your cross.
- Using the glue pen, stick your cross to a lollipop stick, leaving some of the lollipop stick sticking out below the cross, so that the cross rests just above the compost.

#### Remember

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Jesus has done everything so that we can live! He died a sinners death, so that we could be forgiven our sins. We can be saved from death, the devil and our own foolishness if we just trust in what Jesus has done for us when He died on the cross, because it is finished.

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#### 4. Mark 15:42–47

#### Jesus Is Buried

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

## 4. The Tomb

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### Story

After Jesus had died on the cross, they took his body down, wrapped it up, placed it in a tomb and rolled a large stone in front of it. The evil religious leaders thought that Jesus followers might try and steal the body, so Pilate sent Roman soldiers to guard the tomb. There was no way *anyone* was getting into that tomb...

But they couldn't stop Jesus from getting out...!

You see - this isn't the end of the story! Because on the third day Jesus came back to life! We call this the 'resurrection'.

Jesus shows us that there is a new kind of life available to us! We no longer have to be afraid of death, because Jesus has defeated it! He came back to life, and He wants to share His life with us. Jesus wants to show us the way to live real, meaningful lives!

That is why he became a human, died and rose again - to show us what real human life is like!

### Activity

- Using your fingers, move a little bit of the compost to one side of the pot.
- Rachael will give you some seeds which you can place on your compost. Put them in the middle, but with a bit of space between them. Cover the seeds up with the compost you moved to one side.
- Just outside the hall door there are some watering cans. Take your pot out of the plastic bag. Very gently give your pot a little bit of water, to dampen the soil. When the water has stopped dripping from the bottom place the pot back in the bag.
- Wash your hands.
- Your garden is finished!

### Remember

When you look at your flower - remember that Jesus was the seed that was planted into the grave, but burst out of the earth in new life! And He wants to share that life with you!