

EASTER

Text: Passages from Matthew 27 and 28

Materials/supplies:

- ⊗ PowerPoint Presentation available on the website or pictures from a Bible for children of all the main events Milla speaks of
- ⊗ Feathers, sand, seeds, sticks, stones
- ⊗ Salt dough clay (or even real clay)
- ⊗ Bread dough and Rolos

WELCOME

Game: "I spy with my little eye": Form groups of 2 outside. Say: "I spy with my little eye something beginning with 'A', and squirrels eat it!" (This would be an acorn.) Repeat this with as many objects as you can/want, but all objects must be visible to everyone.

WORSHIP

Sing any songs about the cross/crucifixion.

Settle down: Close your eyes. Become calm and focus on your breathing. Take three deep breaths and blow out slowly. (The leader can then let the children slowly "wake up" by saying what parts of their bodies should wake up, bit by bit.) "First, wiggle your toes, move your right thumb, then your left thumb. Roll your shoulder three times forward and once backward. Open your left eye; and now your right eye. Sit comfortably and shake out all your limbs."

WORD

(Read the letter by Milla Mouse. Use the video clip, PowerPoint or a Bible for kids to show all the main events Milla talks about.)

Hello!

My name is Milla Mouse. I come from a very interesting family. My grandpa loves telling stories about where our family comes from.

Many, many years ago, God got two of each type of animal to get onto a big boat. The name of the man who built this boat was Noah. My great grandpa's great grandpa from many, many years ago was one of those animals called to go onto the ark when it rained so much. Only after Noah had sent out a dove that didn't come back, we could finally get back onto dry ground.

The next big story in our family history that my grandpa tells happened many years later. Another great grandpa's great grandpa from many, many years ago had to move out of Egypt. They had lived in Egypt for a few hundred years, but things started going wrong. God sent a man called Moses to change everything there. God used Moses to send 10 plagues to Egypt. These 10 plagues convinced my family that they needed to jump onto the next wagon that left the city. It was Moses that told everyone to leave. For 40 years, my family travelled through the desert with the people. It wasn't easy for little mice to do this, since shade, water and food are scarce in the desert.

A few hundred years later, another great-great-grandfather saw a young boy beat a big, giant man with just a sling and a rock. This was also an important moment in my family's history, because this young boy later became a very important king!

The most important, biggest day in my family's history happened a lot later again. My grandpa's great-grandpa's grandpa, many years ago, was sitting under an olive tree on a mountain called Golgotha. There, he saw a Man nailed to a strange type of tree. This tree was perfectly straight, with just two straight branches, one on each side. This Man hung there, and died. Lots of people saw this; they were very sad, and cried a lot. My ancestors told us that the earth shook when this Man died. That great-great grandpa, from long ago, followed the people that came to take this Man to bury him. He followed them to the grave and waited outside. For three long days, he waited outside the grave, but he wasn't sure why. On the morning of the third day, he saw how a woman went to the grave. He followed her. He saw that the stone outside the grave, closing the entrance, had been rolled away, and the grave was empty! The Man was no longer there! All that was left in the grave were the pieces of cloth that had covered the Man. This Man, who got up and left the grave, was called Jesus.

Then, that Sunday night when my great-grandpa's grandpa from long ago went to look for a place to sleep, he heard voices coming from a building nearby. He climbed up some planks that were lying next to the house, and peeked inside. In the house he saw disciples of Jesus talking to a man. When he came closer, he saw that the Man was Jesus! Jesus was standing between his disciples, alive and well, and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side, where they could see his wounds from hanging on the cross. The disciples were so happy when they saw that this man was their Lord! Jesus is risen; He is risen indeed!

Kind regards,

Milla Mouse

The children get a chance to think about this story:

1. I wonder why Jesus died.
2. I wonder why Jesus rose from death.
3. I wonder what your favourite part of this story is.

WORKING AND PLAYING

- ◆ Story bags with the timeline: Beforehand, make a bag (or box) for each child. In each bag, place the following items for each part of the story: Feather - Noah; Sand - Desert; 5 Seeds - David; Stick - Cross; Stone - Empty grave. The children can unpack all the items in order. Otherwise, you could also put a piece of cardboard in the bag, and the children can paste the items in order on the cardboard.
- ◆ Garden and empty grave: Pick up items from nature. Make a garden by making use of salt dough clay (or even real clay) and these items. (Use the photos as inspiration.)
- ◆ Surprise rolls: Make or buy bread dough, and roll it into small balls with a Rolo in the centre of each one. Bake them in an oven for 18-20 minutes in an oven pre-heated to 180°C (or bake until done). Bring these rolls along, and let the children break them open and experience the "WOW" moment of Jesus rising from the dead.

Close with prayer.

