

The Easter Narrative: A Journey of Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Easter for Christians and reflect on the themes of sacrifice, forgiveness, and hope.

Max the Monkey has gathered some key events and themes from the Easter story. Your task is to categorise these into the 'Timeline of Events' and 'Themes of Reflection'. For each item, provide a justification explaining its religious significance. Then, use the higher-order thinking questions to deepen your analysis of how these events influence Christian life today.

Word bank: Maundy Thursday · Good Friday · Easter Sunday · Sacrifice · Resurrection · Forgiveness · The Last Supper · New Beginnings

1. Place 'Maundy Thursday' into either the Timeline or Themes category and justify why it is a pivotal moment for Christians. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the significance of 'Good Friday' and 'Easter Sunday'. Why is one considered a day of sorrow and the other a day of celebration? (3 marks)

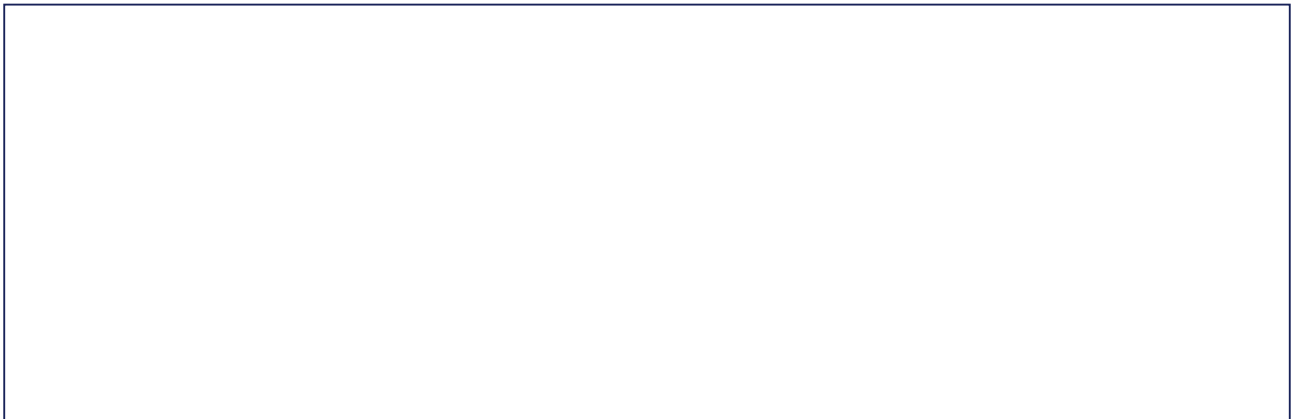
3. Explain why the concept of 'forgiveness' is central to the Easter narrative. (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does the story of Easter rely more on the event of the 'Resurrection' or the act of 'Sacrifice'? Give reasons for your viewpoint. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the story of Easter concluded on Good Friday without the events of Easter Sunday? How would this change the Christian message of hope? (3 marks)

6. If you were to explain the meaning of 'New Beginnings' to someone who had never heard the Easter story, how would you link it to the natural world (e.g., spring/blossom)? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of Easter that avoids traditional symbols like rabbits or eggs. Instead, illustrate the theme of 'hope' or 'new life' using imagery inspired by the natural world.



Extension challenge: Research the tradition of 'Easter Gardens'. Create a detailed plan for one, explaining the theological symbolism behind each element you choose to include (e.g., stones, soil, fresh flowers, and light).