

THE EASTER STORY
(FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN)

HYMN: GIVE ME OIL

SCENE 1: PALM SUNDAY

Theo “Sing Hosanna to the king!” It’s a long time since I heard that.
 And what a day it was!

Peter, Thomas & Pharisee up

Peter Look, Thomas! Look at all the crowds. All cheering and shouting
 for Jesus. Look at him riding on a donkey.

Thomas And look, Peter! All the crowds are waving branches and leaves
 from palm trees.

Peter Hosanna to the King!

Thomas Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peter Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!

Theo But Jesus’ enemies didn’t like what his friends were saying.

Pharisee Hey - Jesus isn’t a king! Jesus, tell your friends to stop saying
 that.

Theo But d’you know what Jesus answered? He looked straight at that
 cross man, and he told him that if his friends kept quiet then the
 stones in the road would burst out cheering!

Peter, Thomas & Pharisee down

SONG: BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES

SCENE 2: THE LAST SUPPER

Theo Jesus knew that not everyone liked him. He knew that some people were so cross with him that they wanted to kill him. But he still had his special friends. And one night, they all got together for dinner.

Peter, Thomas & Mary up

Thomas I don't understand, Peter. Why is Jesus washing everyone's feet? That's a servant's job. It's disgusting. Our feet are all dirty from the road.

Mary And why did he tell us to wash each other's feet? Yuk!

Peter You heard what he said, Mary. He is always kind and looks after other people. Now he wants us to copy him. He wants us to be kind and try to look after each other, just like he does.

Peter, Thomas & Mary down

HYMN: WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR

SCENE 3: GOOD FRIDAY

Theo After dinner, Jesus took his friends to a garden. That was where the soldiers found him.

Peter, Thomas & Mary up

Thomas Oh, no! The soldiers have taken Jesus away!

Peter I'm scared.

Mary I hope they don't hurt him.

Theo Jesus' friends were sad because the soldiers took him away. They didn't understand. They didn't know that God was looking after everyone, just like he always does.

Peter The soldiers are taking Jesus to his enemies.

Mary They don't believe that he is God's son.

Thomas What will they do to him?

Peter, Thomas & Mary down

Theo Jesus' enemies killed him on a cross. It was a very sad day for his friends. They still didn't know that God had planned a wonderful surprise for them. They still didn't know what a great big God he is.

HYMN: OUR GOD IS A GREAT BIG GOD

SCENE 4: EASTER SUNDAY

Theo After Jesus died, his friends put his body in a special cave. They rolled a huge stone in front of the cave. There were guards in front of the stone. Nobody could get in or out.

Angel up (above back drop)

Angel Nobody, that is, except an angel! On the third day after Jesus died, God sent me from heaven and I rolled away the stone.

Theo The guards fell over in shock! And when Jesus' friend Mary came to the cave that morning, she had a surprise, too!

Mary up (on stage)

Mary Where's Jesus? Oh, what have you done with his body?

Angel Why are you looking for him in a cave? This cave is for dead people. Jesus isn't here.

Mary But where is he?

Angel Jesus is alive! Now go and tell his other friends. Quickly - go!

Mary down

SONG: WHY DO YOU LOOK HERE FOR THE LIVING?

Angel down

Peter & Thomas up

Peter I keep thinking about Jesus. I feel so sad.

Thomas Me, too. I miss him.

Mary up

Mary Come quickly! Jesus is alive!

Peter Alive? How can he be alive? We saw him die.

Mary I went to the cave. His body's gone. And an angel told me that he's alive.

Thomas But that's impossible.

Peter No, Thomas. I don't think it is. I'm beginning to think that nothing is impossible for our great big God!

Theo Peter understood at last. God's amazing plan had come true. Jesus had died on the cross - but then he came back to life again. Why? Because he loves us so very much.

Peter I've done some things I feel really sorry about.

Thomas We all do things we know we shouldn't.

Mary But God never stops loving us.

Peter He loves us so much, that he sent Jesus to die on the cross, to take the punishment for all the wrong things we do.

Thomas So all we need to do is say sorry, and really mean it, and we can be friends with God again.

Mary *And* he will help us when we keep trying to be good.

Peter God always looks after us.

Thomas He never stops loving us, no matter how much we mess up.

Mary I know Jesus loves me, and I know he loves you too!

Peter, Thomas & Mary down

HYMN: I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME

Peter, Thomas & Mary up

Theo We're going to say a prayer now to Father God. Say the words together, after me. Let us pray.

Theo Father God, we come to say

P,T&M Father God, we come to say..

Theo thank you for your love today.

P,T&M thank you for your love today.

Theo thank you for my family

P,T&M thank you for my family

Theo and all the friends you give to me.

P,T&M and all the friends you give to me.

Theo Guard me in the dark of night,

P,T&M Guard me in the dark of night,

Theo and in the morning send your light.

P,T&M and in the morning send your light.

Theo Amen.

P,T&M Amen.

Peter, Thomas & Mary down

THE BLESSING