

In preparation of Easter



Using this rauemi in your whare

Each of these stories recounts a haerenga. We can imagine each scene to be based on the writings in the Bible. What we don't always know is how they felt or what else they could see.

Writer Max Lucado talks about the Bible narrative often being like a hole in a fence. The position of the hole impacts what you can see. We encourage you to use this rauemi like everyone in your whare is seeing their piece of the action through that fence and encourage them to imagine, to picture in their mind the full scene, and to soak in the prompts of the Spirit as they allow the story to impact them today.

How do you use this rauemi?

There are four stories. You could use these in the four weeks leading up to Easter, the four days in the Monday through Thursday before Easter, or the Friday through Monday of Easter. Even, interact with one story if that's the availability your whare has.

Read and wonder of time over or after dinner, on the weekend, or before you go to sleep. When you come to, *kia pohewatanga ... and hei aro*, use these as you walk, as you travel, or as you journey to or home from school.

Kia pohewatanga you are one of the characters – like a disciple, a person in the crowd, a child looking on. What do you see and feel and observe?

Kia whakamānawa

Each time you use this resource, we encourage you to pray a blessing, person-to-person, within the whare. And as you do, use scented lip balm or lip gloss, after shave, or even a mixture of spices from the kitchen, to form a cross on each person's wrist as the blessing is spoken. And if you are a household with children, ask them to speak a blessing.

We wonder what whakaaro and prompts each person might notice as they catch a whiff of the smell and are reminded of their impressions throughout the day.

Glossary

whare - house/home

rauemi - resource

haerenga - journey

hei pānui – something to read

tō mohio? - did you know?

kia pohewatanga - imagine

hei aro – something to notice

tepu - table

whakaaro - thought

kia whakamānawa – blessing

hei mahi – something to do

kaiako - teacher

rakau - trees

Kia whakamānawa

Blessings recorded in the Bible bring a measure of hope and peace, love and tenderness, a commitment, and a vision for the future. In case your household haven't come across blessings, we've listed some here. Use them as a platform to make some of your own or read them as is.

Mā lhowā koe e manaaki, māna koe e tiaki:
Mā lhowā e mea kia tīaho tōna mata ki a koe, māna anō hoki koe e atawhai:
Mā lhowā tōna kanohi e whakaara ki a koe, māna anō e tuku te rangimārie ki a koe.

Numbers 6:24-26

Kei te mōhio hoki ahau ki ngā whakaaro e whakaaro nei ahau ki a koutou, e ai ta lhowā, he whakaaro mō te rongo mau, ehara mō te kino, kia hoatu te tūmanako ki a koutou i ō koutou rā whakamutunga.

Jeremiah 29:11

I ahau e whakahau nei i a koe i tēnei rā kia aroha ki a lhowā, ki tōu Atua, kia haere i āna huarahi, kia pupuri i āna whakahau, i āna tikanga, i āna whakaritenga, kia ora ai koe, kia nui ai hoki, kia manaaki ai a lhowā, tōu Atua, i a koe ki te w henua e haere nei koe ki reira ki te tango.

Deuteronomy 30:16

Kia tau te aroha noa o tō tātou Ariki, o lhu Karaiti ki a koutou katoa. Āmine.

Philippians 4:23

E taea anō hoki e te Atua te mea kia hira ngā aroha noa katoa ki a koutou; nā, i te mea ka ranea nā ō koutou taonga i ngā mea katoa i ngā wā katoa, kia hira anō ā koutou mahi pai katoa.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Haere mai ki ahau, e koutou katoa e māuiui ana, e taimaha ana, ā, maku koutou e whakaokioki.

Matthew 11:28

Blessings in the Bible

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Deuteronomy 30:16

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Philippians 4:23

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

A haerenga to Emmaus

Hei pānui

Luke 24:13-34

Tō mohio?

Initially, Cleopas and his friend were bewildered by Jesus' apparent lack of knowledge of what had been happening. So great was their shock, instead of continuing to walk, they stopped.

This encounter with Jesus ends as abruptly as it started. The friends realised Who they had been talking to. Do you think it was when Jesus broke the bread, did they notice the scars on His hands, or did they recognise the moment of truth that occurred?

Later, when the friends realised Who they had been talking to, the original words the Bible used to seem to say their moment of truth happened because of divine intervention.

How does it feel when you discover something new about Jesus?

Hei aro?

Cleopas and his friend identified Jesus as a prophet. But they also mentioned, "we thought He was the Messiah, that He would rescue Israel." They had a sense of expectation about what Jesus might have achieved.

Cleopas and his friend invited Jesus to stay at their whare. They were following the ancient custom of hospitality. And Jesus responded in the same way. He acted as if He didn't need food or somewhere to rest.

Jesus became a guest at the home of those He met on the road to Emmaus but when He sat at their tepu, He took on the role as host. Have you ever become the host at someone else's place?

Kia pohewatanga ...

... you were walking on the road to Emmaus. I wonder what you'd tell Jesus.

Hei aro

Notice the differences from now to what you know of Jesus' time. What differences would there be in footwear? Do you notice people offering strangers to come to their home for food and a rest? Do people stop and chat?

Kia whakamānawa

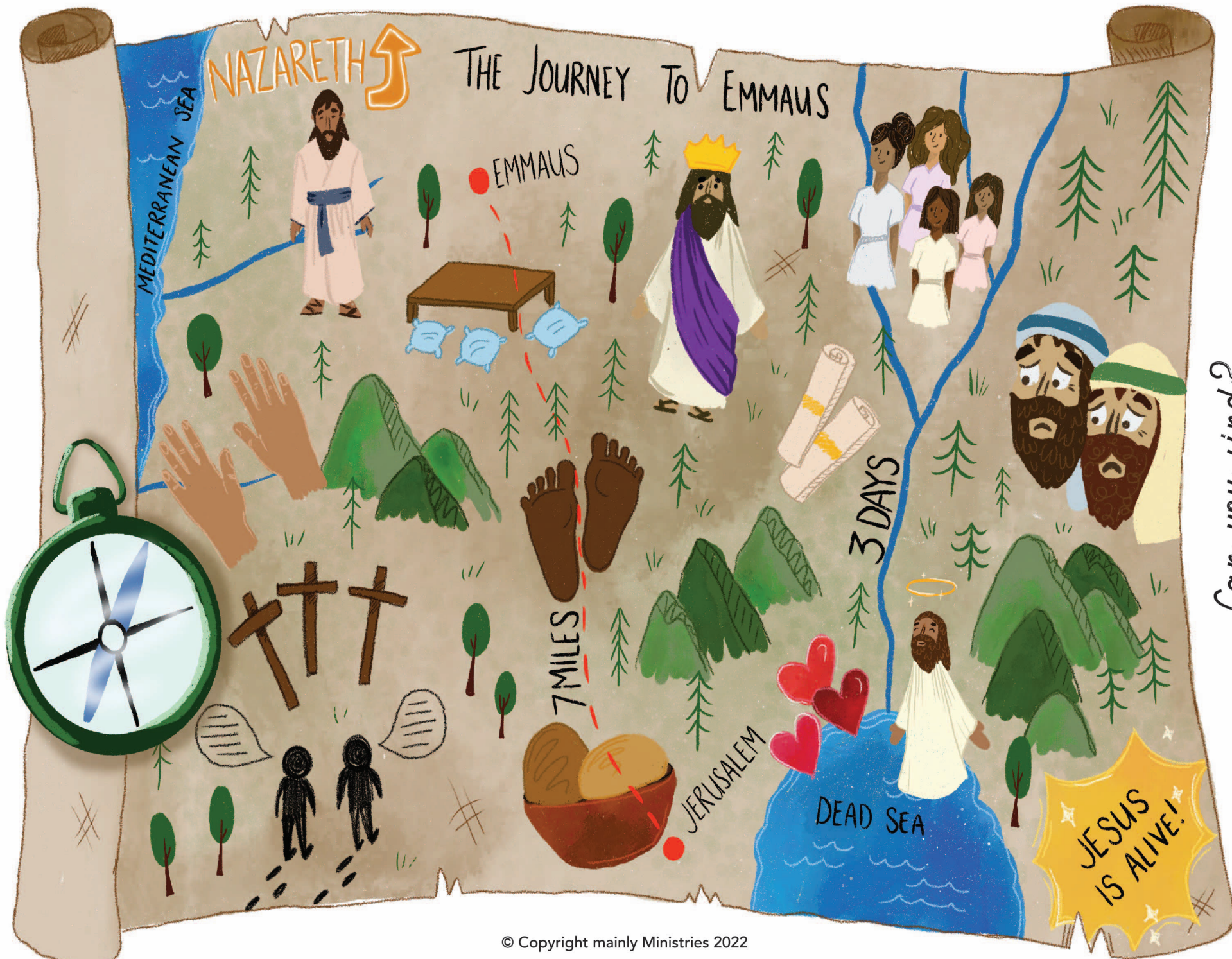
As you haerenga, pray for some of the whare and businesses you pass. Ask God to bless people with healthy thoughts about each other. Pray that their lives will be fruitful.

Hei mahi

Invite someone over for a snack or even a meal who you've never invited before. Maybe a neighbour. Perhaps someone you've recently met at church.

Make a cross from twigs for your pocket, bag, or wallet. When you see or feel it, think about the people you've noticed in your neighbourhood and think about how you can contribute to their lives.

Pray a blessing each day as you
prepare for Easter.



Can you find?

1. How far Emmaus was from Jerusalem
2. The number of days Jesus said He would be gone
3. What Jesus broke when He had a meal with Cleopas and his friend
4. The type of table you would have eaten at
5. The town Jesus was from



A haerenga to an empty tomb

Hei pānui

Luke 24:1-12

Tō mohio?

The writers from the four Gospels are very clear to state that those who went to the tomb did so after the Sabbath. How much do you know about the tradition of the Sabbath? For one, you wouldn't go to the shop and purchase goods, like spices, and you wouldn't walk all the way to a tomb on the Sabbath.

Did you know that when a stone was put across a tomb, it usually started on a slope so it could be rolled into place, and was then hard to move? It seems strange, then, that the priests and religious leaders would make out that Jesus' friends had moved the stone on their own.

Hei aro?

In Jesus' time, for something to be true, you needed a minimum of two witnesses. Maybe that's why God put two angels in the tomb.

It wasn't acceptable for women to be witnesses. Did you notice how Luke recorded the names of the women who went to the tomb – more than two. They were women we know from other stories in the Bible.

Did you notice how Peter still didn't believe their story and ran to check for himself.

What makes you a trusted witness?

When you hear the phrase, *He has risen*, how do those words change your life and priorities?

Kia pohewatanga ...

... you're hearing this story for the first time. If you want to do some extra reading, check out Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, and John 20:1-10. Stop and think ...

Why were the soldiers bribed by the religious leaders to say that the stone had been moved?

If you had robbed Jesus' body from the grave, why would you leave the place neat and tidy?

The disciple whom Jesus loved got to the tomb first, but let Peter look first. How would you have acted if you'd been first or second to the tomb?

Hei aro

Have you ever walked through a cemetery and read the statements made about people who have been buried? Notice whether the cemetery in your city or town has tombs like in Bible times.

Talk about what you'd write on Jesus' headstone, about His life and more importantly, His impact on your life. Of course, Jesus wouldn't have a headstone because His body didn't stay in the tomb.

Kia whakamānawa

Pray for the people in your community who you expect to be trustworthy. Like school kaiako, the police and other first responders, judges, and lawyers. Ask God to give them courage to always do what is right.

Hei mahi

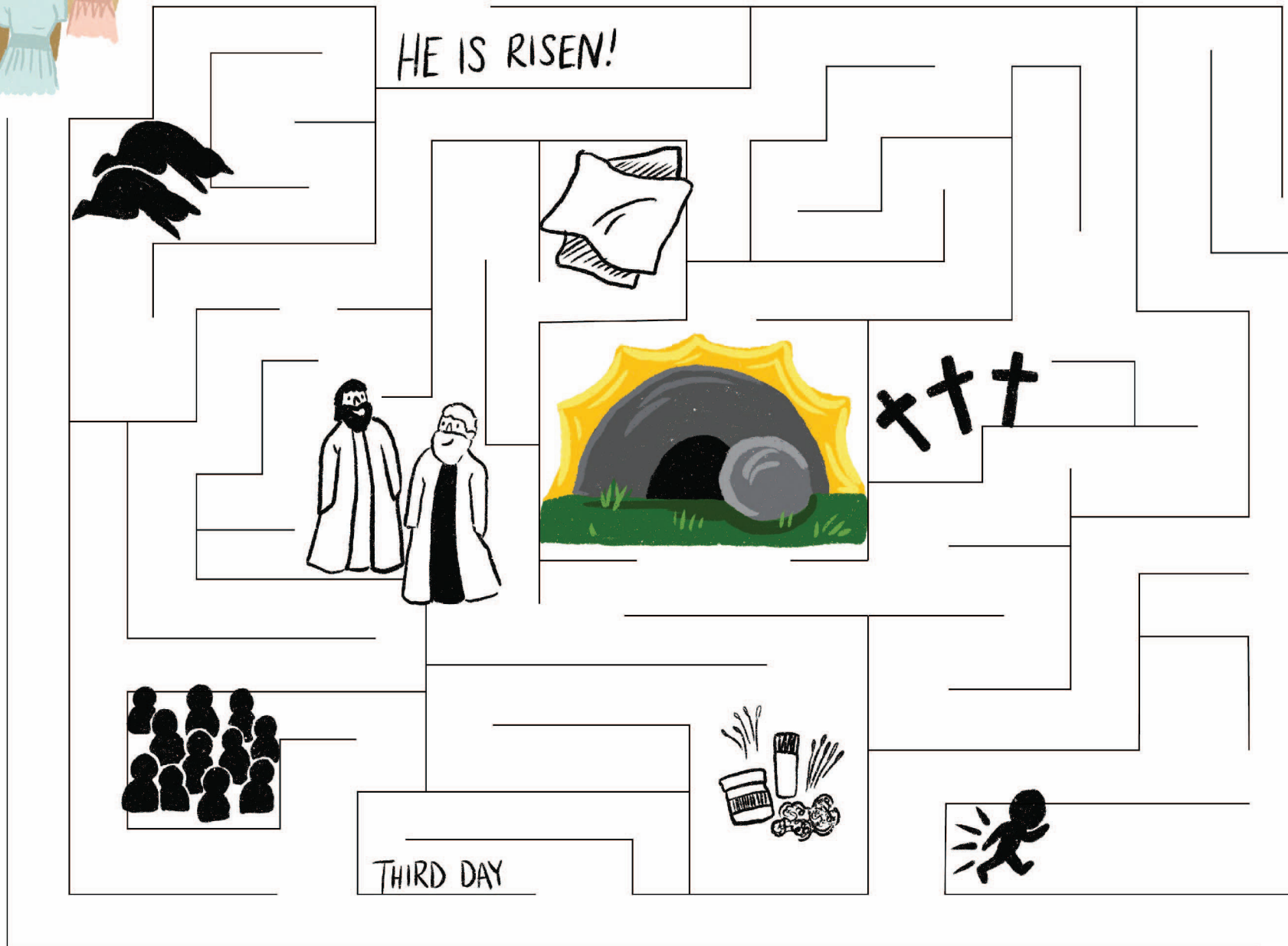
Write a letter to someone you prayed a blessing for, thanking them for being in your community and helping others. Perhaps tell them of your blessing prayer.

Make a batch of resurrection rolls – using a bread recipe and marshmallows. Form the dough into a flat circle. Then, place a marshmallow in the middle of the dough and seal it up before baking. You'll be surprised what happens!

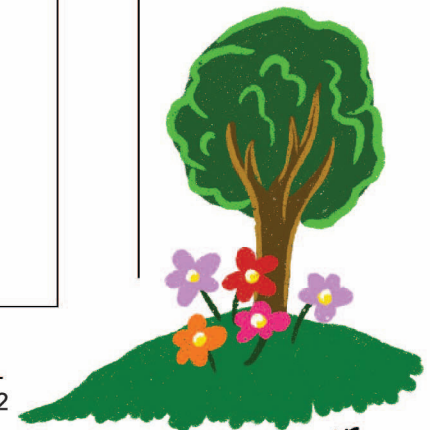
Pray a blessing each day as you prepare for Easter.

Find your way to the empty tomb

When you get to a picture that's not the empty tomb, work out its significance to the story.



MOUNT OF OLIVES



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

A haerenga to Jerusalem

Hei pānui

Luke 19:28-48

Tō mohio?

Much of this New Testament narrative links to the Old Testament. It's rich with connections. Maybe you wondered why the people spread cloaks – look in 2 Kings 9:13. Why a donkey – Zechariah 9:9? In fact, donkeys were considered especially suitable for sacred purpose – Numbers 19:2, Deuteronomy 21:3, Isaiah 6:7. There are accounts of rulers riding a donkey or colt in times of peace – Judges 5:10 and 1 Kings 1:33.

Hei aro?

There is a lot going on in this story so there's a lot to notice. Here are three things.

Jesus cries over the city of Jerusalem. Salem, part of the city's name, means peace. If you read about Jerusalem, you'll find there are often details about how it wasn't a city of peace.

Jesus came towards Jerusalem on a donkey. In the Old Testament, donkeys were used for sacred purposes. If Jesus had wanted to come into the city to claim he was a politician, do you think he'd have used a donkey? Jesus came to bring peace. The people cried, "Hosanna", which means *save now*.

Do you wonder whether it was okay for Jesus to get angry? Before you answer, perhaps you don't know why he made a fuss at the temple. Those who were trading were being deceitful, charging extra. And they were trading in a part of the temple called the Court of the Gentiles. Do you know who Gentiles are? They're people who are not from God's chosen people, the Israelites. This was a place in the temple provided for Gentiles who worshipped God. Jesus wants the good news to be available to everyone. His anger is called, righteous anger. He was angry at those who had power and knew better, but used their power to do the wrong thing.

Kia pohewatanga ...

... Jesus is coming to where you live, and your household was asked to plan that event. Have a look at the trees and plants in your neighbourhood. Can you see what you would use to create a path for Jesus? Which of your clothes would you be prepared to put on the path for Jesus and the donkey to walk over?

Hei aro

When you're in a crowd, who do you notice? Maybe you see sad people, those without suitable clothing for the day (like a warm jacket), people who look weak carrying heavy bags. Can you see people who are missing out because they don't have privilege? Who do you think Jesus would see?

Kia whakamānawa

Pray a blessing for the people you noticed from the crowd. That they would find joy. That Jesus would reveal Himself to them through the lives and friendship of people who follow Him.

Did you also notice how children praised Jesus (Matthew 21:14-16)? If you are a child reading this today, now would be a great time to pray the blessing instead of teenagers and adults.

Hei mahi

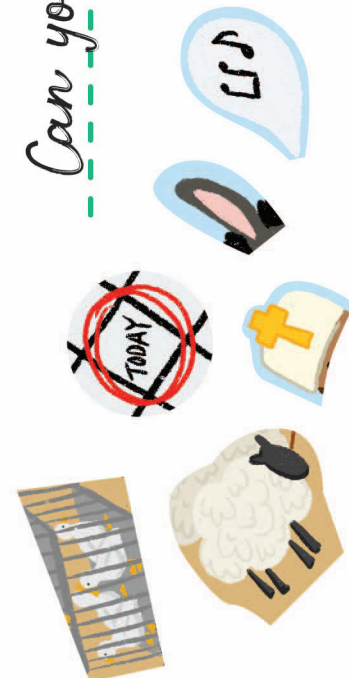
Think about the power structures in your community. Do you think your household has power or privilege? How could you contribute to the lives of a family or a group of people in your community who have less or struggle in life? *Love those He loves; care about what He cares for.*

Pray a blessing each day as you
prepare for Easter.



Can you find?

1. Garments on the road
2. The place where the donkey was
3. The place Jesus was on His way to
4. A symbol of peace
5. The leading priests



A haerenga to a meal

Hei pānui

Luke 22:7-30

Tō mohio?

Within a Passover meal, there are four cups of wine, and Psalms 113 and 114 would be sung. During this remembrance celebration, the meal would be the turning point.

In Exodus 6, we read, "Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!'"

1. The Cup of Sanctification "I will take you out ..."
2. The Cup of Deliverance "I will save you ..."
3. The Cup of Redemption "I will redeem you ..."
4. The Cup of Praise "I will take you as a nation ..."

Hei aro?

Imagine you were looking into a crowded area for a man carrying a jar of water. In Bible times, carrying a jar or pitcher of water was a job that women generally performed. Men carried water in containers made from leather skins.

Jesus was inviting the disciples to participate in a meal with Him, called the Passover. Do you remember where the first Passover meal was eaten? (Hint: Read Exodus 12) Do you understand what He meant as He offered His disciples the bread and juice? Have a look for the connection in Exodus. When we read this story, we realise how clearly the whole Bible points to Jesus.

Kia pohewatanga ...

... you are celebrating with a meal. Maybe it's a birthday meal for someone special. Maybe it's a calendar celebration. How will you prepare, who will you invite, what will you wear, and what will happen at the celebration?

Hei aro

I wonder what people carry in the places you travel through. Perhaps they are going to work, to study, to play, to school, or to shop. Anything else? How do you think they find meaning in their life?

Kia whakamānawa

Pray for the people who you have seen that they will find meaning and hope in their lives, and that they will encounter Jesus through the words and actions of people who call themselves, followers of Jesus.

Hei mahi

Luke doesn't write about Jesus' kneeling and washing His disciples' feet. John does in chapter 13. As a household, you might like to read this together and then wash each other's feet.

Research the Passover and have one this Easter. How does Passover differ from the meal Jesus and His disciples participated in?

Pray a blessing each day as you
prepare for Easter.



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Can you find?

Look for these images and work out their significance

- The lamb
- The wheat
- The question
- The bread
- The coins
- The rooster



Cock-A-
Doodle-
Dooooo