

Easter story for Messy Church

HELEN – *(Before we start)* Here's my signal to show you that it's time to listen carefully *(make some kind of hand signal.)*

IAN So everyone, I'm here to tell you about this pot. I bought it to go in my windowsill at home, so everyone who went past could see it and admire it. So I bought the pot, and I took it home...

HELEN Er, Ian, I'm meant to be telling them about the Easter story, do you mind? Good, sorry about that everyone, I'm going to tell you the Easter story.

We have to begin right at the beginning. There are 5 words that I need to explain the story and the first word is hidden somewhere in the room. Have a look and see if you can see it.

Everyone hunts – and the word CREATION is revealed.

SLIDE- CREATION

CREATION – this is the word we use to describe how God made the world. He made it such beautiful place, didn't he, and he made us. Human beings are so incredible.

SLIDES OF WORLD

But God loved us, so he gave us free choice about whether we lived his way or went our own way. He hoped we would choose his way, because it's the best way, but we didn't, we chose our own way, and the world, his CREATION got spoiled. SLIDE OF ... eg pollution, of someone upset...

We need to hunt for the second word. -> *Hunting.. the word BROKEN is revealed.* SLIDE- BROKEN

So God decided to do something about it.

IAN: I wonder if I could just stop you there and tell you a bit more about my pot? It's really interesting, Helen, I'm sure they'll like it.

HELEN: Oh well.. oh go on, just tell them a little bit.

IAN: Well, you see, I brought my pot home and when I got out of the car.. I tripped.. and this happened. My beautiful pot was BROKEN! *(Holds up broken shards.)* My lovely pot.. was ruined! Say ahhhh, everyone... No really, I was very sad...

HELEN: Ok let's get back to the story of Easter. The world had become BROKEN, people's lives became BROKEN because they weren't following God's way, so God decided to do something about it.

We need to look for the 3rd word that's important to our story, It's hidden somewhere in the room. See if you can find it.

Hunting.. and the word RESCUE is found.

SLIDE: RESCUE

HELEN: RESCUE – what was God's rescue plan, to RESCUE all the broken relationships, broken friendships, broken bodies? It was to send Jesus, his own son, to earth as a baby, to live a human life. Jesus was born at Christmas, raised in a family, grew up to be a man and lived all the thoughts and feelings we do, but because he was God as well as man, he never did a single thing wrong.

He taught people how to turn back to God. Some people didn't like this, and they arranged for him to be killed – to be crucified on a cross.

Jesus chose to let them – because he knew that if a perfect person, the Son of God himself, died, he could RESCUE us by sorting out the BROKEN mess once for all. So Jesus allowed himself to be arrested and killed on Good Friday– to be BROKEN instead of us.

Pause.

IAN: You're doing a great job, Helen, but can I just continue with my pot story. So there I was, with all the BROKEN bits of pot around me, feeling terrible. Then a kind neighbour was passing, and saw me upset. "Would you like me to MEND this for you?" he asked? "Yes please," I said. So he helped me carefully pick up each piece and he RESCUED them. He took them into his shed where he has a work bench. He worked out where every bit needed to go, and he glued it back together. I was so pleased, my pot was MENDED!

HELEN: Thank you Ian, now we need to hunt for our 4th word,

Hunting, word MENDED is found.

SLIDE: MENDED

HELEN: Jesus was BROKEN, so that WE could be MENDED. So God can look on us as friends again. So that we can hear God's voice and follow his way and receive his love and strength. And also that leads to us being able to MEND our other friendships - with his help. When you fall out with a friend. When things go wrong. Now there is always hope that things can be MENDED.

IAN: Shall I finish my pot story? Thank you. Well, my neighbour brought back my BROKEN pot, all glued together again. When he unwrapped it, I was quite pleased it was MENDED, but I couldn't help noticing that it wasn't quite the same as it was before. There were lots of cracks where the pieces didn't go back exactly as they were. But do you know what my neighbour said? He said, those cracks, they let the light shine out, and make it even more beautiful than before. So I was pretty excited about that. Now I put it on the windowsill and put a candle in it, and I light the candle every evening, so people going past can see the light shining out of it.

HELEN: Thank you Ian, that turned out to be quite a good story in the end!

Back to the events of Easter.

God brought Jesus back to life again on Easter Sunday so that the tomb was empty and his friends met him– MENDED and whole.

Jesus invites us all to let God MEND us too. There's one more word to find.

Hunting.. the word SHINE is revealed

SLIDE- SHINE

And when we're mended, we can let his light SHINE through us. So others can find God and be MENDED too.

I think we were both telling the same story in the end, Ian, don't you?

PRAYER-

Father we thank you for the beauty of CREATION, and sorry that everything got BROKEN by us following our own way.

Jesus thank you that you came to earth and allowed yourself to be BROKEN, to die in our place so we could be RESCUED. Thank you that we can be MENDED when we turn to you.

Thank you Holy Sprit that now we are MENDED we can SHINE like that pot with the cracks in it, so that all our friendships can be MENDED and CREATION be more like how God meant it to be again.

Amen.

If time, Lord's Prayer with actions??