



An Easter Donkey's Diary Adaptive Version by Rosie MacIntyre

Information for Teachers/Parents:

This is an adaptive version of 'An Easter Donkey's Diary' written by Tony Bower, York Schools and Youth Trust. Language has been simplified or altered and songs and actions from the original have been redacted in an attempt to make this accessible for a variety of differently abled children.

Travel with donkey detective from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday as he seeks to unravel the special mission Jesus was carrying out. Pick up clues along the way and store them on his saddle.

Teachers or parents can assemble the 3D donkeys and cut out the 6 clues ready to be glued onto his saddle bags ahead of the session.

Download the donkey cut-out sheet here:

www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-easter-donkey

Teachers/parents may prefer to print the image of the donkey in a larger size to enable the children to see the clues being attached, by the teacher for groups where children would benefit from this adaptation.

There are 3 parts and you could incorporate movement breaks in between each section to help children focus, or use separate parts throughout the day, if this would be more suitable for your group's learning style.

Introduction

In the Bible, our book about God, donkeys are very important. There is even one donkey, who belonged to a man called Balaam, who talked so that Balaam could hear God's message! There is also the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem when Jesus was born.

Today we are going to listen to the Easter story, told by the young donkey Jesus rides on Palm Sunday!

Listen carefully to the Donkey's Easter Diary. Can you spot the 6 clues he picks up along the way? We have a picture of each of the 6 clues. We can stick them to his saddle bags to work out Jesus' plan.



An Easter Donkey's Diary

Part 1

The story begins like this:

'It is time' my Master said

He handed my reins over to 2 kind men and I felt safe.

I felt excited!

I felt special!

The 2 men were talking as they were walking. One word made my heart feel braver. The word was 'Jesus.'

They took me to Jesus!

Jesus calmly sat on my back and I walked on carrying Jesus. I knew that Jesus had a very special plan. As I walked on a crowd began to gather to see Jesus.

I'm a donkey and I have big ears. I could hear the excitement of the crowd around me. Jesus looked around the crowd. I could tell he loved every person in the crowd, just like he loves you.

The crowd was gathered by the roadside and they started singing;

'Hosanna! Hosanna!'

Hosanna means 'Save us'.

They were singing 'Save us! Save us!' to Jesus.

They were waving lots of palm branches.

We walked on and on beneath a shining golden sun. Some of the palms fell on the road and I walked over them.

I saw the crowd putting their coats and cloaks on the floor; on the road! I couldn't jump over all of them so my big dirty hooves walked over all the coats and cloaks.

I don't fully understand humans but I did understand that they were worshipping Jesus. I did understand that Jesus loved them and that Jesus had come to save them.



I picked up one of the palm leaves and placed it in my saddle bag. I didn't know how Jesus was going to save the people **but this may be a clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

I carried Jesus into the centre of Jerusalem and he asked me to stop at the Temple. This was a very important place to pray and I thought Jesus would be happy to be there. Jesus was sad and angry. Jesus climbed down from me and tipped over the tables in the Temple and scattered the things on them everywhere.

BANG went the tables.

Jesus used a rope to whack all the silver and gold coins from the tables.

'You have turned my Father's house into a den of robbers' shouted Jesus.

Jesus was so upset and so sad. The people were grumbling. Jesus stopped and looked up to the heavens.

I picked up the rope that Jesus had used with my teeth and put it into my saddle bag; **this was another clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

The crowd were getting angry and I wanted to carry Jesus away from them. How could they turn a place of God into a place for stealing and lying? I knew somehow that Jesus could save them but I did not know what he was going to do.





An Easter Donkey's Diary

Part 2

Here are the clues we have so far:

A palm branch.

A rope made out of old cord.

Here is what we have seen so far:

Jesus being praised

Thieves in the Temple being chased away.

Here is what we have heard so far:

Jesus saying that the most important thing to do is love God and to love each other.

I also heard Jesus say nice things about an old lady who placed a tiny coin in the Temple offering box. I am not good with numbers but how can one tiny coin be better than lots and lots of big gold coins?

Jesus said that this lady had given more than others because she had given everything she had.

She gave everything because that is what love does. Jesus said love God and love one another, not just a little bit or on one day of the week but all the time like that old lady.

I was grazing on the grass in the garden of Gethsemane in the evening. One of Jesus' friends stopped by me. He was carrying a small loaf in his hands and put it in one of my saddle bags. **This must be another clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

'Jesus shared bread with us tonight' he said to another friend,

'Jesus said, 'This is my body broken for you' tonight. That is what he told us'.

The man shook his head. I could feel fear and sadness.

'We were so quiet. Jesus said 'This is my body broken for you, eat this bread in remembrance of me' and that is what we did. We ate the bread Jesus broke for us' said his friend.



It was getting dark and the garden felt sad.

I could see Jesus with 3 of his friends. He was talking to them as they walked together. I could tell that Jesus was sad. Jesus wasn't leaving the garden: he was standing still. His 3 friends lay down and fell asleep but Jesus was wide awake.

Jesus' mouth was moving as if he was praying and he said something like.

'Father, if there is any other way'.

I also heard him say;

'Not my will but yours be done.'

Jesus was standing up and I knew why: I could hear soldiers coming.

There were torches burning and swords raised. People were shouting and Jesus' friends were running but Jesus stood still. Why had the soldiers come? Why arrest Jesus?

The soldiers took Jesus away and everyone was gone.

I was left next to an olive tree, alone. I picked a branch and **put it into my saddle bag as a clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

I will never forget seeing Jesus calmly walk out of the garden with the soldiers. He never looked back. I did not know where they were taking him but I was scared.





An Easter Donkey's Diary

Part 3

I began to sniff the scent of the soldiers who took Jesus away to lead me to him. I had to find Jesus.

The streets of Jerusalem were very quiet as I followed the scent.

Suddenly I heard people shouting:

'CRUCIFY!'

I ran until I saw a crowd of people.

I stopped.

I saw something that made my heart feel like breaking.

The cross.

The cross that Jesus was on.

Someone offered Jesus a drink with a dirty old sponge but he refused the drink so when it fell onto the ground, I put it in my saddle bag. **This must be a clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

That's when I saw her: Mary.

She was standing next to a man who had his arm around her shoulder. Mary was looking at Jesus. Her eyes fixed on Jesus and I could feel the love between them. I could see it in her tears.

Jesus said,

'Father forgive them'

Then it happened. The sun vanished and darkness darker than night fell upon the earth.

Jesus was innocent. Jesus was King of Creation. Jesus was the gift of God to this world. He was born to bring peace and joy to mankind.

For the next 2 days I didn't know what to do.

On Sunday morning I saw some of Jesus' friends leave the house. It was still dark, just before dawn when they reached a lovely garden.



I heard the women scream.

I saw white lightning flashes and heard angelic voices.

'Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He is risen like he said' a heavenly voice said.

The women were crying, but they were happy tears.

The women were talking excitedly and ran out of the garden, dropping a jar of oil as they ran. I picked it up and put it into my saddle bag. **This must be a clue.**

(Teacher/parent to encourage child/children to find the right clue and to assist in sticking it to donkey's saddle bag)

I went to follow the women but I turned around and there was Jesus smiling at me! He was alive!

All of the clues led to Jesus!

This is Jesus' mission

His death

His forgiveness

His new life

The world's new hope

JESUS IS ALIVE!

