

# Seasonal Evangelism

## Easter Kennings

### AIM

Here is some material based on Kennings for Easter in Evangelism Year – or next year if you need to 'think ahead'.

### INTRODUCTION

Kennings were introduced in Bible Year. These Anglo-Saxon word pairs are a fun activity for people of all ages working together. The Bible Year Activity, Kennings and Cookies, that introduces Kennings, is still available on the website if you did not try it before. If you want to go on to do more Kennings based activities, this material is for you. Kennings can be a good way of thinking of who Jesus is for us or telling Jesus' story in our own words.

### To begin

Ask people to divide into small groups. Ideally you want eight small groups with roughly even numbers. Give each group a post card with the name of one day of the Passion Octave on it:

Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy (or Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Day.

If the number of participants seems to warrant it, you can combine some of the days with one group doing two days if necessary – but try not to make those two 'busy' days.

Ask each group to begin by remembering what they think happened on the day of Holy Week they have been allocated. Some groups will think of more than others. Give each one a piece of paper to make a poster of their day.

### Using the Markan text

You may want to go onto compare their remembered versions with the way the text is divided in Mark's Gospel. Remember that the aim of this is not to show people 'what they got wrong' so please don't dwell on that. Look to what they did remember and any interesting patterns that emerge – like the time I did this and three groups remembered the cursing of the fig tree on three different days! This is an interesting incident that does seem to stick in people's memories. If this happens, or a similar thing occurs with the ear of the High Priest's servant for example, use it to explore the text further rather than as a way of embarrassing people. In the list that follows the chapters and verse from Mark's gospel are given for each day.

### Easter Kennings

You can go onto the Kennings in two different ways.

Either: make some cards with these Kennings on before you start and invite groups to 'bid' for which Kennings they think goes with their day. Or do just a few like that and then go on to invite participants to make their own Kennings for their day. You might have to remind people what Kennings are before you do this. Share your Kennings based stories of Holy Week in words, pictures or mime.

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**Palm Sunday**                      **Mark 11:1-11**

Donkey Rider  
Colt Identifier  
Praise Receiver

**Holy Monday**                      **Mark 11:12-19**

Tree Curser  
Temple Visitor  
Table Turner

**Holy Tuesday**                      **Mark 11:20- 13:37**

Faith Affirmer  
Prayer Instructor  
Temple Visitor  
Question Deflector  
Story Teller  
Commandment Endorser  
Widow Encourager  
Destruction Predictor

**Holy Wednesday**                      **Mark 14:1-11**

House Visitor  
Anointing Acceptor  
Anger Confronter

**Maundy/Holy Thursday**                      **Mark 14:22-66**

Passover Preparer  
Supper Sharer  
Betrayal Warner  
Bread Breaker  
Hymn Singer  
Denial Predictor  
Garden Pray-er  
Kiss Receiver  
Silent Prisoner

**Good Friday**                      **Mark 14:66-15:47**

Silent Prisoner  
Abuse Receiver  
Cross Carrier  
Drug Refuser  
Insult Bearer  
Psalm Recaller

**Holy Saturday**                      **Mark 15:47-16:1**

Tomb Dweller

**Easter Sunday**                      **Mark 16**

Stone Mover  
Tomb Quitter  
Early-morning Riser  
Road Traveller  
Disciple Surpriser

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Gospel Commissioner  
Power Promiser  
Footprint Leaver  
Salvation Announcer

### Prayer for Holy Week; Just this week

Just this week I heard  
you were planning to visit  
at the end of a long journey,  
uncertain what sort of welcome you'd receive.

Just this week I heard  
you were struggling to see the way ahead:  
good times seemed to be behind,  
heaven knows what was round the corner.

Just this week I heard  
you were trying to reprioritise:  
not everyone seemed to understand  
that the time had come to move on.

Just this week I heard  
you'd challenged a difficult situation:  
trying to remember what sort of body  
was meeting round a table,

Just this week I heard  
you were standing on the edge of death,  
looking into a tomb,  
challenged to go on loving.

Just this week it began again:  
the week of weeks named holy  
when the cost of love breaks in on us,  
strips us of everything except  
our innate vulnerability.

**Weak-wise One,  
only your embrace can get us through  
just one week.**

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## EVALUATION

Evaluation is vital to the vision4life process. Please try to reflect on the year and in what way it has been transforming the church as you experience it. Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material and remember to send in your feedback to [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

## THE NEXT STEP

More new material for Evangelism Year will be appearing on the website shortly. The new Evangelism Year booklet will be sent out by post in September to signed up churches.

Prayer Year material will still be available as is Bible Year material. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

## Acknowledgements

These Kennings based activities and the prayer 'Just one week' are copyright to Janet Lees who has given permission for them to be used by Vision4life. They will appear in her new book 'Tell me the stories of Jesus' to be published by Wild Goose Publications in Spring 2011. They were road tested at Silcoates School Wakefield with students aged 14-16.

## HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about Evangelism Year you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: [evangelism@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:evangelism@vision4life.org.uk)