**Instructions on how to use the Easter Chat Mats**

 

Download here and print onto A3 paper if you need more:

**Palm Sunday:** <https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/60638a2c87045/content/pages/documents/bible-chat-mat-jesus-the-king.pdf>

**Easter:**

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/60638a2c87045/content/pages/documents/bible-chat-mat-its-easter.pdf>

The Palm Sunday and Easter Chat Mats are a great way to share the story of Easter and to allow children to voice their questions and thoughts, whether in the classroom, around a meal table or sitting on the sofa at home, or in a church or school group.

* Use these to support your RE learning/as a fun activity before the Easter holiday/an activity for the children to take home and to enjoy with their families/as place mats during a wet playtime – all as a way to explore the story of Easter through questions and colouring after an Easter assembly
* Share the Easter story with your children in an age appropriate version (older children may like to find the story in Matthew 21 and Luke 24 of a Bible). Beautifully told and illustrated children’s versions are ***The Jesus Story Book Bible*** by Sally Lloyd Jones or ***The Story Teller Bible*** by Bob Hartman
* Good video animated versions to introduce the story to children are by Saddleback Kids. They tell the Bible story clearly and accessibly for children, with humour
  + The Triumphal Entry <https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE>
  + The Last Supper <https://youtu.be/SigoALSS1R8>
  + The Story of Easter (Jesus’ Sacrifice) <https://youtu.be/HL8R158Ujp4>
  + Jesus restores Peter <https://youtu.be/Ppb9bKX1r7k>
* Explain that Christians find the Easter story to be inspirational because they believe it is the story of how God came to live with people in human form as God’s very son and soaked up everything that was wrong in people. Christians may read this Bible story or heard this story many times but it still fills them with wonder, and fills them with thanks. Christians want to be forgiving like Jesus. Have a discussion: What do the children think? Is there anything new that they did not know before? Is there anything that inspires them? What is in the story that might inspire a Christian or them to be forgiving to others? Have a talk about the story using the Chat Mat as your guide
* Let the children colour/doodle on the sheets and explore the story in their own unique way
* Don’t forget to count all the crowns and the Easter eggs!
* Short, super-fun, heart-warming films of children telling the Easter Story(the children love these!)
  + Easter story told by children <https://youtu.be/LgFZDCguR8>E
  + Children tell the Resurrection story while adults act the parts: <https://youtu.be/wdn1R90kX9A>
* Perhaps whole families might like to enjoy the Easter Chat Mat over the holiday times.