

Reflect back

- How have we encouraged others this past week? Have we been encouraged by others? Share!
- What particularly resonated with you from today's talk?

Review the teaching

Naomi Weeks began the service with a treasure hunt to find broken pieces of an Easter egg which had images of creation. She said that she had a plan to restore it.

John 3v16

Begins by reminding us that God loves the world that he created for us all. He knew we'd break it but he had a plan. Being a family service she used images which help us all with the story.

1. Donkey hooves. Zech 9v9. Kings ride horses or elephants (Aladdin!) but Jesus chose a donkey as a sign of humility and gentleness. Donkeys don't reflect riches and wealth. People responded with Hosanna! But they wanted instant results of seeing Jesus as King.
2. Bowl of water. John 13v1. Jesus chose to wash his disciples' feet showing them the full extent of his love. This portrayed Jesus as a servant and also signified inheritance. Removing sandals was a sign of transaction. The disciples could inherit God's cleansing.
3. Soldiers' boots. John 18v3-8. Soldiers came to arrest Jesus because he was changing the rules. When asked, who are you seeking, they said, "Jesus." He replied "I AM he" and they fell down. Jesus used the name of God - I AM (Ex 3v14). Jesus chose to stay in the story rather than call hordes of angels (Matt 26v53-54).
4. Cross. Jesus chose to be crucified. The crowd suggested Jesus get God to help him off the cross (Matt 27v43) but it was love that held Jesus to the cross. Although Jesus said "It is finished" (John 19v30) the truth is it was the beginning of new life.
5. Tomb. Jesus was laid in a new tomb. He was wrapped in strips of linen (John 19v40).
6. The stone. On the first day of the week, women came to anoint the body but worried about moving the stone covering the entrance. They found it rolled back and the tomb empty except for the linen strips and face cloth (John 20v6-7).

Naomi used a large piece of cardboard as the stone. This was the earlier broken egg that was now restored and held together by a cross. She reflected that Jesus took our sin and sickness on the cross and restored creation.

When Mary was in the garden (John 20v11-16) a man, she supposed was the gardener, asked her for whom she was looking. When he chose to say "Mary" she recognised him as Jesus.

Jesus chose you in every part of the story and he calls us by name (John 10v27). We need to listen to the voice of Jesus and choose to follow him.

Realise the value

- What part of the Easter narrative most speaks to you this year? Why?
- Why is resurrection of the physical body of Jesus so important?
- What would you say to those who deny resurrection?