

The Mystery of Easter

After the reading of the Gospel, sit down with the children.

If everybody is ready, I will get the things we need for today.

Get up and collect the purple bag from *somewhere in the room*. Take your time. Sit down and **Do NOT** open it yet.

Now is the time for the colour purple. It is the time for preparing. Purple is the colour of kings. We are preparing for the coming of a king and his going and his coming again.

We are preparing for the Mystery of Easter. This is a serious time. It takes many weeks to get ready to enter the Mystery of Easter.

Take out the first piece from the bag with the **purple side up**. Turn it this way and that.

I wonder what this could be? Encourage the children's guesses, then take out a second piece.

Look. Here is a second piece. **I wonder what this could be?**

Place the second piece on the floor, separate from the first

Look. Here's a third piece. They are all so different.

Here is a fourth piece. 1,2,3,4 weeks in lent? That's the same as the time for getting ready for Christmas.

Perhaps that is all we need for Easter, too? **Look in the bag**

Oh no! Here's another one. Lent is longer than Advent. The mystery of Easter is an even great mystery than the Mystery of Christmas, so it must take longer to get ready.

That must be all there is. No. It is not empty. There is another one!

The time for Lent is six weeks. Easter is a huge mystery. Let's see if there's another one.

Look inside the bag. It is now empty. Place the bag on the floor and sit back to wonder about it.

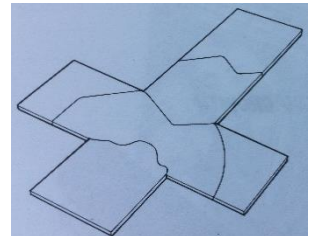
Lent helps us to get ready. It is a time to know more about the One who is Easter. It is also a time to learn more about who we really are.

Touch one or more of the pieces as you talk about them

The pieces are very purple. The one who is coming is very important, like a king. But purple can feel sad, too. Perhaps what is going to happen is sad.

Begin to move the pieces around, but do not fit them together yet. Experiment. Play. Finally assemble the cross.

Oh I see. It makes a cross. It's a serious cross, it is also sad. Jesus grew up to be a man and died on the cross. That is sad, but it is also wonderful. Now look what happens



Turn the pieces over to the white side and re-make the cross.

Jesus died on the cross but somehow he is still with us. That is why Easter is not just sad. It is also wonderful.

Lent is sad..... Show the purple side of a few pieces. **Easter is pure celebration.** Turn the pieces back to white again.

Reach inside the purple bag and turn it inside out

Easter turns everything inside out and upside down. The colour of getting ready becomes the colour of pure celebration. The sad and seriousness and happiness join together to make joy.

Look! You can't keep Easter in just one Sunday! It goes on for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 weeks! Touch the pieces All the way to Pentecost.

Sit back and begin to wonder. Don't rush or be afraid of the silence. There are no right answers.

I wonder if you have ever seen these colours in the church before?

I wonder what happens when you see these colours?

I wonder what part of Lent you like best?

I wonder if you see the white at some other time in the church?

I wonder how sadness and happiness can make joy?

I wonder where joy comes from? I wonder how you know when joy is here?