

Diddy Disciples: Good Friday Resources

Good Friday storytelling for home, schools, churches, nurseries, toddler groups, or anywhere you like!

You may like to use these resources for a stand-alone time of storytelling (15-20 minutes). Or you may like to build on them to create a morning or afternoon workshop. See the appendix for an example session, including signposting to more storytelling, personalizing a mini take-home storytelling box, plus Creative Response Starter Ideas.

The Story of Love: the Story of the Cross

You will need...

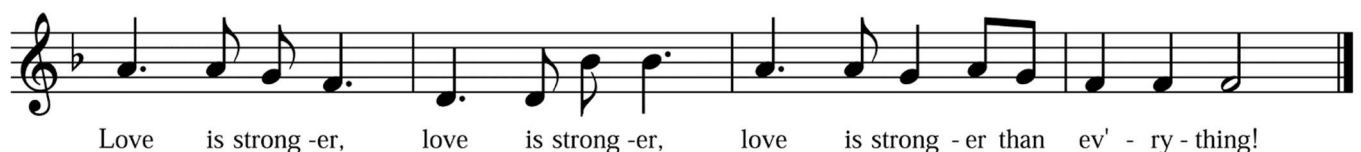
- a thick red ribbon
- a figure of Jesus (a simple version is provided in the appendix).
- a cup/chalice and bread
- a plant (e.g. rosemary) or small leafy branch (olive or other) to represent the Garden of Gethsemane
- a piece of rope or string
- a crown of thorns (this can be made from twisting wire or purple pipe cleaners)
- a cross or crucifix
- a white piece of cloth
- a box with a lid (e.g a shoebox) that the figure of Jesus can fit inside when wrapped in the cloth

For photographs of a mini storytelling box laid out for the storytelling see www.diddydisciples.org/samples.

Music resources

Lyrics: 'Love is stronger' © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby

Tune: 'She'll be coming round the mountain' (traditional), sung contemplatively.



Interactive Bible Storytelling

If appropriate:

All through Lent, we've been getting ready to follow Jesus to the cross.

Today it's Good Friday.
It's time.

All groups:

It's time to tell the story of the cross.

It's the story of Love.

Lay the red ribbon along the floor and place the Jesus figure at one end.

The way of the cross is the way of love:

Red for love.

Let's show our sign for love with our arms.

Lead the children in crossing arms on chest.

Move your arms slightly away from your chest to show them, or indicate how the crossed arms of a neighbour make the shape of a cross.

Look! Our sign for love is a cross!

The story of the Cross is the story of Love.

To tell our story, we need to learn a song called 'Love is stronger'.

'Love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists gently but firmly* than everything!' *Arms out (with hands upwards)*

For each time you sing 'Love is stronger' throughout this storytelling, cross your arms for 'Love' and clench fists gently but firmly for 'stronger'. This is then followed with the action for each verse, as indicated.

Either teach the group the song using the following material or play the video of the song provided in the resources. The song is sung to the tune of 'She'll be coming round the mountain' with the first two upbeats ('She'll be...') omitted.

Let's sing the song 'my turn' *point to self*, 'your turn' *arms out to the group*.

Singing: Love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists gently* than everything *Arms out*
Love crossed arms **is stronger** *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*

Then a bit higher:

Love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists gently* than everything *Arms out*
Love crossed arms **is stronger** *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*

Then:

Love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists*, love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists*
Love crossed arms is stronger *clench fists gently* than everything *Arms out*

Love crossed arms **is stronger** *clench fists*, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** *clench fists*
Love crossed arms **is stronger** *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*

Let's sing that altogether.

Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists,* **love** *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than everything** *Arms out*
 Repeat until the group is sounding confident.

We're ready to tell our story.

Station 1: Last Supper

Place a bread roll and a cup or chalice at the end of the ribbon next to Jesus.

It's the night before Jesus will die.*
 Jesus shares bread and wine with his friends.

Station 2: Garden of Gethsemane

Place a plant or small leafy branch to represent a tree on the ribbon, next to the cup.
Move Jesus along the ribbon so that he is next to the plant.

Jesus goes with his friends to a garden.
 Jesus is scared about what's going to happen.
 Jesus cries.
Run your fingers down your face to show tears (this is the 'tears action')
 Let's show Jesus crying. *Tears action.*
 Even when Jesus cries, *Tears action.*
 Jesus keeps on loving.
Slowly: Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* *than tears* *Tears action*

Lead the group in singing:

Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than tears** *Tears action*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than tears** *Tears action*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists,* **love** *crossed arms is stronger* *Clench fists*
Love *crossed arms is stronger* *clench fists gently* **than tears** *Tears action*

* If you would like resources to explore the story of the Last Supper more thoroughly with your group, resources are signposted in the Appendix.

Station 3: The Arrest

Place a piece of rope on the ribbon.

Move the Jesus figure along the ribbon so that it is next to the rope.

Soldiers come to the garden.

They tie Jesus up. *Tie the Jesus figure gently with the rope or string.*

They take Jesus away! *Move the Jesus figure off the ribbon and towards you.*

Jesus's friends are scared!

They hide!

Let's hide behind our hands like the disciples.

Lead the group in hiding behind hands. This will become the 'hiding action'.

But Jesus keeps on loving. *Crossed arms on chest.*

Slowly: Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently hiding than 'fear' hiding action

If appropriate: 'Fear' is when we're frightened!

Lead the group in singing:

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than fear** hiding action

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than fear** hiding action

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than fear** hiding action

Station 4: The Trials

Place the lid of the box that will become Jesus' tomb on the ribbon.

Stand the Jesus figure on this 'platform'

The soldiers drag Jesus to the leaders.

People tell lies about Jesus.

Let's point at Jesus to show we're telling lies.

Lead the children in pointing.

The leaders want to put Jesus on the cross,
even though it's not fair. *Shake heads.*

The people lie about Jesus

but Jesus keeps on loving. *Crossed arms.*

Slowly: Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than lies Point at the Jesus figure

Lead the group in singing:

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than lies** Point at the Jesus figure

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than lies** Point at the Jesus figure

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than lies** Point at the Jesus figure

Station 5: The Bullying

Place a crown of thorns on or next to the Jesus figure

The soldiers bully Jesus.

They put a crown of thorns on his head.

They hit Jesus and laugh at him.

But Jesus keeps on loving.

Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than bullying *Fist in hand*

Slowly: Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than hate *Fist in hand*

Lead the group in singing:

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than hate** *Fist in hand.*

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than hate** *Fist in hand.*

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than hate** *Fist in hand.*

Station 6: The Crucifixion

Place a cross on the ribbon next to the platform.

When indicated, hang the Jesus figure from the cross or change the Jesus figure to a crucifix.

On a hill, they nail Jesus to a cross.

Hang the Jesus figure on the cross.

They wait for him to die.

Even on the cross, hurting, Jesus never stops loving.

Jesus says 'Give them a new start!'

Slowly: Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than 'pain' *Touch wounds*

If appropriate: 'Pain' is hurting.

Let's touch the marks on our hands

where Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Lead the children in touching palms: one then the other

Slowly: Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than pain *Touch wounds*

Lead the group in singing:

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than pain** *Touch wounds*

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than pain** *Touch wounds*

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists

Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than pain** *Touch wounds*

Station 7: The Sun Stops Shining

Stay with the cross

Jesus is hanging on the cross.
Suddenly the sun stops shining.
The land is as dark as night.
Let's close our eyes and feel the dark.
Lead the children in covering your eyes.

Everything is dark.
Jesus is completely alone.
Even God isn't there.
Jesus shouts: 'My God, My God, why have you left me?'

Slowly:
But Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than darkness Cover eyes

Lead the group in singing:
Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than dark-ness.** Cover eyes
Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than dark-ness.** Cover eyes
Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists, **love** crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists
Love crossed arms **is stronger** clench fists gently **than dark-ness.** Cover eyes

Station 8: Jesus is Buried

*Place the open box on the ribbon on its side next to the cross to represent the tomb.
Have a white cloth ready.*

Jesus dies. It's finished.
Jesus's friends take Jesus's body.
Take the figure of Jesus from the cross, or take the crucifix.

They wrap Jesus in a cloth.
Wrap the Jesus figure or crucifix in the cloth.
They take him to a garden
and put his body in a Dark Cave.
Place the Jesus figure or crucifix in the cave, with the box still on its side.
They roll a stone across the Cave shut.
Place the lid on the box



This isn't the end of the story,
even though it feels like it.
Because let me tell you a secret.
Whisper: Sssssssh! Listen!

Slowly with a loud whisper,
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death finger to lips. Ssssssh!

Can you whisper that?
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death finger to lips. Ssssssh!

Lead the group in singing in a whisper:
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death finger to lips. Ssssssh!
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death finger to lips. Ssssssh!
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists, love crossed arms is stronger clench fists
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death finger to lips. Ssssssh!

Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than EVERYTHING! throw arms out wide
Let's sing that!

Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than everything! throw arms out wide
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than everything! throw arms out wide
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists, love crossed arms is stronger clench fists
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than everything! throw arms out wide

It's time for us to go.
But remember, this isn't the end of the story.
Come to church on Easter Day
to find out just how strong clench fists gently Love is!

And remember: you should never keep a secret from your important adult!
Make sure you whisper our secret in their ear today!
And maybe you can whisper it to other people, too!

Either: Let's finish by singing our secret one more time.
Or (if you will end with the Lord's Prayer): Let's sing our secret one more time.
I wonder who you could whisper our secret to today?

Lead the group in singing in a whisper. End each line as indicated with a spoken 'Ssssssh!'
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death Finger on lips Ssssssh!
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death Finger on lips Ssssssh!
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists, love crossed arms is stronger clench fists
Love crossed arms is stronger clench fists gently than Death Finger on lips Ssssssh!



Optional, if appropriate:

Let's finish by holding hands and saying the prayer Jesus taught us:
the Lord's Prayer.

Use the version that's used in your local church or school.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Mini Storytelling Boxes

If you like, you could give each child a mini version of the storytelling box for them to take home, along with a simple version of the story for children to read and sing themselves. You could offer them the option to personalize during the session at one of the tables, where felt tips and scissors are provided. See the Appendix for more information.

We would love to hear how your storytelling went with any relevant feedback. Do get in touch at diddydisciples@gmail.com. If you're going to share your experiences on Facebook or Twitter please tag us! @DiddyDisciples

Appendix

Good Friday Workshops: an example session

Part One:

- Welcome Song
- Short (recap style) versions of Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Jesus Cleans the Temple, adapted from the Journey to the Cross Unit in *Diddy Disciples: Book 2: January to August*, London: SPCK, 2017).
- Snack: hot cross buns

Part Two

- Story of the Last Supper (adapted from adapted from the Journey to the Cross Unit in *Diddy Disciples: Book 2: January to August*, London: SPCK, 2017).
- A range of Creative Responses

Part Three:

- The Story of Love: the Story of the Cross
- A range of Creative Responses (including an option to personalize your own storytelling box for home)

Easter Day: Some groups may prefer to leave the story of the Risen Jesus to Easter Day. However, if you would like to cover this in your workshop (for instance in a school setting), material is available in the Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! Unit *Diddy Disciples: Book 2: January to August*, London: SPCK, 2017).

Mini Storytelling Boxes

For each child, you will need:

- a box with a lid that the figure of Jesus can fit inside when wrapped in the cloth. For instance: <https://www.tinyboxcompany.co.uk/small-medium-kraft-recycled-jewellery-box#l53=24l>.
- a thin red ribbon. (for instance a 5mm red ribbon around 40cm long for the children's boxes)
- a mini figure of Jesus (with these and other templates, it may be easiest to cut these into simple squares that will fit into the box and let the children cut them out properly during the session)
- a mini cup/chalice and a tiny piece of pitta bread
- a small twig of a plant (e.g. rosemary) represent the Garden of Gethsemane
- a short piece of string
- wire or a purple pipe cleaner (for the children to twist into a crown)
- two small twigs and a piece of string for the children to make into a cross (younger children may need help with this). Make sure these are small enough to fit into the box before giving them to the children.
- a white piece of cloth (felt, cotton or kitchen paper) (big enough to wrap the figure in).

See www.diddydisciples.org/samples for pdfs of a simplified version of the storytelling for children to take home.

Creative Response Starter Ideas

The Cross

- † Invite the children to decorate a cross made from wood or card. You may like to show the children a photograph of one or more of the crosses that are used in your own church or local area or around the world as inspiration. However, encourage them to explore their own unique ideas and designs. *Provide wooden crosses or the cross template, pencils/crayons/paints and scissors. If you have collage materials and glue, make these available too. If you have string or wool, you could see if any children would like to make necklaces or bookmarks with their cross.*
- † Give older children the opportunity to make their own cross from simple materials. *Provide twigs or larger sticks and string.*
- † Invite the children to paint or draw a cross or a heart on a stone or safe piece of wood to carry in their pocket. *Provide smooth pebbles (check they aren't a choking hazard) or a piece of wood (check for splinters) and felt tips/pastels/paints.*
- † Give the children the opportunity to make a stained glass cross. Invite them to glue brightly coloured tissue/cellophane/crepe paper to cross-shaped wax/baking paper. *Provide scissors, glue and brightly coloured tissue/crepe/cellophane paper (e.g. transparent sweet wrappers) plus baking/wax paper (the whiter the better, but brown paper still works) in the shape of a cross. You (or older children) can make a cross shape by folding square or rectangular wax/baking paper into quarters then cutting an L-shape into it (making sure you don't cut into any side that's a fold).*
- † Invite the children to make a cross with playdough, salt dough or air-drying clay. They may also like to etch patterns into it. *Provide playdough, salt dough or air-drying clay, clay modelling tools or plastic (safe) knives and forks.*

Jesus shares bread and wine

- † Give the children the opportunity to decorate their own cup or chalice from Jesus' Last Supper. If you have examples in your own church that are available, you could show these to the children but encourage the children to create their own unique designs. *Provide chalice template, pencils/crayons, scissors. Optional: different coloured collage materials and glue.*
- † Give the children the opportunity to spend time kneading and shaping bread dough into a roll to take home, bake and share. *Provide a simple bread dough for the children (use a readymade mix, or your own recipe), a floured container or cling film to take the roll home in, and appropriate instructions for baking the bread. Optional: if you have the facilities, you may even like to bake the bread on site.*
- † Give the children the opportunity to decorate a paper cup with the story of Jesus' Last Supper. If you have examples of decorated communion cups or chalices in your own church that are available, you could show these to the children. *Provide paper cups that can be drawn on, pencils/crayons, scissors. Optional: different coloured collage materials and glue.*
- † Invite the children to decorate mini wooden chalices and patens. *Provide felt tip pens or good quality pencils, wooden mini cups and plates. Possible examples include: <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/wooden-egg-cups> and <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/wooden-coasters>.*
- † Give the children the opportunity to create their own artwork of Jesus' Last Supper. Show them examples of famous or local paintings then encourage them to use these as a starting point to paint or draw their own picture. *Provide paper, paints/pastels, famous paintings for inspiration (e.g. The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci, Joos van Cleve, Hans Holbein the Younger, Fra Angelico). Optional: picture frame template or an 'icon background' (a piece of card wrapped in tinfoil that's slightly larger than the paper provided).*

Holy Week

- † Give the children the opportunity to make a Lent or Holy Week wheel to tell six stories from Holy Week, with an arrow to move around the stories. Examples of six stories include: Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Jesus Cleans the Temple, Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and Easter Day. Your group of children may like to choose differently. *Provide wheel with arrow template, paper fasteners, pencils/crayons]/pens*
- † Invite the children to decorate a heart to remind them of the strength of love. They may even want to write 'Love is stronger' on their heart. *Provide large heart template, pencils/crayons/paints and scissors. If you have collage materials, and glue, make these available too. If you have string or wool, you could see if any children would like to make necklaces or bookmarks with their hearts.*
- † Give the children the opportunity to make their own Easter Garden. *Provide a box or tub from recycling or a paper plate to hold the garden (tubs with lids such as margarine tub or takeaway containers are ideal for easy transportation home), plus a range of materials that could be used to create the garden such as: soil and grass/flower seeds, or green fabric/paper and real or paper flowers (for the garden), a paper cup, yoghurt pot, plant pot, section of an egg tray (for the cave), a suitably sized stone to seal the cave.*

