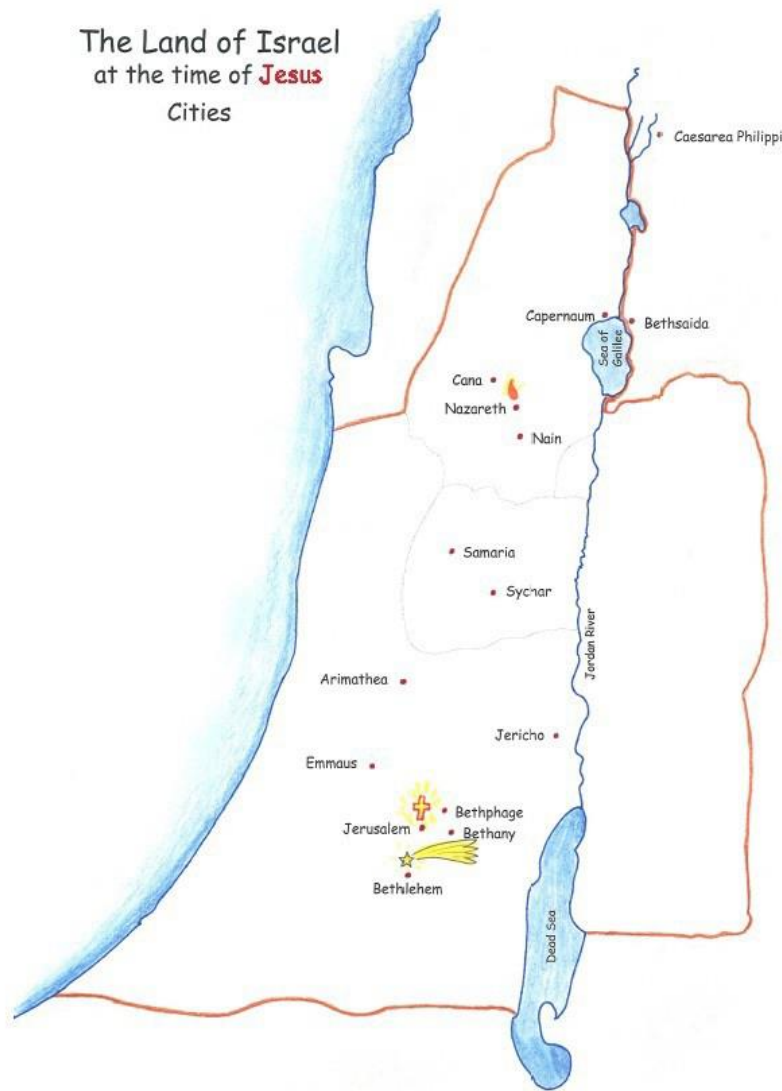


Good Friday

Parents of younger, Level I children, will want to modify this presentation as appropriate for their children. The younger children have spent time with Jerusalem. The Jerusalem material was going to move into the Upper Atrium during Lent and that did not get to happen. So the Upper Atrium children will not be familiar with the material but have worked with the maps of the regions and cities of Israel.

We name some of the significant locations of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus and realize that Jerusalem is an actual place where Jesus lived during a specific time.



Show the children the map of Israel showing the three important cities in Jesus' life.

Point out the city of Jerusalem and ask the children what happened there.

(Response---may say that is where Jesus died and rose again.). Jesus was often in the city of Jerusalem teaching and healing. It is in this city that Jesus spent the last days before his death.



Look at the picture of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was here in the City of Jerusalem for a special Jewish holiday, Passover. He celebrated with his friends, his disciples, in a home, we call the cenacle or the upper room. Can you find it in the picture? (Gray building, bottom left).

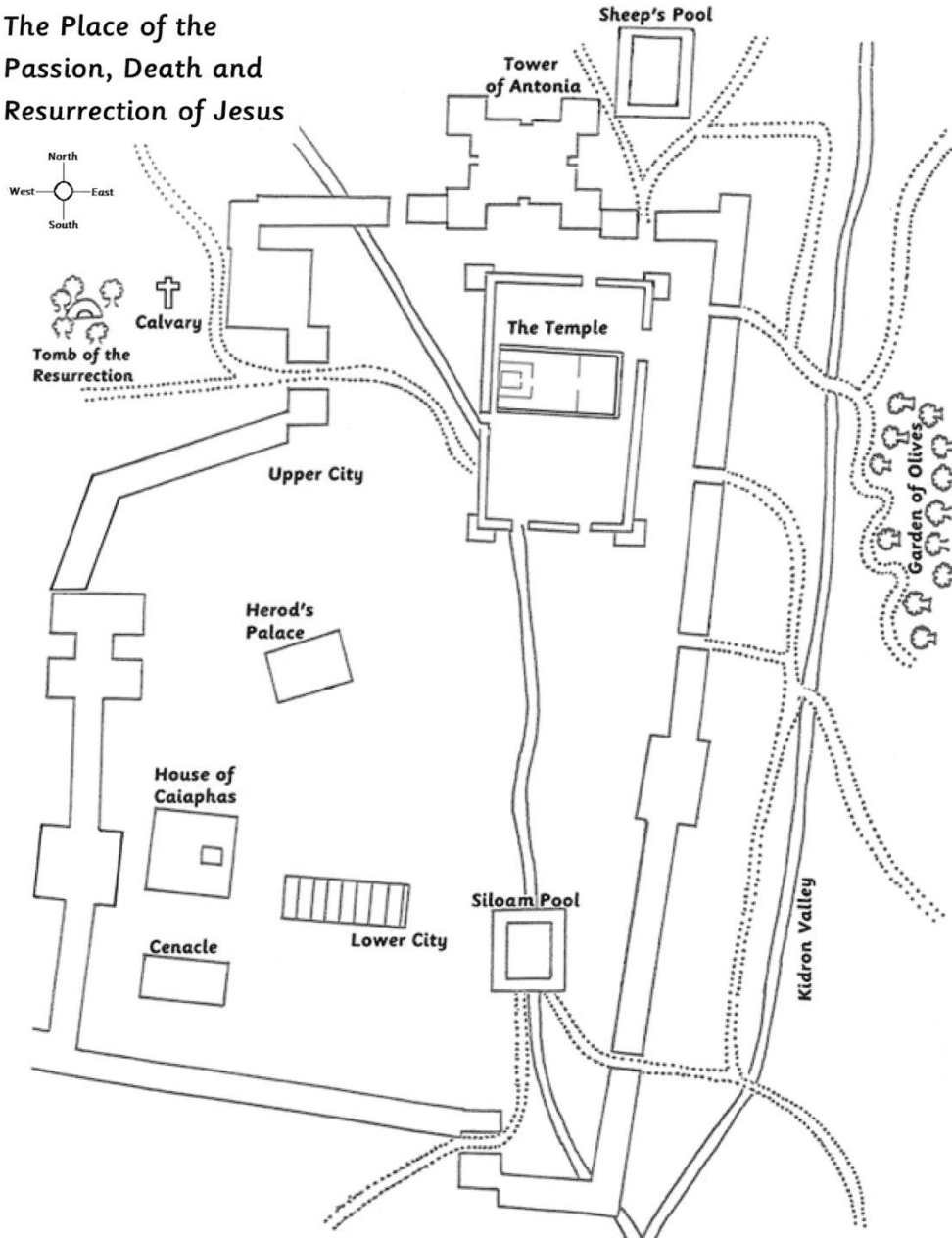


If you spent time with Anne's meditation on the Cenacle, you are familiar with what happens here. He offers his body and blood to his disciples in love and asks them to continue to do this in remembrance of him.

After supper on Thursday, Jesus and his disciples left the city and went to the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is to the right outside the city.

Jerusalem

The Place of the
Passion, Death and
Resurrection of Jesus



The soldiers came and arrested Jesus while he was in the Garden and took him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. Can you find this in the picture? or on the map? It is the larger house right above or to the north of the cenacle. Although Caiaphas wanted to put Jesus to death, he did not have the authority to do that.

So the soldiers took Jesus to see Pontus Pilate who lived and worked in the Tower of Antonia Can you find this on the map? It is the part of the wall beyond the Temple, towards the top right. Pontus Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong.

So Pontus Pilate sent Jesus to Herod's Palace. Can you find this in the picture or on the map. It is the larger building between Caiaphas's house and the Temple. Again, Jesus was questioned, and again he was sent back to Pontus Pilate.

Pontus Pilate was going to release Jesus, but a crowd had gathered and they cried out and insisted that another prisoner, Barabbas be released and that Jesus be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus outside the city to Calvary and crucified him. Can you find this in the picture or on the map? It's the hill with the tomb, the cross, and the candle. This is where Jesus died for all of us.

Jesus's body was placed in the tomb and sealed with a rock.

Did Jesus stay in the tomb? We know he rose again. But for now we need to wait.

All of this happened in the City of Jerusalem.

I wonder how Jesus' friends felt when they saw him arrested?

I wonder if Jesus' friends tried to stay with him or if they ran away?

It's very hard to wait to see what happens isn't it?

I wonder what you would say to Jesus if you could talk to him today. (Response: silence and quiet is always fine. We don't know how the children are reacting to these events. They may say something at a later time or express something in a drawing.)

Some work for the children: (Please, remember that personal work is a choice in the atrium, so these are only ideas, not requirements.)

- They may want to draw their own picture of the City of Jerusalem or of Calvary.
- They may want to write out the phrase, “Jesus died and He is risen” and decorate it as a prayer card.
- The older children may want to number the route that Jesus followed from the Cenacle to Calvary on a map of the city.

Extensions for Upper Atrium Children Especially for Easter

These are scripture readings that may be used to support the older children’s experiences with the Bible. I have included a scripture chart. This chart is hanging in the Upper Atrium. The chart begins with Palm Sunday readings and continues through the Resurrection.

The children have been exposed to the Books of the Bible, that the Bible is made up of many books. **They have just begun finding citations.** We have talked about the fact that the New Testament is toward the back of the Bible coming after the Old Testament, which has many more books. They have made Kingdom of God charts that show the Old Testament covering the time before Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection, and the Old Testament covering the time of Jesus’ life and the time after his resurrection.

There are different ways to use these scriptures.

- As we use Luke for the Jerusalem presentation, you may want to choose some of the Luke passages to read. The reading for the Resurrection, Luke 24:1-12 is a good way to celebrate Easter.
- As it is Year A in our Common Revised Lectionary, the children will be hearing the resurrection story in John 20:1-10 in church. You may want to read this with them.
- Throughout the next couple of weeks, you may want to read the other resurrection stories in Matthew and Mark.

Introduction

This is one of the stories of Jesus’ resurrection that we find in the Bible. Would someone find the page in the Bible.

Light a candle if available. We light a candle when we read scripture as the Bible is a lamp that lights our path.

Take turns reading the passage.

Thoughts and questions to ponder:

- What did you hear?
- Who visited the tomb and received the good news?
- Who was the messenger of the good news?
- How do you think the visitors felt when they heard the good news?
- Did the person or people receiving the good news share it with others?
- How do you feel today receiving the good news of Jesus' resurrection?

If you read several of the resurrection stories, you might compare them:

- Who were visitors?
- How was the message given?
- Where did the visitors go when they left the tomb?
- Are there other elements that are the same or different?

Possible work of the children:

- The children might draw a picture of one of the empty tomb scenes
- The children might make a diorama of one of the empty tomb scenes
- The children might make a chart comparing two of the resurrection stories.
- The children might do a Reader's Theater of one of the scenes with different children taking different parts in the story: the messenger, one of the women, Peter

The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Messiah Enters Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-40	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-35	14:12-31	22:7-34	13:1-38
The Agony in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Jesus is Arrested	26:46-56	14:42-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus Before Caiaphas	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-71	18:12-27
Jesus Before Pilate: The First Time	27:11-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38
Jesus Before Herod			23:8-12	
Jesus Before Pilate: The Second Time	27:15-31	15:6-20	23:13-25	18:39-40 19:1-16
The Crucifixion	27:32-66	15:20-47	23:26-56	19:17-42
The Resurrection	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-10