

# Family Activities for The Great Vigil of Easter

## Reading Scripture:

During the Great Vigil of Easter we hear many readings from the bible about how God saved people throughout history, and then sent his son Jesus to be our redeemer. Below are some of the pieces of scripture we would share. Read through them as a family, watching some depictions online and talk about our story together.

**Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13**

A Cartoon Depiction of the story of Noah:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yzN0fUxjkQ>

**Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20- 21**

A Cartoon Depiction of Exodus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkru9sTnurU>

**Jonah 1-3.10**

A Cartoon Depiction of the story of Jonah:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSadLyqshg>

**Matthew 28.1-10**

A Reading of the Gospel of Matthew: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz2Tr5qh2vM>

## Family Activities:

*As you take part in these activities together feel free to send Roshni pictures of what you created and your time together. With your permission Roshni will share these pictures with our Redeemer community as another way to help us stay connected.*

### Activity 1: Light your candles & Create your 'fire'

The Great Easter Vigil begins with fire and a service of light. On **page 3** you will find some suggestions about using and creating light to mark the beginning of this service as a family.

### Activity 2: Explore Baptism

During the great vigil people are often baptized, or we join with others as they re-affirm their baptism vows. On **page 4** you and your family are invited to explore baptism together.

### Activity 3: Create & ring your bells

After we hear and explore scripture, and re-affirm our promises of faith we ring bells together to give glory to God. On **page 5** you will find some ways that you can create and make some ringing noise to praise God.

### Activity 4: Colouring Sheets and word puzzles

On **pages 6-11** feel free to print and complete/colour these activity sheets.

### Activity 5: Draw a picture

You and your family are invited to draw pictures of how you imagine the parts of the Great Vigil of Easter, or the stories of scripture that you hear. If you send a picture of your illustration to Roshni we can share this with members of the Redeemer community as we all mark this day in unique ways this year.

# Light your Candles & Create your fire

The Great Vigil of Easter begins in darkness and as a community we create a fire and then greet one another. In the fire that we light the paschal candle that burns throughout the rest of the year. After the paschal candle other candles and lamps in the church can be lit. We invite your family to gather your own candles and light them together as the fire that begins tonight gives us new hope for what is to come.

## Gathering Candles:

Gather together any candles you might have in your home (decorative candles or even birthday candles!). Put your candles together in the middle of a table or some other safe space. Take turns or have an adult light the candles for your home.

When you finish lighting the candles one person can say "The light of Christ" and your family may respond "Thanks be to God!"

## Creating a 'new fire':

### Supplies:

- Sticks from outside
- Tape or Glue
- Crayons/pencil crayons/markers
- White paper

### Directions:

1. Tape or glue the sticks you have found to the bottom of your paper
2. Cut or tear apart a piece of paper and colour the bits of paper red, orange and yellow
3. Glue or tape the bits of paper onto the same paper as your sticks to create your own new fire



# Explore Baptism

Another wonderful part of the Great Vigil of Easter is the celebration of baptism & renewal of vows. Sometimes at our vigil services people are baptized, and sometimes people want to re-new their baptism vows and remind themselves of the promises they have made to God. Below are some ways that you and your family can explore baptism whether or not you have been baptized.

## The importance of water:

Pour some water in a bowl - touch the water and play with it. It is important to remember that in baptism we bless water and use it as an important symbol of this celebration. We give thanks for water and the role water has played in the many stories of our faith.

## Talking about baptism:

If anyone in your family has been baptized talk about what that day was like and hear what people in your family remember. See if you can find any pictures of the baptism too! If no one has been baptized watch this cartoon depiction of Jesus being baptized:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VMNO2MAmWA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VMNO2MAmWA)



# Create & Ring Your Bells

In our service of the Great Vigil of Easter, after we hear & explore scripture together, we sing our thanks and praises to God and ring bells. Below are some ways that you can ring bells and create some beautiful music giving thanks for all that God has done!

## Gathering your Bells & instruments:

Gather together any bells or musical instruments you might have in your home (don't forget about your doorbell if you have one!). After your family reads one or all of the pieces of scripture on the first page of this package ring your bells & play your instruments saying "Glory to God" Remember this is a happy and celebratory way to give thanks for God! Be joyful!

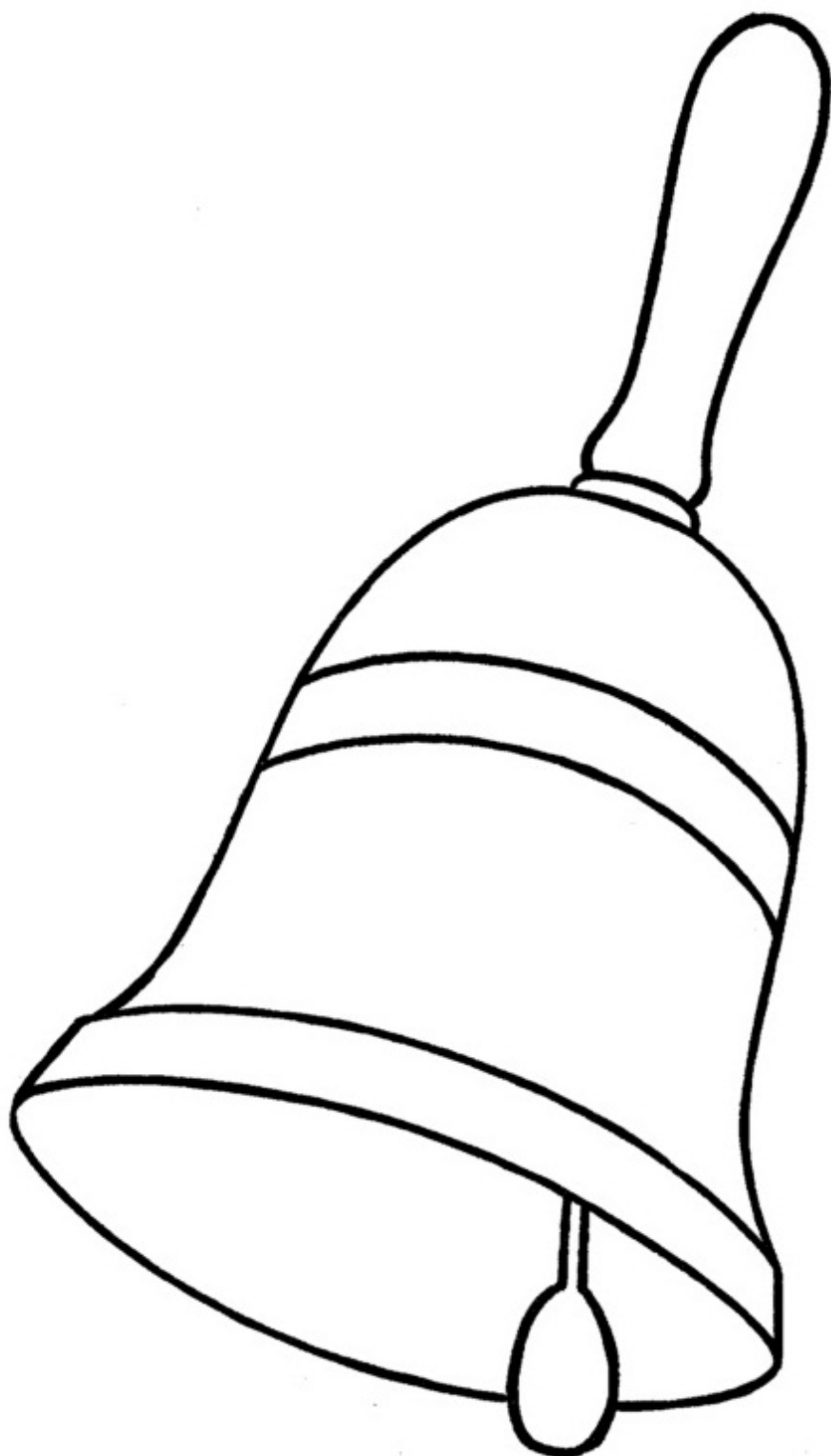
## Making your own music:

If you don't have any bells or musical instruments below are some things you can use around the house to make them yourself!

- **Water Glasses:** Fill up some glasses with different amounts of water. Use a spoon to gently hit the water glass and hear the sound it makes.
- **Shakers:** Fill a can or cup or reusable storage container with some raw pasta, beans or stones. If you are using a cup or can cover up the open end with plastic wrap or paper and make sure it stays on. Shake your shakers to hear the music you have made!









Noah Thanks God from [dailycoloringpages.com](http://dailycoloringpages.com)

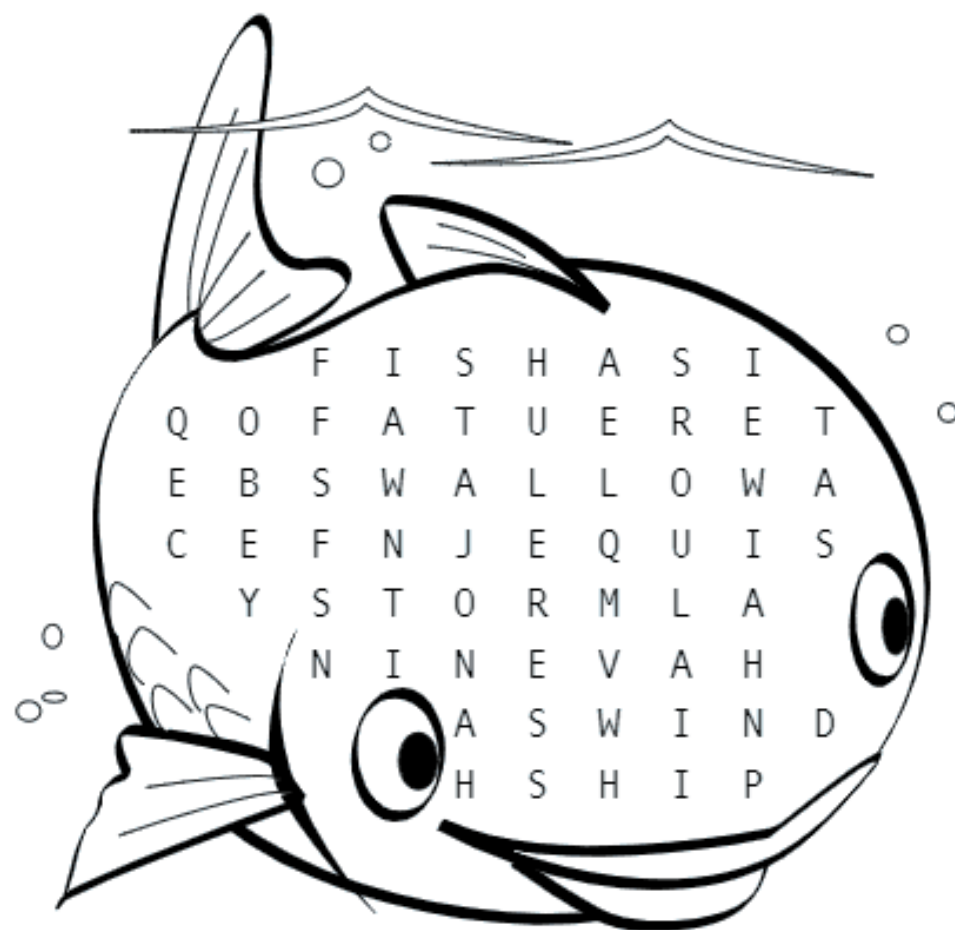




# Jonah and the Big Fish

## Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



FISH  
JONAH  
NINEVAH

OBEY  
SEA  
SHIP

STORM  
SWALLOW  
WIND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S
T	T	M	Y	B	M	F	J	E	S	U	A	J	A	C	K	A	Y	U	U
N	W	S	P	S	G	O	L	O	V	E	L	E	C	E	D	N	T	R	R
N	A	G	R	F	A	R	L	P	A	L	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	R
J	S	I	A	A	F	T	P	L	Y	E	S	E	I	S	O	J	U	S	E
C	H	V	Y	S	O	Y	U	J	Y	N	U	A	F	T	A	E	R	U	C
J	I	I	E	T	R	D	R	R	M	T	N	S	I	E	H	S	S	S	T
A	N	N	R	I	H	A	P	W	D	J	D	T	C	R	X	U	D	W	I
N	G	G	C	N	O	Y	L	W	E	A	A	E	E	Y	G	S	A	Z	O
W	E	D	N	G	L	S	E	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	H	Y	C	N

Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love

