

Children's Resources – Sunday 5th April

(Older children will be able to read this themselves but younger will need the parent/grandparent to talk through the story part with them. It might be good to do this before or after the online service to improve their engagement with it.)

Matthew 23: 34-39

³⁴Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah,^[f] whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

To Begin

It is spring and in this season what baby animals do we often see?

Maybe lambs and calves in the fields, Baby foxes and deer and baby chicks.

Have you ever seen or even held a baby chick? They are lovely and fluffy and cute aren't they?!

Well in today's passage from the Bible Jesus talks about us being like baby chicks, let's find out more!

Story

Jesus is still talking to the Pharisees like he was last week and he is not happy.

He warns them that they will treat the people God sends to tell them about him badly and that because of this they will suffer.

Jesus says that He wants to gather his children like a Hen gathers her brood under her wings, but sadly these people wouldn't come to Jesus.

But isn't that a lovely picture?

A mother hen lifts up her large wings and all her little chicks snuggle in under her wings.

Not only are the chicks kept warm and cuddled, they are also safe and hidden from any dangers around them.

Jesus wants us to come to Him like this. He wants to gather us in and keep us covered and safe. But as He said we have to accept this and follow Him.

Next Sunday is Easter Sunday when we celebrate that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose again 3 days later, defeating death.

If we follow him, our sins are forgiven and he will keep us safe and never leave us. Like a hen with her chicks under her wings.

So the next time you see a chick, even a picture of one maybe on one of your easter eggs – remember that about Jesus!

Prayer

Father God, we praise you for creating everything we see, even baby animals at springtime! We are sorry for the times this week we have not obeyed you. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you for loving us and protecting us. Help us to rely on you and follow you.
Amen

Questions

1. Who was Jesus talking to in the story?
2. Why was Jesus not happy with them?
3. What does a mother hen do with her chicks?
4. How does Jesus love and protect us?

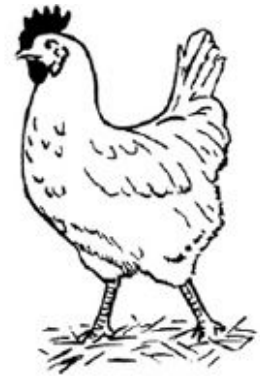
Activities

1. Older children – wordsearch
2. Everyone – colouring sheet
3. Everyone – perhaps during the week if you have some wool at home you could google 'how to make a pom pom chick' and follow the instructions to make your own chick!

The Mother Hen

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" Luke 13:34

Based on Luke 13:31-35



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

BLESSED	PHARISEES	GATHER	TODAY	WINGS
JESUS	STONE	HOUSE	FOX	NAME
HEN	TOMORROW	HEAL	CHICKS	GOAL
JERUSALEM	HEROD	PROPHET	DEMONS	KILL

'How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!'

Matthew 23: 37

