

Making Inferences

When things are not explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read this part of the Easter Story then answer the questions in full sentences.

The Easter Story **(Based on Matthew 21: 1-17)**

Palm Sunday

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and you will find a donkey tied there, with her foal by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This was predicted by the Old Testament prophets. "Say to the daughters of Zion, 'See your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey with her foal.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the foal, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole place was uneasy and local people asked, "Who is this?"

The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the son of David," they were angry.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Jesus.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you are praised'?" And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.



The Easter Story Questions

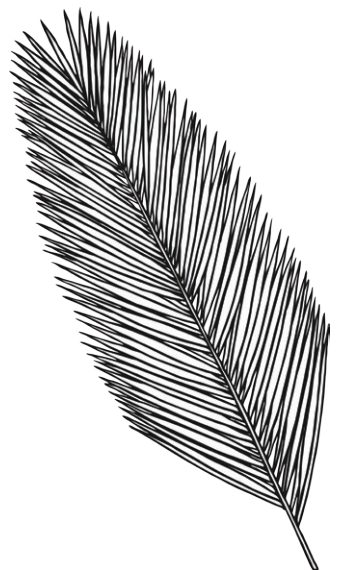
1. What did Jesus feel about riding on a donkey?

2. What did the disciples think about Jesus riding on a donkey?

3. Why did the crowds put cloaks and branches on the ground?

4. Why were the priests so cross about Jesus healing sick people?

5. Why did Jesus leave the city for the night if he had only just arrived?



The Easter Story Answers

These are the most probable answers, using evidence from the text. Other answers are acceptable if they are consistent with the text and are plausible.

1. What did Jesus feel about riding on a donkey?

Jesus might have been tired if he had walked a long way so he would be grateful not to walk any further. But he also says to his disciples that the prophets said he would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey so he wanted to make the prediction come true.

2. What did the disciples think about Jesus riding on a donkey?

The disciples might have felt that if Jesus was important then a donkey would not be a proper way to travel. Maybe they thought a horse or a cart would have been more appropriate.

3. Why did the crowds put cloaks and branches on the ground?

The crowds put cloaks and branches on the ground because the roads were dusty and may have been full of potholes. In respect for Jesus they wanted him to have a gentle journey into the city.

4. Why were the priests so cross about Jesus healing sick people?

The priests may have been jealous that Jesus was getting more attention than them. They also knew that Jesus was making sick people better when they couldn't and that must have made them feel cross.

5. Why did Jesus leave the city for the night if he had only just arrived?

If the priests were cross with Jesus, they may have wanted to put him in prison or harm him in some way. If Jesus went out of the city for a while, they may calm down and be less angry with him.

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The Easter Story **(Based on Matthew 26: 17-30)**

The Last Supper Part I

During the feast of Unleavened Bread, or Passover, Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead with some instructions of how to prepare the Passover meal.

The meal was prepared and Jesus and his twelve disciples all sat around the table for the Last Supper. It was a dangerous time for Jesus as there were many people who wanted him killed because they were angry about his popularity. Because of this, Jesus' disciples were very quiet whilst eating.

During the meal, Jesus finally spoke and said, "I tell you the truth, one of you here will betray me." The disciples were all shocked and wondered who it could be.

Jesus carried on and said, "The one who dips their hand into this bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as it is written, but the man who betrays me will feel sorry forever."

Then, with his head bowed down, Judas quietly asked, "It isn't me is it?"

To this, Jesus replied, "Yes, you are the one." This made Judas very ashamed and worried.

Jesus then thanked God for the bread and broke it apart to share with everyone. "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you," he announced. He then held a cup of red wine and said, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." The cup was passed around and everyone took a sip from it.



The Easter Story Questions

1. Were the disciples worried about Jesus' safety? Why do you think this?

2. Why did the disciples stay with Jesus for a meal if his life was in danger?

3. What could Judas do next?

4. Why did Jesus say the bread was his body and the wine was his blood?

5. Why did all of the disciples share the same cup to drink from?



The Easter Story Answers

These are the most probable answers, using evidence from the text. Other answers are acceptable if they are consistent with the text and are plausible.

1. Were the disciples worried about Jesus' safety? Why do you think this?

The disciples were worried about the safety of Jesus. The text says that they were very quiet during the meal, this would suggest that the atmosphere may not have been very relaxed.

2. Why did the disciples stay with Jesus for a meal if his life was in danger?

The disciples were friends of Jesus and friends stay and support each other not run away when times get difficult.

3. What could Judas do next?

When Judas heard that he would betray Jesus he could have left the group and not put himself in a difficult position. By staying with Jesus and the disciples he would be more likely to make the prediction come true.

4. Why did Jesus say the bread was his body and the wine was his blood?

The bread and wine were not really Jesus' body and blood but he wanted people to think that they represented something as important as his blood and body. If he knew that the priests were going to kill him then he wanted a way for people to remember him after he had died.

5. Why did all of the disciples share the same cup to drink from?

Sharing food and drink is a friendly thing to do and by using the same cup to drink from it shows what close friends Jesus and the disciples were.

Making Inferences

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The Easter Story **(Based on John 13: 1-17)**

The Last Supper Part II

The Passover meal was in progress but after a while, Jesus left the table and changed into some simple clothes (a large cloth wrapped around his waist). He then filled a bowl with water and began to go round washing the disciples' feet, drying them with the cloth He wore.

This was an incredibly shocking thing for his disciples to see as they saw Him as the King of Kings. They wondered why he was doing such a humble servant's task like washing people's feet. When Jesus came round to Peter, he asked Him, "Lord, why are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus said, "You won't understand why I am doing this now, but you will later."

"No, you will never wash my feet," said Peter. He couldn't imagine having his Lord doing such a thing to him! Jesus was a very special person to Peter.

"If you don't let me wash your feet, then you can no longer stay with me," Jesus replied.

"Well then, please wash my feet, along with my hands and head too, my Lord!" Peter said. Jesus then explained that he only needed to wash his feet and his whole body would become clean.

Once he had finished washing all of his disciples' feet, he changed into his normal clothes and returned to the table.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and that is who I am. Now that I have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet as I have done for you as an example. For no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."



The Easter Story Questions

1. What might have prompted Jesus to leave the table and wash the disciples' feet?

2. Who usually washed the feet of guests at a meal? Give reasons for your answer.

3. Why did Jesus tell Peter that if he didn't let him wash his feet he couldn't stay with him?

4. Why did Jesus change his clothes to wash the disciples' feet?

5. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to wash each other's feet?



The Easter Story Answers

These are the most probable answers, using evidence from the text. Other answers are acceptable if they are consistent with the text and are plausible.

1. What might have prompted Jesus to leave the table and wash the disciples' feet?
Jesus knew he was going to die, he wanted to leave the disciples with a final lesson and a good example to follow.
2. Who usually washed the feet of guests at a meal? Give reasons for your answer.
The feet of the guests would have been washed by a maid or servant because the text says that the disciples 'wondered why He was doing such a humble task like washing people's feet.' And that they thought it was a 'shocking' thing for Jesus to do.
3. Why did Jesus tell Peter that if he didn't let him wash his feet he couldn't stay with him?
Washing his friends' feet was something that Jesus really wanted to do to show he was no more important than they were. If Peter wouldn't let him do this then Jesus could not show the importance of being 'washed' clean. Jesus is referring to staying with him not just in life but also in death, being washed clean to enter heaven.
4. Why did Jesus change his clothes to wash the disciples' feet?
Washing the disciples feet may have been messy and wet so Jesus changed into other clothes. It also showed the disciples that sometimes Jesus was like a servant and at other times like a friend and changing clothes was a symbol of that change of role.
5. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to wash each other's feet?
Just like Jesus washed his friends' feet to show that he wasn't too important to do such a job. He wanted the disciples to show others respect and humility and to not think of themselves as too important to serve.