

PASCAL

CANDLE



SESSION 1



**LET'S  
DISCUSS...**

*What do you  
think a ritual  
is?*





**LET'S  
DISCUSS...**



What do you  
think is the  
difference  
between a  
ritual and a  
routine?



Can we come up with  
our own definitions?



*Routine is:*

*Ritual is:*

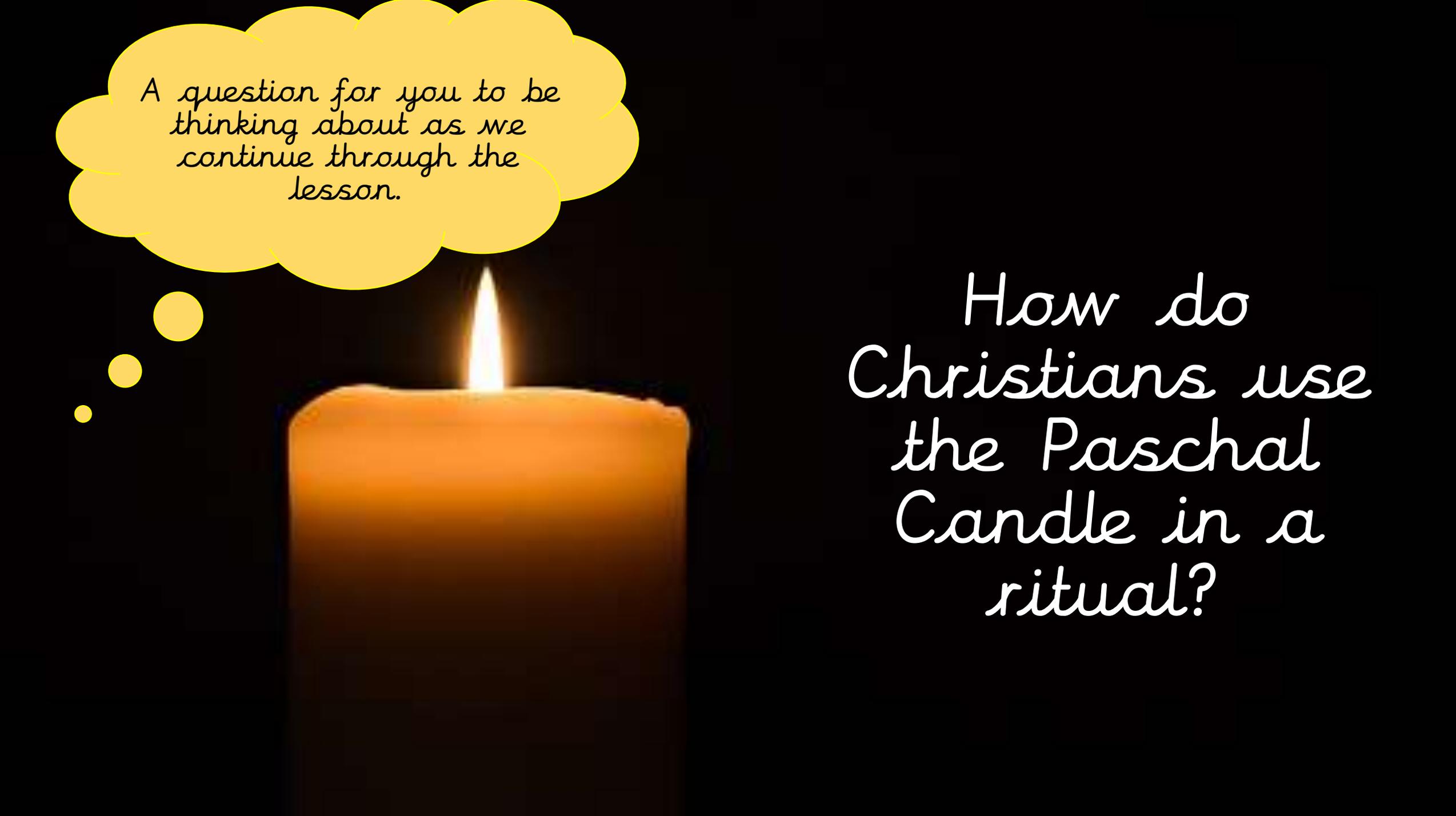


## Dictionary Definitions

Ritual: A religious or individual ceremony which involves a series of actions performed in a set order

Routine: A sequence of actions regularly followed

How close were your definitions?

A lit candle is the central focus, with a bright flame. Above the candle is a large yellow thought bubble containing text. To the left of the candle, there are three smaller yellow circles of decreasing size, suggesting a trail of thought.

A question for you to be thinking about as we continue through the lesson.

How do Christians use the Paschal Candle in a ritual?

We're now going to look and read two versions of 'The Empty Tomb'.

Have a think about what is the same and what is different.



## A Happy Sunday



The empty tomb

Mark 16:1-4; Matthew 28:5-8;  
John 20:3-10; Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

 Read

 Activity

The image shows a digital interface for a Sunday activity. At the top, it says 'A Happy Sunday' in blue. Below that is a circular illustration of an empty tomb with a rolled-away stone, set in a landscape with green hills and a blue sky. Underneath the illustration are three blue stars. To the right of the illustration, the title 'The empty tomb' is displayed, followed by the Bible verses: 'Mark 16:1-4; Matthew 28:5-8; John 20:3-10; Luke 24:1-12, 36-49'. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: a white button with a book icon and the word 'Read', and a purple button with a paintbrush icon and the word 'Activity'.

*Click the play button to hear a version of the Empty Tomb story.*



**LET'S  
DISCUSS...**

*What did the angel say  
in the video to the  
women?*

*What are the key  
moments? (the important  
parts)*

*On the next slide, is the  
second version of 'The  
Empty Tomb' story.*



Luke 24:1-9 (The Street Bible Version)

Crack of dawn, Sunday, the women get to the tomb-cave. Their bags are packed with the burial spices - they've not had time Friday night, and Saturday was Flyby Day. This is the first chance they've had. They get there and the boulder's been shoved to one side. They go in, but Jesus' body's not there. They're stunned: 'What could've happened to it?' Next thing, two angels are lighting up the whole cave with their dazzling bright clothes. The women hit the deck, petrified. The angels ask, 'Why you looking in a grave for someone who's alive and well? D'you think he'd hang around in a tomb? He's out of here. He's back from the dead! Remember what he said up in Galilee? He'd be handed over, executed and then he'd come back after two days. Don't you remember?' suddenly they do! It all comes back. He told them and they missed it.



**LET'S  
DISCUSS...**

*What did the angel say  
in this version to the  
women?*

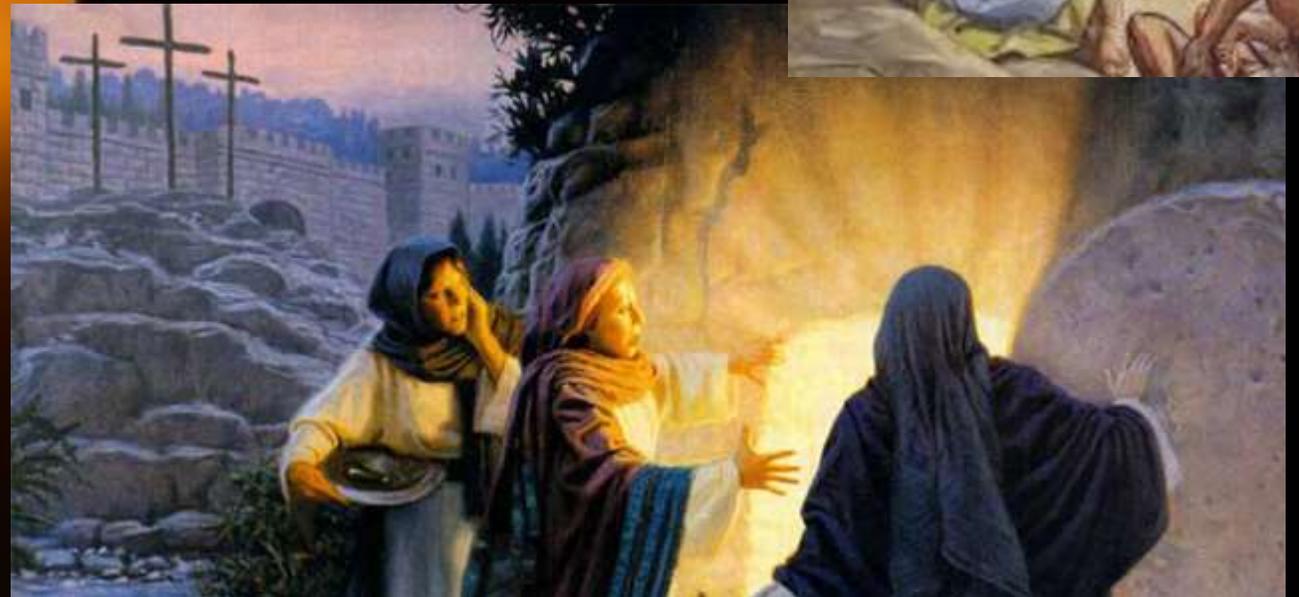
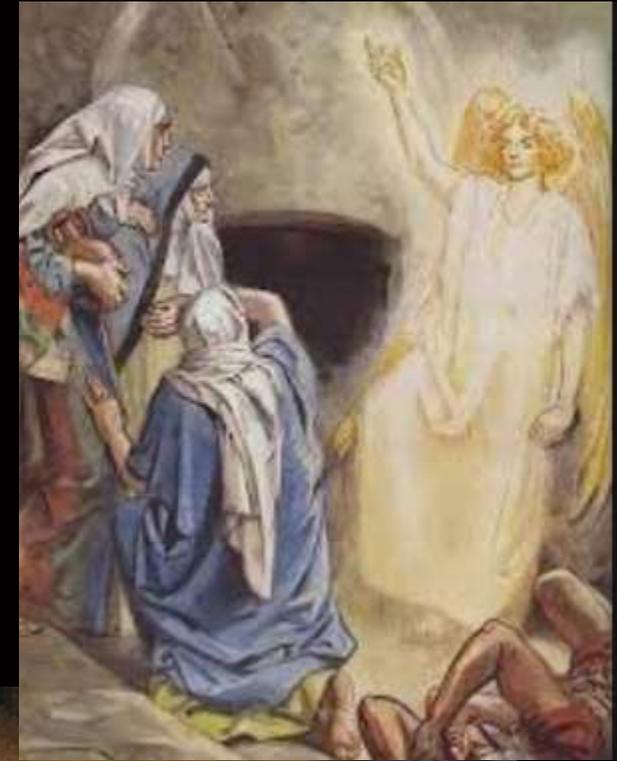
*What are the key  
moments? (the important  
parts)*

*How is this similar to  
the video?*

*How is it different?*

*On the next three slides are some different pictures, from a range of artists, showing the scene at 'The Empty Tomb'.*

*What is the artist trying to convey in the picture?  
Are they the same? Why/why not?*



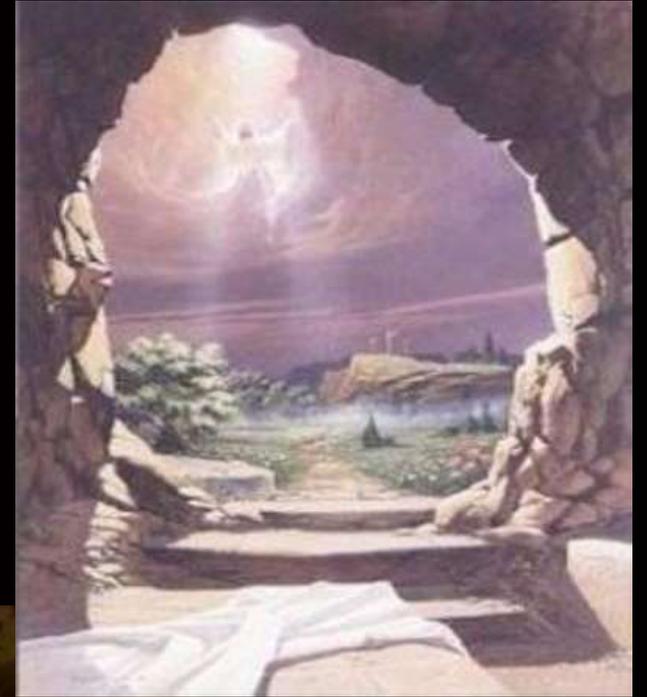
*Here are some more images created by artists.*

*What is the artist trying to convey in the picture?  
Are they the same? Why/why not?*



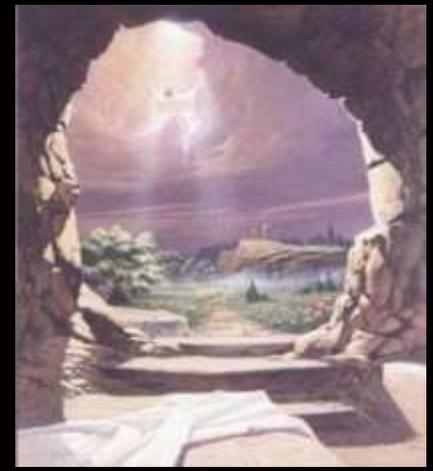
Here are some more images created by artists.

What is the artist trying to convey in the picture?  
Are they the same? Why/why not?



Which image do you like the most? Why?

LET'S DISCUSS...



You should spend at least 20 minutes creating this picture. Take your time.



## Task

Create your own image of the 'Empty Tomb'.

What would you make sure is included?

What colours might you use? Is there a reason you have chosen those colours?

Would there be any people in your picture? Why/why not? Who might you include?

You could use pen, pencils, chinks, pastels, paints to create you image.



**LET'S  
DISCUSS...**

*What ritual might  
Christians create to  
remember this story?*



What do you notice about all of these candles?

What is the same?

What is different?



# The Paschal Candle



*The Paschal Candle is sometimes called the Easter Candle because it is lit at Easter time.*

# The Lighting of the Candle

The name 'Paschal' comes from the Hebrew word Pesach which means Passover.

In the Church, at the Saturday vigil before Easter Sunday, a 'new' fire is lit. The candle is then lit from this sacred fire. The priest blesses it saying,

"The light of Christ, rising in Glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."



What do you think the lighting of the candle represents?

# The Exultet



*After the candle is lit, the priest carries it through the church in a procession. Then the Exultet is said. This is a special prayer, which ends with a blessing.*

# What Does the Paschal Candle Look Like?



The Paschal candle often has the sign of the cross on the front. There are five studs or 'nails' pressed into the candle where incense is embedded. These are supposed to represent the five wounds of Christ

Why do you think there are five studs pressed into the candle?

[Click here for video](#)

# The Flame



The candle represents the eternal presence of Christ. The lighting of the flame is to help people remember that Jesus is the Light of the World and that before he came, the world was in spiritual darkness.



*Let's watch part of  
the service using the  
Paschal candle.*

*Click the image below for the  
video*



Why do you think  
the Paschal candle  
is important in  
this ritual?



**GREAT WORK**

**EVERYONE!**