

# Unearthing the Truth about the Resurrection: Jesus Gives Us a Mission

## Lesson Aim

Easter reminds us that we have been redeemed by Jesus, and given new life through Him. Because of that, we have hope for now and for the future, and we can share that hope with one another.

## Opening Activity — Start Strong

### Egg and Straw Race

Have your child use a straw to blow an empty plastic egg a certain distance. Mark the finish line with painter's tape. Or instead of a straw, you could have players roll the egg to the finish line using only their nose.

## Introductory Activity — Symbols of Easter

This fun activity will allow kids to create sculptures from Play-Doh that represent symbols of the Easter story.

### Supplies:

1 can of Play-Doh for each child  
Basket and slips of paper for symbols

### Directions:

- ◆ Prepare slips of paper with symbols of Easter: cross, crown of thorns, dice, spear, praying hands, feet, stone, palm branches, donkey and others you might think would be good to create. Put your slips of paper in a basket.
- ◆ Create teams of 2 or three.
- ◆ Have a player from the first team choose a slip of paper from the basket without letting anyone else see what is written on the slip of paper.
- ◆ That player must then use the Play-Doh to create the symbol he/she received.
- ◆ The player's team has one minute to try to guess the symbol that is being sculpted.
- ◆ If the player's team does not guess correctly in one minute, the other team has a chance to guess.
- ◆ Once the symbol has been correctly identified, have the children explain how the symbol fits into the Easter story.
- ◆ Play then rotates to the next team.
- ◆ Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to sculpt a symbol.



## Bible story -- Mary Magdalene at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)

Today we are going to solve a mystery. Where did Jesus disappear?

### Tell the story...

Ask the kids to remember what happened between the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and today's encounter with Mary.

The story begins very early in the morning on the first day of the week. Jesus had just been crucified and buried. Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. When she got there, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Peter and John and said to them, "They have taken the Lord's body from the tomb and I don't know where they have put him."

Peter and John raced to the tomb. John got there first. He looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings lying there. Then Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linens that John had seen lying there. As he investigated further, he saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was also folded and lying apart from the other wrappings. After Peter looked around for a few minutes, John joined him inside. When they were sure that the tomb was empty, they left and went home.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she looked inside the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. One of them was sitting at the head and the other at the foot where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Why are you crying?" the angels asked. "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put him," she answered.

Then Mary turned and was about to leave when she saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. Mary, thinking that he was a gardener said, "Sir, if you have taken my master away, tell me where he is so that I can go to him."

"Mary!" Jesus said. When Jesus spoke her name, Mary knew who he was. She turned to him and cried out, "Teacher!" "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I have not yet ascended to my Father. "Go and tell my brothers that you have seen me and that I am going to return to my Father and your Father, my God and your God."

Mary found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord." Then she gave them the message that Jesus had told her to tell them.

So where did Jesus disappear? The tomb is empty because Jesus is not dead, he is alive! He is risen just as he said! The empty tomb is no mystery to us. Christ is risen! We rejoice in his name.

### Discussion Questions

- ◆ Who were the first disciples to visit the tomb? (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary)
- ◆ When did they go to visit the tomb? (After the Sabbath - or Sunday morning)
- ◆ How would you react if you visited a grave of a loved one today, and found it empty? How did the two women react? (They were afraid)
- ◆ What happened to the guards? (When they saw the angel, they were afraid and fell as if dead.)
- ◆ What did the angel say to the women? (see Matthew 28:5,6)
- ◆ Once the women understood that Jesus was alive and they would see Him again, how did they react? (They were filled with joy and hurried to tell the others.)

### Resurrection Cards

Each week share the Resurrection Cards with your class and use them to review the story and give your kids the opportunity to use them to tell others. This week's cards are LARGE STONE, EMPTY TOMB, LINEN CLOTH and RESURRECTED JESUS. Use Resurrection Cards for a final review of the Resurrection story. Give your class the choice of how they want to review the story with their resurrection cards. Concentration reviews, pick a card, etc.

### Resurrection Rolls

#### Supplies:

- ◆ 1 (8-count) tube crescent rolls
- ◆ 8 large marshmallows
- ◆ 3 tablespoons melted butter
- ◆ 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ◆ 2 teaspoons cinnamon

#### Directions:

- ◆ Preheat oven to 375 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- ◆ Unroll crescent roll dough and separate into triangles.
- ◆ Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl.
- ◆ Dip each marshmallow in butter and then coat in cinnamon sugar. Place in the middle of a piece of dough.
- ◆ Roll dough around marshmallow, sealing the seams really well. Position so seam is facing down. Sprinkle a little more cinnamon sugar on top.
- ◆ Bake for 8 to 10 minutes.

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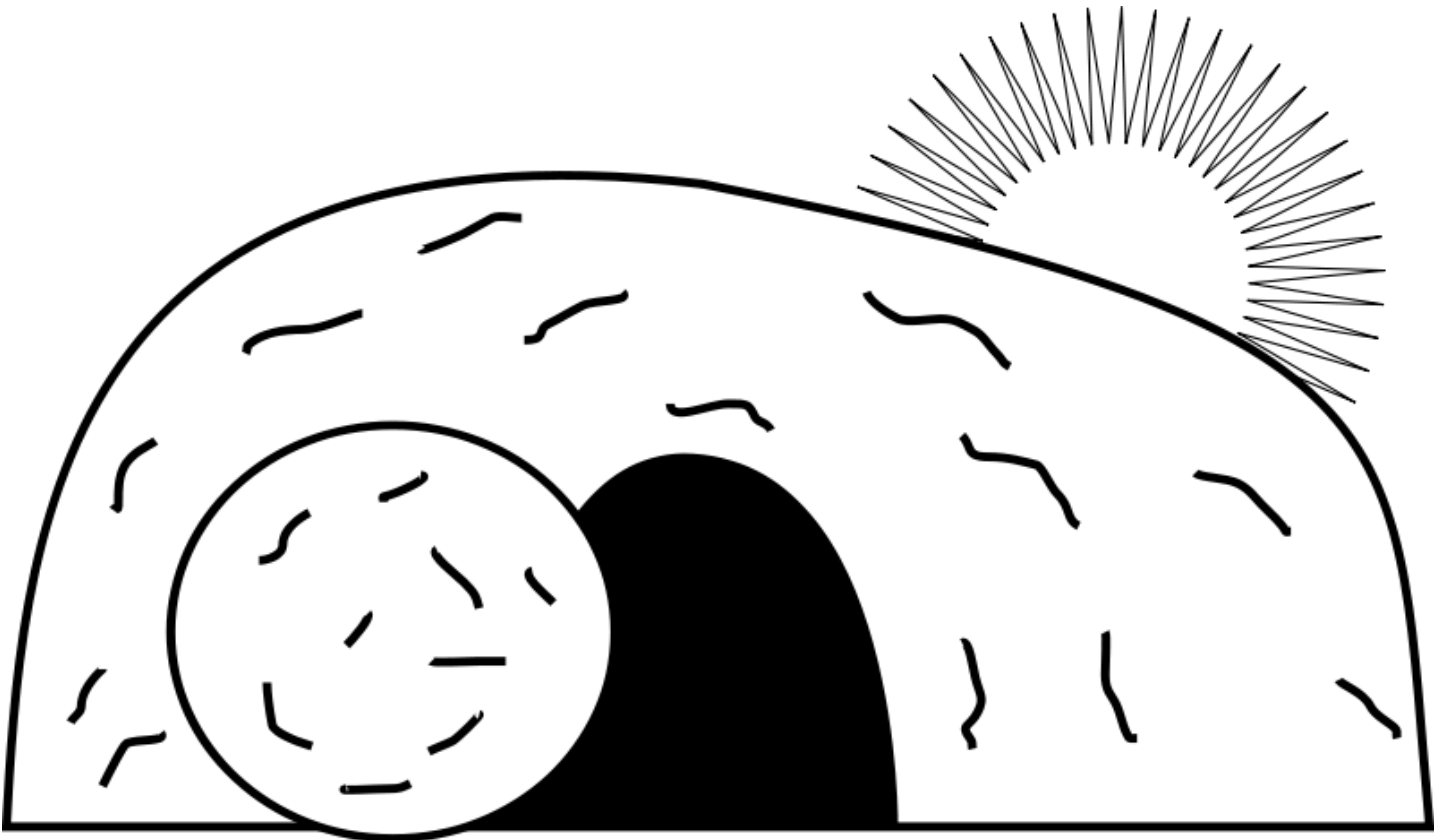
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# PRESCHOOL PAGE

## Drawing the Story — Mary meets Jesus

Many of today's activities can be easily adjusted to include your younger learners. If you need a filler activity you might consider using the coloring page below and let your preschoolers include Jesus and Mary in the picture and color it to make it their own. Encourage them to retell you the story and how that can help them to tell others about Jesus and the Good New of His Resurrection.



I CAN TELL OTHERS  
ABOUT JESUS. I CAN TELL  
THEM THAT HE IS RISEN!

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