

# Easter Sunday

*“Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee.”—Matthew 28:7 The Inclusive New Testament*

## Explore

small crosses or pictures of crosses, Bibles, paper, pens

### Walking with Jesus

Revisit the story that leads to Easter. Set up ten sites around the church with the tenth place being the classroom. Use a small cross or picture of a cross to mark each site. Give each student a map locating the sites. In each place ask students to read the scripture provided, and offer a prayer for understanding or gratitude. If possible, invite the congregation to participate in this activity.

Site	Subject	Scripture
1	Pilate	Matthew 27:11–31
2	The cross	John 19:17
3	Family	John 19:25–27
4	Support	Mark 15:21
5	Grief	Luke 23:27
6	Violation	John 19:23–25
7	Nails	Mark 15:27
8	Death	Mark 15:37
9	Burial	John 19:38
10	He Lives!	Matthew 28:1–10/Matthew 28:1–9 IV

As students return to the classroom, have them respond on the paper provided to this prompt: “See! He lives! How has your life been changed because of this? How has Jesus Christ made your life different?”

## Extract

### He Is Risen!

Now read the Easter story from Matthew 28:1–10, John 20:1–18, and Luke 24:1–10 (Luke 24:1–9 IV). Compare and contrast the events of the story told from three points of view. On a flip chart, list the similarities.

Bible, flip chart, markers  
Matthew 28:1–10/  
Matthew 28:1–9 IV  
John 21:1–18  
Luke 24:1–10/  
Luke 24:1–9 IV  
Acts 10: 34–44

Matthew	John	Luke

Ask a volunteer to read Acts 10:34–44. Does this scripture passage summarize the message Jesus brought? Ask teens to agree, disagree, or adapt the scripture so it is complete for them.

## Spiritual Family Tree

Countless lives around the world have been profoundly changed by followers of Christ sharing their testimony. Many are believers because other experienced believers mentored and nurtured them. Using a roll of brown wrapping paper, cut out a tree native to the area. Tape it to the wall. Then on the main trunk, write the names of spiritual mentors from church heritage, congregational heritage, other faith's heritage, and family heritage. As the branches or palms spread, add more spiritual mentors from the current membership. Toward the tips where new growth forms, add the teens' names. Display the spiritual family tree in a location where everyone can appreciate its gift. Create a place of meditation nearby for people to sit and think about the lives and stories the tree represents. When this activity brings sacred stories to mind, take the time to write them down and compile them in a book for others to read. Add blank pages, and set the book in the mediation area so others may add their stories.

## Our Challenge

Belief in the risen Christ is the heart of Christianity. Doctrine and Covenants 162:7a, b, d challenges:

There are many lives waiting to hear the redeeming words of the gospel, or to be lifted from hopelessness by the hands of loving servants. But they will be lost to you without the generous response of disciples who share from their own bounty that others may know the joys of the kingdom.

Many are fearful and believe their security is to be found in the accumulation of possessions. The answers you seek are not inherent in the things of this world but in a faith that places its trust in the promises given to all who would follow Jesus Christ.

The call to respond is urgent. Look to the needs of your own congregations, but look also beyond your walls to the far-flung places where the church must go. Each disciple needs a spiritual home. You are called to build that home and care for it, but also to share equally in the outreaching ministries of the church. In that way the gospel may be sent to other souls also yearning for a spiritual resting place.

Ask the students to identify opportunities to explore each of these challenges. Discuss and make a list on a flip chart. Ask the students to write a class challenge and post it on the wall.

Doctrine and  
Covenants 162, flip  
chart, markers

**Expand**

Read the scripture from Colossians 3:1–4 as a benediction on the class.

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.”

—Colossians 3:1–4 NRSV

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**Lectionary scriptures**—Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; Colossians 3:1–4; Matthew 28:1–10/28:1–9 IV; John 20:1–18; III Nephi 5:13–17; Doctrine and Covenants 162:8c