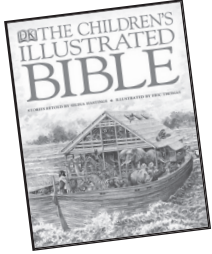


Easter Sunday



The Children's Illustrated Bible

page 276

After the sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake; an angel rolled back the stone. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were afraid. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid; Jesus is not here; he has been raised just like he said. Go tell his disciples." So they left the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. They bowed down and worshiped him. Jesus said, "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee where they will see me."

—Based on Matthew 28:1–10 and John 20:1–18



☐ Jesus Lives!

Share the story of the the women finding Jesus' tomb empty from Matthew 28:1-10 and *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, page 276. To make the story of finding the empty tomb more real, move some of the furniture so kids enter the room to find no table or chairs. Invite kids to sit on the floor and discuss where the pieces of furniture went. Were they stolen? Was it a prank? Who did it? When Mary Magdalene found Jesus' tomb empty, it was a surprise just as it was when we found the classroom empty.

Now tell the story using a clothesline drama technique. String a clothesline and hang clothes for Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Jesus, one or two guards, and an angel. Choose two or three kids to play the many characters by jumping behind the appropriate outfit as you read their part of the story. Discuss:

1. Did Jesus cause this miracle to happen, or did God do this? (God. Remember when Jesus prayed in the garden, he wanted God to save him from this.)
2. Who was afraid? (women, guards) Why? Would you be afraid? What did both the angel and Jesus tell them? ("Do not be afraid.")
3. This event is called the Resurrection, meaning Jesus was resurrected or brought back to life. Why is it important that Jesus died, but came alive again? (To show that our spirits, which are from God, are always alive, and Jesus will always be with us.)



☐ Egg Hunt

The symbols of Easter are baby bunnies, chicks, ducks, eggs, and flowers—the signs of spring and rebirth. Spring suggests new life, and Easter means new life for us. Jesus shared the good news that life is eternal with God. Mary shared the good news that Jesus was risen. Encourage kids to share the good news, too, by providing an Easter egg hunt for the "big kids" (adults) today.

Have kids write messages of Easter hope and love on slips of paper. These along with hard candies may be put inside plastic eggs. Hide eggs inside and outside the church. Kids will have fun giving clues and encouraging adults to find the eggs.

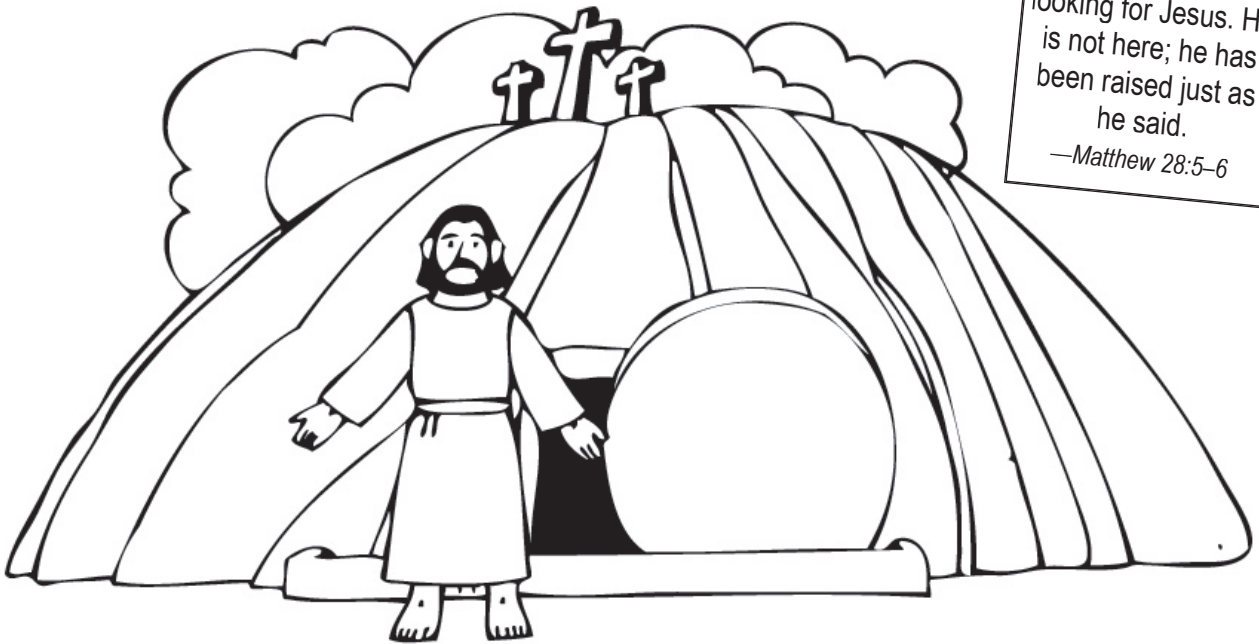
☐ Serving Jesus

Share *The Tale of Three Trees* retold by Angela Elwell Hunt and illustrated by Tim Jonke. This is a wonderful parable of giving oneself to Christ.

1. What did the trees want to be?
2. What did the trees become?
3. What do you like doing best, or want to become, using your best gifts? How do you think those gifts can serve Jesus?



I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here; he has been raised just as he said.
—Matthew 28:5-6



Read the whole story of Easter in Matthew 28:1-10 and John 20:1-18.

Jesus' Last Days

On this map, show where Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Circle these places:

1. Temple where Jesus overturned tables.
2. Upper Room where the Last Supper was.
3. Garden where Jesus prayed.
4. Cross where Jesus was crucified.
5. Tomb where Jesus was buried and rose again.

