



Here We Come!

Plan a snack or small surprise for the children. As each one comes to class say, "I'm so excited! I have a surprise for you! I can hardly wait!" Keep saying it until all the children have arrived. Ask them why they are excited even if they don't know what the surprise is. What causes us to be excited? Why is it hard to wait? Share the surprise.

Up and at 'Em

Plan activities that allow for large muscle movement. The day is already exciting for the children and they need an opportunity to use their energy in play.

See! He Lives!

Jesus is alive forever!

Scripture Words

This is the day! Let us be glad and joyful.
—Psalm 118:24 adapted

Scripture Words and Worship

The writer of Psalm 118 was filled with praise and thanksgiving when the verses were written. We can tell because of the words chosen. Share parts of the psalm with the children, putting excitement and expression in your voice.

I give thanks to the Lord!
Thank you for answering me, What you have done is awesome!
This is your day. I am so glad.
I am filled with joy.

The following scripture is adapted from verses Psalm 118:19–24.

Write the scripture on three pieces of paper.

Place them in the section of Psalms. Get excited each time one is found and read. "This is the day! Let us be glad! Let us be joyful!"

Sense-ations

Easter celebrations are full of sights and sounds and smells. Explore some of those available in your church building today.

Moving Music

- "Jesus in the Morning"
- "If You're Happy" (page 40)
- "I Hear Jesus Calling Me" (page 40)

Live and Learn

Share the story of Easter morning from Matthew 28.

- It was early in the morning and still dark outside when two of Jesus' friends got up and got dressed. (Start with the children lying on the floor sleeping. Pretend to get up and put on clothes.)
- They were very sad. Their friend, Jesus, had been killed by bad people. (Children show sad faces.)
- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary planned to walk out to the place where Jesus' body had been put in the tomb. (Pretend to walk slowly.)
- As they were walking, the ground began to shake and they heard a loud noise. (Stagger to keep your balance.)
- It seemed to come from the direction of the tomb, so Mary and Mary kept walking that way. But they were afraid now. (Walk and act scared.)
- They were so surprised when they got to the tomb. (Show surprise.)
- Instead of seeing the big cave with the rock rolled across the opening, the cave was wide open. The soldiers who had been guarding the tomb were lying on the ground. They looked like they were dead! (Let the children react to the scene.)
- Mary and Mary were surprised to see someone standing by the door, all shiny and dressed in white. It was an angel! (Show surprise.)
- The angel said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, but he isn't here. He's alive!"
- Mary and Mary could hardly believe their ears. In fact, they wanted to see for themselves. "Come and see," said the angel. "Here is the place where his body was. There is no one here now. Jesus is alive and walking around."
- Mary and Mary sank down to the ground. Could it be true? (Children sit.)
- "Don't sit," said the angel. (Get back up.) "Jesus wants all his friends and disciples to know he is alive. Go tell them. Quickly!"
- Mary and Mary turned and ran. They were laughing and crying at the same time, they were so happy. As they ran toward town, there was Jesus, standing by the road. "Greetings," he said.
- They were so glad to see him they didn't want to leave. But Jesus smiled and said, "I need you to go tell my friends. Tell them to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."
- "But they will want to come here," Mary said. "They will want to see the empty tomb and the angel. They will want to see you like we are seeing you."
- "They will see me," Jesus said. "Don't worry. Just tell my friends I am alive and well."

Story Talking

This week can be confusing for young children. It begins one Sunday with palm branches and celebration and ends the next with an equally joyful time. But in between, if the children have attended other services throughout the week, they may have seen a much more somber setting. Let the children tell you what they remember about the stories.

The friends of Jesus were so happy when they found out he was alive again. They told each other about when and where they saw Jesus. People who had been sad the week before were now smiling and happy.

It makes us happy to know Jesus is alive and loves us. Give each child a copy of the picture of Jesus and the lamb in the pattern section. Talk about why the lamb looks happy. Cotton can be added for texture. Small dried flowers or flower stickers can be added to the scene.



There We Go

Encourage the children to share the picture they made with family members as they tell them why everyone is so happy today.

