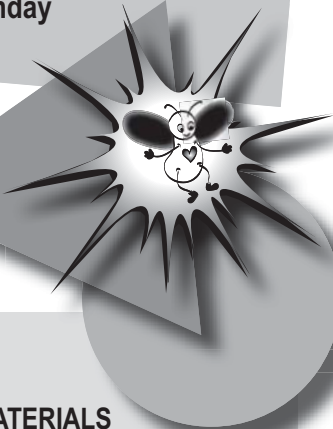


# Witness THE Victory

Easter  
Sunday



## MATERIALS

- CELEBRATE!**  
egg-shaped paper  
crayons
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**  
Bible  
scripture cards
- PRAYER-CROSS MOSAIC**  
cross poster  
circle prayer pieces  
tape or glue stick
- EASTER EGG HUNT**  
plastic eggs  
candy and messages
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**  
offering basket
- JESUS IS ALIVE RELAY**  
stuffed animals/dolls
- THE EMPTY TOMB**  
copies of "Jesus is alive!" sheets  
gray circles  
brads  
crayons
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**  
take-home pages

## Celebrate!

Easter is a wonderful time for Christians. People celebrate all over the world. Provide large pieces of egg-shaped paper for children to color and decorate. As they color, let the children tell about ways their families celebrate this special day. Children who celebrate Easter with Easter rabbits and decorated eggs think this is a natural part of the joy of Easter. Help the children connect eggs, chicks, ducks, bunnies, and flowers with Easter as signs of new life. Jesus showed us the joy of new life when he rose from the dead three days after he died on the cross.

**Jesus is  
alive!**  
—Mark 16:6

## Scripture Discovery

The message on Easter morning, whether from the disciples or the angels, was that Jesus was alive.

The tomb was empty. He was no longer there.

Print the scripture verse on Easter egg shapes and place in the book of Mark for children to discover.

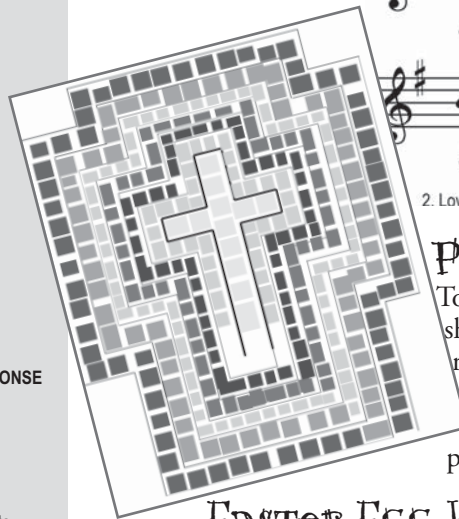
## Scripture Story

Each of the Gospel writers recorded a story of Easter morning with slight variations. This is the most natural response to an event as exciting as the Resurrection. Each sees it from their own viewpoint and tells it to others. This story (*page 50*) is based mostly on Mark 16:1–8.

## Jesus IN THE MORNING



2. Love Him    3. Serve Him    4. Thank Him    5. Praise Him



## Prayer-Cross Mosaic

Today's prayer pieces can be cut into the shape of a circles to represent the rock rolled away from the tomb. Let children stick their prayer papers on the poster with tape or glue stick as they say a prayer to praise God that Jesus is alive!

## Easter Egg Hunt

Have an Easter egg hunt. Hide plastic eggs filled with candy and messages of hope and love. Be sure to put messages like "Jesus is alive!" and "Jesus loves you" inside each one. Jesus shared the good news that life is eternal with God. Mary shared the good news that Jesus was alive. Encourage kids to share the good news, too, by sharing their eggs with members of the congregation. Tell them no person from the congregation should go home without an egg and the good news of Easter!

### "Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.

In faith we give because we care,  
Sharing generously.

With a nickle here, and a quarter there,  
See our money helping others,  
bringing love to one another.

God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.



### Disciples' Generous Response

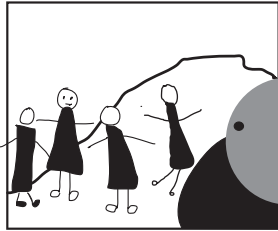
Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."

### Jesus Is Alive Relay

If the weather is nice, this game works best played outside. Place stuffed animals or dolls in several places about ten feet apart. Have each child run from point to point. At each point they will stop, pick up the stuffed animal and shout the good news, "Jesus is alive!" Rotate until all children have had a chance to play.

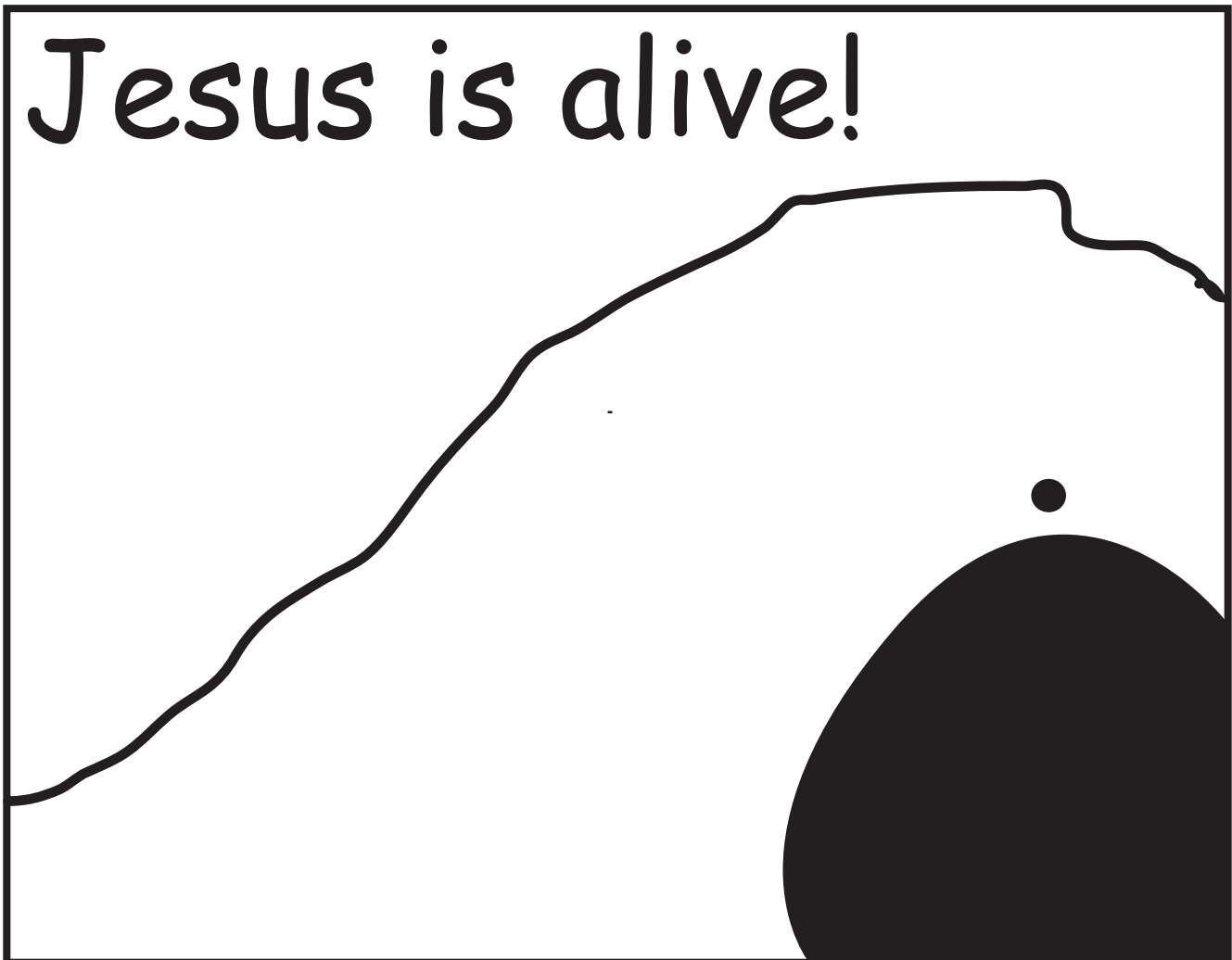
### Family Connections

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 50) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.



### The Empty Tomb

Give each child a copy of the empty tomb below. Let them draw Mary, Salome, Joanna, and Mary in the picture along with trees and flowers. Cut 3-inch circles from gray construction paper. Connect the "rock" to the paper over the door with a brad. Children can roll the "rock" away.



## A Trip to the Tomb by Marge Nelson

It was a sad morning for the women. The sabbath was over and Jews were allowed to walk from place to place again. But the women were not looking forward to the trip they had to take. They would be walking out of the city to the place where Jesus was buried.

The sun was just coming up so they could see where they were going. The women walked slowly, with their heads down. It had been so sad when he died. They would miss him so much.

“What will we do when we get there?” asked Salome. “The big stone will be blocking the entrance.”

“Yes,” agreed Mary. “How will we be able to move it? Who will help us roll the stone away?”

“Look!” exclaimed Joanna. “The stone! It’s not in front of the opening. Someone has already moved it.”

The women wanted to hurry to see, but they were also afraid. Would Jesus be inside the tomb where the men had laid him after he died?

Someone was in the tomb alright. But it wasn’t the body of Jesus lying there. It looked like a young man, dressed in a white robe. He was sitting on the right side of the place where Jesus had been.

The women moved closer together. They didn’t know what to do next.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has come back to life. He is not here. Look, you can see the empty place where they laid him.”

The women looked to see where he was pointing. Jesus was definitely not there. The cloth was there that had been used to wrap his body. But there was no Jesus.

The angel smiled. “It’s true. Go back to town and tell his disciples. Tell Peter that he is going to Galilee. You will see him there. It’s just what he told you would happen before he died.”

The women hardly knew what to do. They were afraid and surprised all at the same time. How could this be? Jesus wasn’t there so it must be true. They would see him again, the angel had said.

Mary started to run. Then so did Salome. The other women ran, too, all the way back to town to tell the disciples. Jesus is alive!

## Family Connections



Jesus is  
alive!  
—Mark 16:6



- **Let’s read today’s story together.**
- **Let me tell you the story of Jesus and the tomb.**
- **Easter is a special day. Let’s celebrate! Jesus is alive!**