

# Easter Sunday



The  
Children's  
Illustrated  
Bible  
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Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. She ran to Simon Peter and John and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb!" Peter and John ran toward the tomb. They saw the linen wrappings and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head. Disappointed, they returned to their homes, but Mary stayed there weeping. As she wept, she saw two angels in white, sitting where Jesus had been. "Woman, why are you weeping?" they asked. "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where he is," she said. Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she thought he was the gardener. Jesus said, "Why are you weeping?" "Sir," said Mary, "if you have carried Jesus away, tell me where he is and I will take him away." Then Jesus said, "Mary!" And she said, "Rabbi!" Jesus said, "Don't hold me, because I have not yet risen to my Father. But tell my brothers that I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." So Mary ran to the disciples proclaiming, "I have seen the Lord"; and told them what he said.

—John 20:1–18 adapted

## The Easter Story

Compare the Easter events of today with the events of Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday crowds celebrated Jesus entering Jerusalem. They shouted hosannas at the arrival of their king. However, Jesus was eventually treated as a criminal. His friends betrayed him, he was captured by soldiers, he was beaten and spit on, and he was sentenced to death just for sharing God's love with others. But when Jesus rose from the dead, there was much celebration again! Share this story from *The Children's Illustrated Bible* and John 20:1–18.

At first, Mary and the disciples were worried when they couldn't find Jesus in the tomb. But then Jesus appeared to Mary to show her that he had overcome death and would be with his followers forever.

Invite the children to dramatize the story as it is narrated. Encourage them to emphasize the emotions of Mary, Peter, and John. How would they feel? react? How would Jesus act toward them? Encourage them to show how sadness was turned to joy when the disciples knew that Jesus would be their forever friend.

## One Hand Theater

Kids can make puppets and retell the Easter story to their family and friends. Create an entire puppet show with one hand by using a glove with each finger designed as a different character:

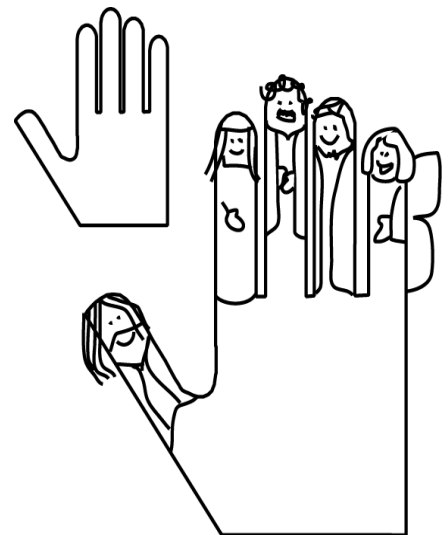
**Jesus—thumb**

**Mary—index finger**

**Peter & John—next two fingers**

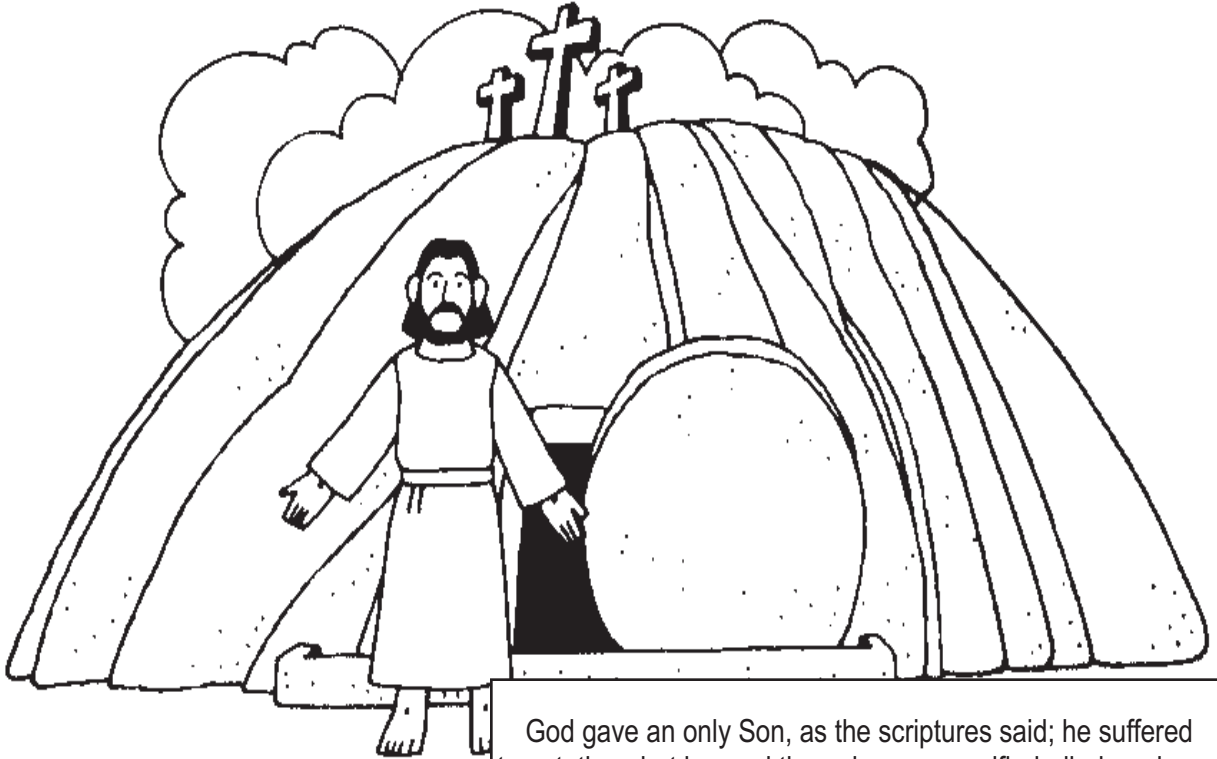
**angel—pinky finger**

Kids create faces with washable markers; hair with yarn; clothing with buttons, fabric pieces, and trim—whatever they would like to use. When done, take turns having them tell the story of John 20:1–18, wiggling the appropriate character-finger on their one-handed theater!



## Tomb Snack

An Easter egg is thought by some cultures to represent Jesus coming out of the tomb. Fill plastic Easter eggs with treats and a small sticker of Jesus.



God gave an only Son, as the scriptures said; he suffered temptations but ignored them; he was crucified, died, and rose again the third day to sit on the right hand of God in heaven. Whoever believed and was baptized in his name, and stayed faithful to the end, should be saved.

—*Doctrine and Covenants 17:5 adapted*

**Draw a picture of yourself if you would have been in Jerusalem on Easter morning.**