



EASTER STORY

Main Point

- Jesus died and rose again for us.

Scripture

- Find John 20:1-18 and read it or have someone read it with you

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in prayer; pray for...
 - Friends
 - Family
 - Those who are sick
 - For our Special Needs Ministry Community
 - For our church
 - Anything else
- Remember to thank God for His love and how He listens to us, as well as any answers to prayer

Praise and Worship

- Matt Maher – Because He Lives
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>
- Phil Wickham – This is Amazing Grace
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgsbaBlaoVc&list=PLFZzzgm_Vg7hmLo4W-G6t6YjhN5nudGEQ&index=2

Memory Verse

- Then everyone who believes in Jesus can live with God forever. John 3:15

Activity (to help individuals understand the empty tomb)

Materials and preparation:

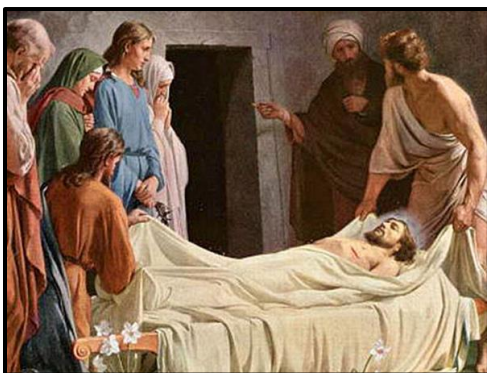
- One plastic Easter egg filled with jelly beans and One empty Easter egg. One other plastic egg (or a prescription bottle or anything) containing jelly beans - up your sleeve (tied to your arm with rubber band or a piece of string under the sleeve)

Instructions:

- Talk to your loved one about how Jesus died for our sins and was placed in a tomb after He died. When Mary and Mary Magdalene decided to visit His tomb, they expected to find Jesus lying there – but He wasn't in the tomb because He had risen from the dead!
- Use the eggs as an illustration of what the women expected to find in the tomb, and what they actually found. As you tell the story, shake the egg with jelly beans (with the hand without any egg up the sleeve) so the participants can hear. That egg represents that the women expected to find something inside the tomb, like jelly beans inside an Easter egg. Also shake the empty egg with your hand with the hidden Easter egg up your sleeve, so that participants can also hear the sound of jelly beans even though you are shaking an empty egg. Then open the empty egg to show there is nothing inside. See what kind of reactions you get after opening the empty egg.
- Jesus had risen! The tomb was empty.

Lesson (*Don't just read it. Know it and bring it to life! Have your loved one help tell the story looking at the pictures!!*)

- You are going to help me tell a story. This is a story about what happened after Jesus died on the cross. Jesus died on a Friday. It was a very sad day. It was sad because Jesus' friends didn't know what was going to happen. They didn't understand why Jesus had to die.



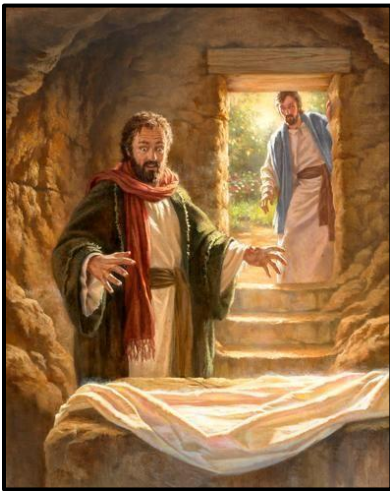
- Late on that Friday afternoon, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross. It was wrapped in long strips of cloth. And it was buried in a rich man's tomb.



- A large stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb, and soldiers were standing outside to make sure that nothing happened to Jesus' body. Jesus was dead.

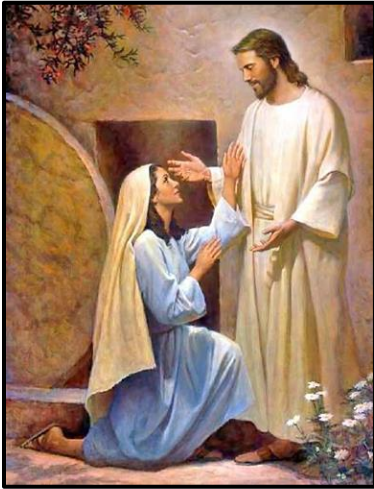


- Then early on Sunday morning when it was still dark, Jesus' friend, Mary Magdalene, went to the tomb and saw that the large stone that was rolled over the mouth of the empty tomb was gone! So, she ran away.
- Why do you think Mary ran away? (*Was she afraid? What could have happened? Jesus' body was not there. The stone had been moved.*)



- Mary ran to two more of Jesus' friends, Simon Peter and another friend that Jesus loved very much. So, Peter and the other friend that Jesus loved ran very fast to the tomb. The second friend ran so fast that he beat Peter there.
- Why do you think the friends ran? (*Were they shocked? Was it hard to believe what Mary had told them?*)

- The friend and Peter looked inside the tomb. They saw the strips of cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' body. They saw the cloth that had been put on Jesus face. It was neatly folded in a corner of the room. The second friend saw and he believed. What did he believe? (*Jesus was dead, but God raised him to life.*)
- Do you believe that Jesus is alive? (*Pause and let loved one answer*).



- Mary didn't believe. She was sad. She thought Jesus was missing. The friends went back to their homes, but Mary stayed at the tomb, and she cried. Why do you think that Mary cried? (*She thought that Jesus was dead, and now his body was missing too!*)
- A man came to Mary. He said, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary said, "If you took him away, please tell me where he is. I'll go and get him." He said her name, "Mary." It was Jesus! He had been dead. But now he was alive! Now Mary believed! She wanted to touch him and hug him! Jesus said, "Not yet. I'm going to the Father. And he is your Father too!" Then, Mary ran away.
- Why do you think Mary ran this time? (*Excitement; to tell her friends*).
- Mary had good news! She was going to tell her friends, "I have seen Jesus! He was dead! But now He is alive! He is risen! And he is giving us life, so that we can live with the Father again!"
- Teacher says "Jesus has Risen!" Class responds "He has risen indeed!"

Application

- Did Jesus suffer and die on the cross?
- Did Jesus rise again?
- Did Mary see that Jesus was alive again?
- What did Mary do after she saw Jesus?
- Do you believe that Jesus is alive?

Growing from God's Story

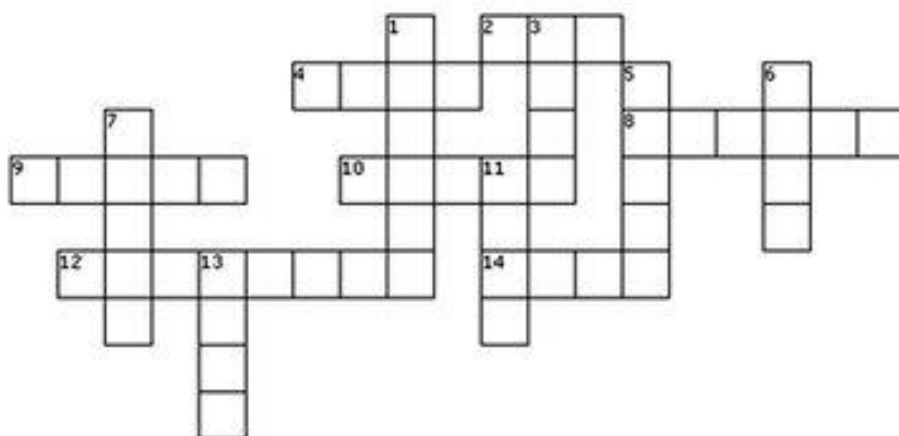
- **Last week**, we shared with someone around you how you could praise Jesus as OUR king, the king of our hearts.
- **This week**, tell someone around you, how it makes you feel that Jesus is alive.

Activity Sheets

- Below is a crossword puzzle and a colouring page. Enjoy as you reflect on what you just read and learned about Jesus rising from the dead so we can live with God again!

He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

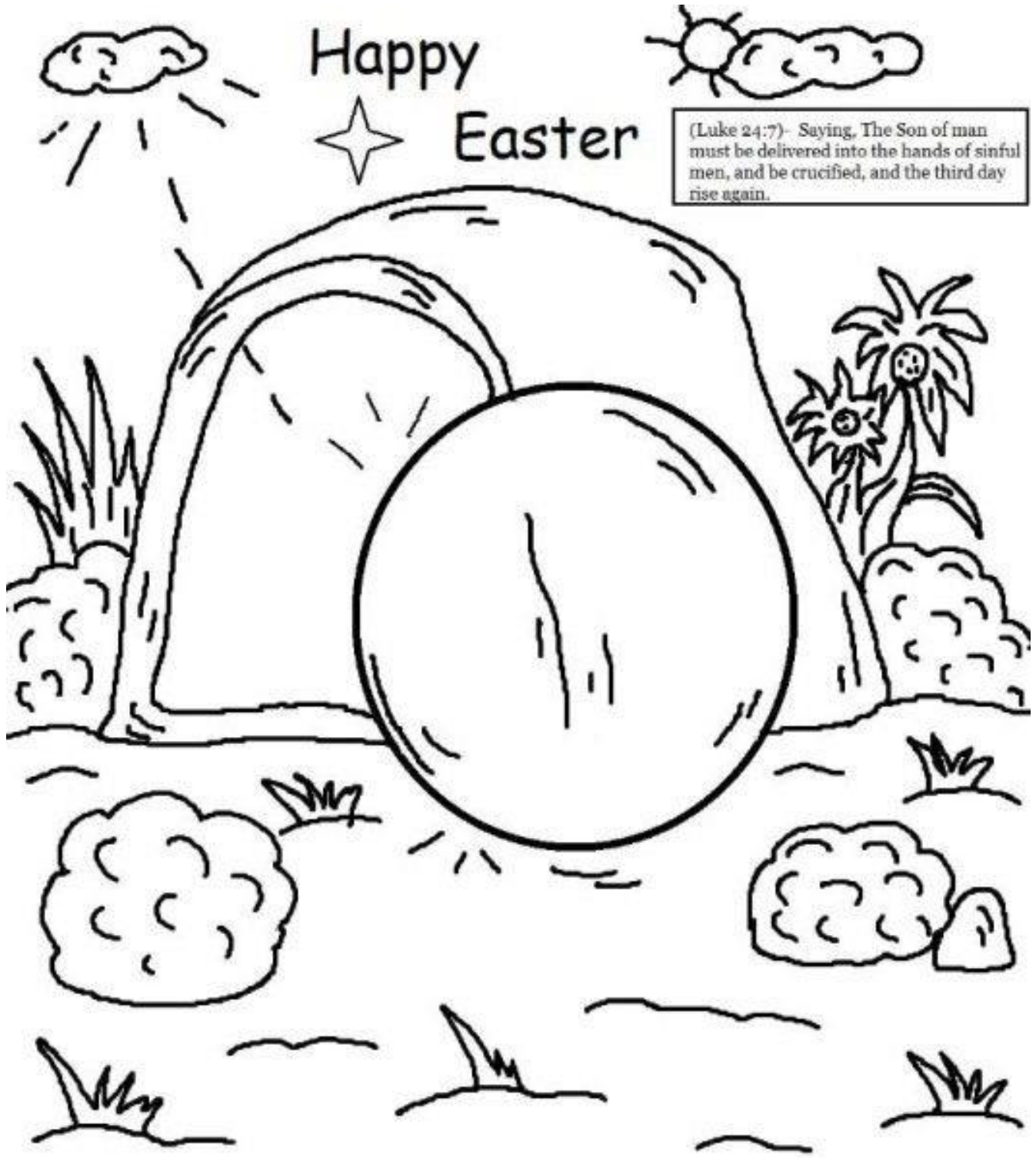
2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus'tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	
stone	cry	father	



(Luke 24:7)- Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Jesus died on a cross for your sins. He was layed in a tomb and on the third day he rose again.