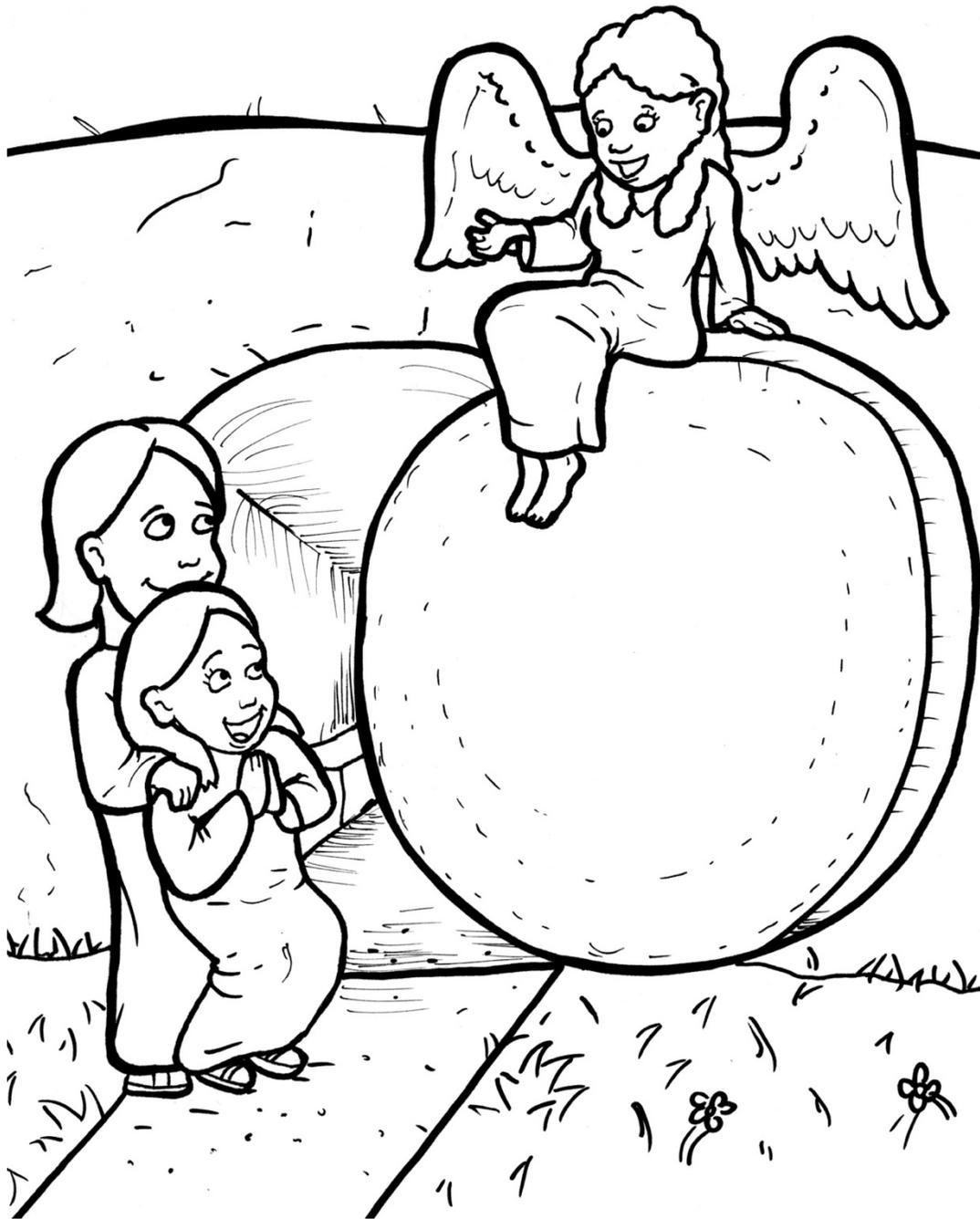


Jesus is Alive!

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20



An angel of the Lord said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"
Luke 24:5-6

Jesus is Alive!

It was the third day after Jesus died. All of a sudden, the earth shook and rocks fell. A glowing angel rolled the huge stone away from the tomb. The guards shook with fear. They became like dead men.

The women who followed Jesus went to his tomb. They had spices to take care of his body. The stone had been rolled away. They looked inside. The tomb was empty!

The angel said to the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here; he has risen, just as he said he would! Don't be afraid. Go tell his disciples."

They remembered that Jesus said he would rise. The women ran away. They were afraid but full of joy.

Jesus appeared to them. They fell at his feet and worshipped. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Go tell my brothers. They will also see me."

The women told the disciples the happy news. They did not believe. But Peter ran to the tomb.

Yes, it was empty! He picked up the strips of linen. He smelled the spices. Peter thought, "Could it really be true? Could my Jesus truly be alive?"

Questions

1. What did the women see and feel?
2. What did they do with this happy news?
3. How did the men react to the news?
4. When Jesus came back to life, we call it the resurrection. Who can you tell this news to during the Easter season?

Dear Jesus,

You are the King of heaven and earth. You are the Lord over life and death. You proved it by raising yourself from the dead. Help me tell this happy news of the resurrection to others, even if they don't believe at first.

Amen

For Easter, cut out the poem and put it into an empty egg. Have an egg hunt. The one who finds the empty egg has truly found the best one!

The Empty Egg

If you are looking for candy, I have a sweet surprise.
You can look into the tomb where the body of Jesus lies.

But the tomb is empty! He is alive; the tale is true!
The empty egg reminds us of this happy truth.



The Empty Tomb Cake

Kids peek into the tomb, which is embedded inside a delicious chocolate cake, only to find that Jesus has risen! This is sure to become a favorite family tradition. We've been making this for more than two decades and can't seem to celebrate Easter without it.

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You'll need:

1 **chocolate box cake mix** with the ingredients it requires to make a cake, usually eggs, water, and oil

1 can of **white frosting**

Green food coloring

1 - large chocolate egg such as Reese's **Peanut Butter Egg**

a nice variety of **fake flowers**

1 **can of tomato paste (6 oz)**

1 **9"x5" loaf pan**

White **paper towel**

Optional: **coconut flakes (dye them green) and chocolate rocks** (found at Walmart)

1. Open the tomato paste can and scoop out the paste. Throw the paste away or save it. Clean out the can thoroughly.
2. Preheat oven. Make the cake batter according to the directions.
3. Grease and flour the loaf pan and pour the batter in.
4. Push the empty tomato paste can into the batter of the cake pan so that the can's open mouth is flush to a short end of the pan. This will serve as the tomb. The can will fill some with batter; that is okay. Put in oven.
5. About 10-15 minutes into the baking time, use a spatula to push the can back down as it tries to float up to the top.
6. Tint the icing green.
7. When the cake is done, turn it out of the pan. Carefully clean the cake crumbs out of the tomato paste can using a knife.
8. Write on a long, thin strip of paper towels using a pen: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen!" Luke 24:5.
9. When the cake is baked, cooled, and removed from the pan, ice it all over with green frosting.
10. Put coconut flakes in a container and shake with green dye, making it darker than the icing.
11. Decorate with flowers around the outside of the tomb. Roll the strip of paper towel and lay it in the tomb. Using frosting as "glue" push the chocolate egg in front of the tomb as if it is the rock that gets rolled away. Place the chocolate rocks around the tomb. Note: Make sure that children understand they cannot bite into real rocks.
12. On Easter, read the account in Luke 24 and let the littlest child roll away the "rock."

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