

41. 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,

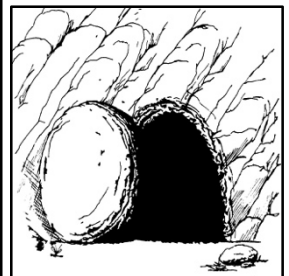
You are the King of heaven and earth. You are the Lord over life and death. You proved it by raising yourself from the dead. Help me tell this happy news of the resurrection to others, even if they don't believe at first.

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.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

41. Jesus is Alive!

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) What do we celebrate on Easter?
- b) What are some of your favorite Easter traditions?
- c) What do you think the first Easter was like?

After you read:

Seek the Living Game

Play this active game to remember what the angel said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" All the kids hide and one will be the seeker. When a hider is discovered, they can't move until after the seeker (finder) counts to ten. Whoever moves before that is out. Play until there is only one "alive" person left.

Egg Shell Mosaic

Did your family dye real eggs? If so, after you have found all your eggs, peel them but save the egg shells. Put them into a plastic bag and crush them with your hands into small but not tiny pieces. Let them dry on a cookie sheet overnight. The next day, take a heavy sheet of black construction paper. Use lots of school glue to form a design. Put the broken egg shells into the glue and let your masterpiece dry. It will look a little like colorful, stained glass.

Broken Hearts, Broken Tomb

Ask the kids to think about this quote: "God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever (by American Pastor Vance Havner)." Break apart a full loaf of bread to share. Ask, "What was broken in our Easter story?" (at first, many hearts, then... Jesus' body, the seal on the rock, the tomb, linens.) Give each child a plastic Easter egg. They can open it while saying a prayer, something like: "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for allowing your body to be broken and then for breaking open the grave and rising again for me. I believe you are alive. Amen."

God's Not Dead NO. He's Alive!

No celebration is complete without a great song and dance. This song has simple lyrics that are easy to move to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRsqqcL_9Bw

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.



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**

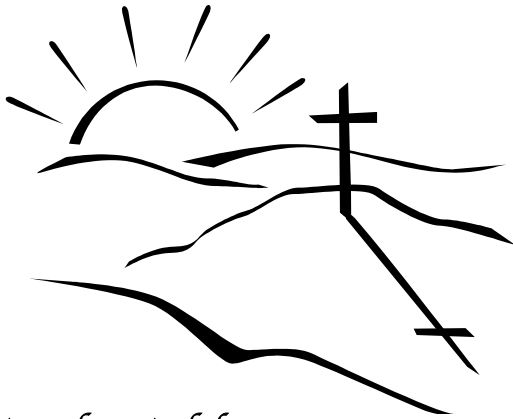
White **paper towel**

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 towel 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. This is supposed to be grass on top of the garden tomb.
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." Reach in and read the verse on the grave clothes. Celebrate the risen Jesus.

Invite a Friend to Church

Often, people who do not regularly attend church will come to an Easter service. Color this page to use as an invitation or use the pictures. Provide for your students: colorful, paper, scissors, glue, crayons and this page to cut, paste, and create their own invitation. Hand it to a friend who does not attend church. Fill in the information and give it out at least a few days before Easter. Pray that God will bless your efforts.



Join us for a joyful

Easter Celebration!

Date:

Time:

Place:

Website:

Need a ride? Call:



Easter Story in an Egg

Give each child a large, plastic Easter egg. Collect these items, one for each student: Photocopy the poem below so that each child has one. They put all the items in the egg, color the drawing, and share the egg with a friend to tell the Good News. For thorns: cut pieces off the stem of roses so that each child has a thorn. One long-stem rose should yield about 7 thorns. Cross: two flat toothpicks, one is broken in two. Nail: thumbtack. Heart: Cut a small heart out of red paper. Fold it in half. The folded, upside-down heart has the shape of a tear drop. Wrapped: a long 1-inch-wide strip of white paper towel or real linen. Three: three jelly beans. Rock: a pebble. King: Bend a gold pipe cleaner into the shape of a crown.

When the kids gather their pieces together, the pile looks like messy junk. But there is a plan. As they read the story, they pick up each item. This reminds us that when Jesus died, the start of the Christian church looked like a mess, full of broken dreams, scared disciples, and angry Jewish leader. But God had a plan and wove those broken pieces into an enduring, ongoing story that YOU are in – the worldwide church of Jesus Christ.

An Easter Poem

Jesus our king when he was born
grew up to wear a crown of **thorns**.

So that he could save the lost,
Jesus Christ died on a **cross**.

It must be told – this sad tale.
remember Jesus with this **nail**.

When you see this drop of blood,
Think about God's **heart of love**.

His life and love, Jesus gave.
He was **wrapped**, put in the grave.

Dead in the tomb for you and me,
One day passing, two, then **three**.

When the **rock** was rolled away
Jesus lived on Easter Day!

With all the angels we will sing
Jesus is our Lord and **King**.



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