

*Get Ready!***Jesus is Alive!**

By: Donna Smith

*He is
Risen!***Text**

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

Key Quest Verse

“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her” (John 20:18).

Bible Background

The story today starts out on the early morning of Jesus’ third day in the tomb. The disciples are hiding out. Many are now mourning for whom they know was truly the Son of God. Has all hope been lost? Imagine setting out on a task that early Easter morning when we find Mary Magdalene and the other Mary going to the tomb. They even discuss how they might get by the guards and then, of course, there is that very heavy stone to roll back. But even so, Mary went out to get the job done despite all adversaries. Her faith led her anyway when most of us would turn around because we would figure it an impossible task. Would we be like “Ole Doubting Thomas?” There were so many witnesses to the account of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, and ascension, but still so much confusion. The disciples didn’t even remember until that Easter morning that on the third day that He would rise again. But, now the picture was becoming clear as the prophets had foretold so long ago. What a mighty God we serve!

*Get Ready!**He is Risen!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** Jesus is alive! He will come back to earth someday.
- Feel:** The hope we have of life forever in God's Kingdom.
- Do:** Tell others about Jesus.

Leader's Devotion

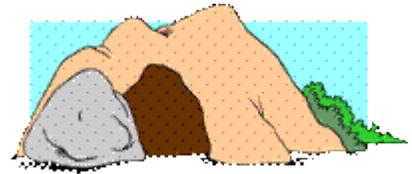
Since 9-11-2001, it's hard not to notice this life can go quickly. Isn't it wonderful to know God's power can overcome all sorrows, even death? Mary Magdalene had come that first Easter morning to take care of Christ's body even when there seemed to be no hope. Then she saw Jesus alive! Wow!

Today there seems to be so much sorrow and turning away from God. Taking care of Christ's body (Paul said it is like the church to us today) can be a tremendous job. Remember, God has put us here for this time and this day to make an impact on the generations of children we teach . . . the same God who can overcome all. So, pray for strength and courage and God's guidance everyday. If Jesus were to come back today, wouldn't you want to be caught taking care of Christ's body?

Devotion suggestions:

Materials: An Easter basket with grass and plastic eggs

Procedure: Paul was a great encourager to the workers of Christ in a hard day. Fill a basket with plastic eggs that open and write a note of encouragement and thanks to people you notice working hard in the church. Write their names on the outside of their eggs with a paint pen or marker. Pass out the eggs Easter morning telling them someone noticed they were "good eggs" working diligently to take care of Christ's body! Always let your fellow workers know you are praying for them.

Get Set!

Option A**THE EMPTY TOMB!**

Materials: An empty food box of some kind of snack, like popcorn, cereal, etc.

Procedure: Ask the children if they have ever been looking forward to some kind of treat in a box in the cabinet in the kitchen, and when you get it out you find the box is empty? Discuss this. **Did you wonder who in the world left the box empty like that? Well, that happened to me this morning, and I felt just like that! But, then I realized I didn't need this. I needed something healthy and good for me for breakfast. God really knew what I needed.**

In our story today, Mary went to look for Jesus' body in the tomb where they laid Him. Instead she found an empty tomb! Soon, just like me, Mary found out the empty tomb had great joy for her and a much better and needed surprise. So, let's be sure and listen.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B**WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?**

Materials: Note cards, pencils

Procedure: Before class get some note cards and write an incomplete sentence on each one. For example: the dog . . . I saw a . . . She didn't get . . .

In class give each child his or her note card and let them try to read their message. Say to them, **well, I'm glad God didn't leave us hanging in our story like this about Jesus. It sure would leave us wondering what in the world God was trying to tell us! Let's listen now and see just what He wanted us to know. Remember God always gives us what we need.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Procedure: You may read the story again telling it from Mary Magdalene's point of view, or have a visitor come back again to tell the story like Mary

I'll never forget that morning. Mary, the mother of James, and I went to the tomb with our spices to anoint Jesus. How we were going to get past the guards outside the tomb I don't know, I just knew somehow I should do this for my Lord who had done so much for me. There was also that huge stone over the tomb. I didn't know how we would ever get it out of the way. Mary and I had just finished discussing this when we set out walking. It was still before sunrise.

When we arrived, the stone was already rolled away from the tomb. Oh, where was dear, sweet Jesus? I stood outside the tomb crying and looked down inside. To my amazement there were two angels sitting there. One was at the head and one at the feet where Jesus' body should have been. They said to me, "woman why are you weeping?" I replied, "they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him." Then, back outside, someone whom I thought was the gardener of the grounds spoke and asked me, as well, why I was crying. Again, I replied with the same answer. Then I heard Jesus speak my name. I turned around and saw Him there more in glory than ever before! "Oh, Teacher," I cried, "it is you."

I must have been hugging Jesus very tightly. Jesus had to explain to me that He had not gone to be with God yet, so He still had to prepare to say goodbye. He knew He still would go to His Father in a few days. "Go Mary and tell my brethren that I will ascend to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God."

I couldn't wait to get the word out to the disciples. I had seen the Lord! Jesus went to them on the road to where they were hiding out in a room behind a locked door. Jesus appeared to them right through that door and said, "Peace be with you!" After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. All the disciples, except for Judas who was dead, and Thomas were there. They were so excited to see Jesus. Later they told Thomas, after he came back, that Jesus was there and they had seen Him. But, Thomas said he would not believe it until he could put his finger in the places where the nails were in Jesus' hands and where the wound was in His side. Then Jesus came back and told Thomas to come forward and touch it. Thomas said to Him "My Lord!" Jesus appeared for several more days to the disciples at different times. Many people saw Jesus on the day He knew He would go up in the clouds to be with God until He was to return back to earth. He told them He was to prepare the Kingdom there for them and would return someday with His reward for them. An angel said, "why are you standing and gazing up in the heavens? This same Jesus who was taken up to heaven shall return." Jesus had said, "I am with you always. Go and tell the great news throughout the world to everyone." Just like on that first Easter morning when Jesus told me to tell others that I had seen Him, we are to share His message everywhere!

Go!**Sweet and Rising****FOOD: Check for food allergies!**

Materials: Unsweetened or regular chunky applesauce, sugar, cinnamon, uncooked crescent roll, a stick of butter or soft butter, a baking pan, Pam spray if called for, wax paper, paper plates and napkins and Styrofoam or paper cups, markers, crayons

Quest Connection

I have an idea of something that will help you remember the story of the resurrection. Listen very carefully.

Procedure: Give each child a piece of wax paper and a crescent roll laid out. Explain to them this is like the linen or cloth to wrap Christ's body. People who died in those days were wrapped in linens for burial. Give each child a tablespoon or so of applesauce and place it in center of their roll telling them this is like the harvest of the first fruits, which were given as offerings in the Spring feast of the weeks celebrating the wheat harvest. Jesus was given as an offering for our sins. We can "harvest" in His mercy and forgiveness. Then, let each child sprinkle the sugar and cinnamon on the applesauce, explaining to them this is like the spices used to overcome the death smell of burial. Then, you may need to help them roll their crescent rolls and "seal them" giving them a small pat or portion of the butter on top just like the stone on the tomb. Place them on the cooking sheet and use the baking directions to cook them.

While you are waiting, give each child a Styrofoam cup and crayons and let them decorate their cups, being careful not to draw on the portion of the cup where their mouths will drink from. Also, remind them not to poke any holes in it! Explain to them that when we decorate on Easter morning, we are showing the beauty and joy of Jesus. When your rolls are finished, show them how the stone on the tomb is gone (butter) out of the way. Fill their cups with water or juice.

Close

Isn't it wonderful to enjoy this celebration? Jesus can always turn our lives into something sweet and wonderful! Now we can all enjoy it.

Go!

Mary Makers**MUSIC**

Materials: Large plastic Easter eggs, dried beans, masking tape, markers, celebration tapes or music playing to sing to

Quest Connection

Timbrels were musical instruments in the Bible that are thought to be a lot like a tambourine. Whenever Israel won a war, women would run out shaking their timbrels in celebration. When Christ rose from the dead, it showed that God can even win the battle over death for His people. Mary saw Jesus alive after knowing He had died on the cross three days earlier. Now, let's help Mary celebrate.

Procedure: Give each child a plastic egg and let them fill one side with the dried beans. Wrap the masking tape around the opening part of the egg to seal it. They may decorate and write their names on it with markers.

Close

Let's shake and celebrate to the music! We are going to march around the room and sing and shake our instruments, because Jesus is alive!

Go!**The Linen of Life****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: White plain paper, 2x2 gauze or pieces of white cloth, washable finger paints, crayons

Quest Connection

When Mary Magdalene peeped into the empty tomb, the empty linen that had been used to wrap Christ's body for burial, was lying there where He had been. What a great testimony of life! Show them the gauze and say to them, let's make something beautiful from this linen.

Procedure: Let them dip their linens in the finger paints and then scrunch them up and stamp them on the paper like sponge or cloth painting in random patterns. Then, let them make stems with leaves to make beautiful spring flowers out of the stamped patterns. They may want to draw grass and a sun as well, or any kind of scenery around it. Let the pictures dry. You may want to decorate the room with them.

Close

Let's enjoy all of the beauty God gave us! He promises a wonderful Kingdom when death is finally overcome once and for all! How great it is that we have the hope of Jesus!

Go!

Roll the Stone Away**GAME**

Materials: Game board, jelly beans or small cereal that will roll and resemble a stone, Resource Page

Quest Connection

How many days after Jesus died did He come back to life? Let's play a game to review what happened . . .

Advanced Preparation: Before class make a copy of the question and answers in the Resource Pages, and fold and place them in separated stacks or containers according to their numbers

Procedure: In class, divide the children up in to 2 groups around the table or floor and place the board in the middle of them. Give each child a play "stone." Starting with the child on the end, let he or she roll his stone on the board onto one of the numbered blocks. Then, read the question to that child, giving them time to try to answer. If the child cannot answer, someone on the other team may raise his or her hand and guess. You may want to keep score on a board or piece of paper. Go down the line to the next child on the next team each time, as many times as you want to play. You may have to use the same questions over if that number is rolled on a lot or if you play through several times.

Close

We are all God's winners. We are learning from His word and working as a team!

Go!**Celebration Cards****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Construction paper, scissors, marker and a variety of decorating materials, Resource Page

Quest Connection

Today is a very special day, and you will receive some special surprises. I love to get surprises and I love to give surprises. Let's make a special card for someone we love. We will share the good news the angels told to Jesus' friends.

Procedure: Using pattern "Celebration Card," trace and cut out two cards for each student. Staple the cards together at the top or side. You can decorate these cards in a variety of ways. With light pastel paper, use darker crayons or markers to decorate outside. Use glue sticks and glitter or special Easter stickers purchased at a local Bible bookstore. On the inside, print ahead of time: HE IS RISEN! Help students write their names and give as a gift to someone they love.

Close

What is the best surprise you have received so far today? What is the best surprise God has given to us? That's right, raising Jesus from the dead was the best surprise of all. Let's bow our heads and thank God for His best surprise.

Go!**Resurrection Reenactment****DRAMA**

Materials: Sheet or blanket large enough to cover a table, biblical costumes (optional), assistant halo or angel costume (optional), cardboard stone

Quest Connection

Let's pretend to be the friends who came to Jesus' tomb. Let's make our faces look really, really sad. And, we will be really, really quiet. Follow me as we walk to the tomb. At this time, have the children follow you as you take them for a walk through the church or outside if weather is permissible. Upon returning to your classroom, the tomb will be in place. **We've come to the place Jesus is buried. Let's go inside.** One or two at a time will go into the tomb where they will see the angel. The angel may say, **who did you come to see?** Allow children to answer. **He is not here. He is risen.**

Procedure: Prepare children to go on a walk like the walk Mary and her friends did on resurrection morning. They should have on sad faces and be very quiet. Take children on a walk throughout the church (not disturbing other classes) and back again to your classroom. While you and your class are walking to the tomb, your assistant will cover the table with a sheet or blanket creating the tomb. Place the cardboard stone off to one side. The assistant can be sitting inside the tomb as an angel. Allow each child to go inside the tomb to see if Jesus is there. The angel should say, **He is not here. He is risen.**

Close

We should always remember to be happy for the same reason. Jesus has risen from the dead!

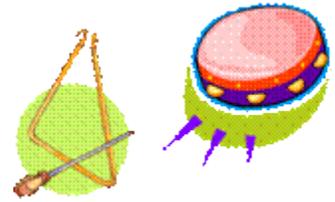
Go!**Death & Resurrection****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Jesus lay still in the tomb until His Father, God, raised Him from the dead. Death claimed Jesus for only a short time, then God gave Him life. Just for fun, let's play a game that will give some of you a chance to go from death to life.

Procedure: Select one student to represent “death” and another to represent “life.” The remainder of the students are free to roam about the room. The game begins when “death” touches one of the other students. That student must freeze and not move at all. “Death” can continue to touch others causing them to stop all motion. That is where “life” comes in. “Life” will go around finding those who have been touched by “death.” When “life” touches them, they can move about freely once again. “Death” will see how many he can stop while “life” will see how many he can restore so that they can move again.

Close

(After they have played for a while . . .) **You must be getting tired. Let's stop and talk a bit about it. What was death like? You couldn't do anything or go anywhere, right? How did you feel when “life” touched you? Let them respond. Wasn't it wonderful to be able to move about again? How do you think Jesus felt when He came back to life? Give them a chance to respond. What a wonderful thing it was that Jesus had victory over death! Do you realize that Jesus' victory over death means that the same thing can happen to those who believe in God and Jesus? Even though “death” touches them and they are still for a while, “life” will someday resurrect them. The Bible says that Christ was first, then when He comes back, those who belong to Him will be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:22-23). That is what we have to look forward to. If “death” should touch us, we will be touched by “life” everlasting when Jesus returns, if we belong to Him. Now that is the meaning of the resurrection story – it's victory over death. Yea!**

Go!**Resurrection Music Celebration****MUSIC****Materials:** Rhythm band instruments**Quest Connection**

Everyone was so happy when they realized that Jesus had risen from the grave! One way that we show we are happy is by singing! We are going to learn a new song today about Jesus.

Procedure: Teach the students the following lyrics to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”

He is risen from the grave, Jesus Christ

He is risen from the grave, Jesus Christ

He is risen from the grave

Now I know that I am saved

He is risen from the grave, Jesus Christ

Close

This would be a wonderful song to teach your family! Let us always remember to be happy because of God’s Son, Jesus!

Go!

Easter Cookies**FAMILY ACTIVITY**

Materials: Resource Page entitled, “Easter Cookies”

Quest Connection

This is an activity for you to give to the families of your students for them to do at home to reinforce the story of the resurrection.

Procedure: Make copies of the Resource Page entitled, “Easter Cookies.” Read it over so that you are familiar with the contents. Find an opportunity to give the cookie “recipe” to the families of your students. Encourage them to set aside a time the evening before Easter Sunday to use this activity with their children. Be sure they check the cookies on Sunday morning to make the meaning of Resurrection Sunday especially significant to their family.

Close

Have your students share their experiences of this activity with the class if they feel comfortable doing so.

Go!**He is Risen****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Paper plates cut in half, artificial flowers, pastel colored ribbon, glue, black marker or pen, hole punch, glue

Quest Connection

This story is one we want to remember. I have an idea of something we can make to place in your home for a reminder to everyone there.

Procedure: Cut a half circle in one of the paper plates. Holding the two plates together, punch holes around the outside edge about one inch apart. Then, write on the back plate inside of the half circle the words, “He is risen.” (It should look as if the words appear inside of the half circle.) Using the glue, attach the artificial flowers on the half plate with the opening. Place the two half plates together and use the ribbon to weave through the holes and attach them together. (To make this easier, you can tape one end of the ribbon and knot the other.) When they are woven, knot the other end. Make a loop with additional ribbon and staple it to the top of the plate for hanging. A bow made with the ribbon can be glued over the staple to cover it.

Teacher Tip: If you want, you can make a rock out of construction paper a little bigger than the opening and attach with a brass fastener so that it can be moved back and forth over the opening.

Close

Those all turned out so nice! I think they will be lovely in your homes. Where do you think you will put them? Let them respond. In the book of Deuteronomy, God tells His people to put things around their homes to be a constant reminder of Him. I think He will be pleased each time you notice this empty tomb and think about our risen Lord.

Resource Page— Roll the Stone Away

Questions for Block 1

1. Which of the disciples wouldn't believe he saw Jesus until he touched Him? (Thomas)
2. Who sold Jesus out and betrayed Him? (Judas)
3. What did they wrap Christ body in for burial? (Linen)
4. Who did Jesus tell to go tell His disciples he had seen the Lord? (Mary Magdalene)
5. What did they make a crown out of for Jesus? (Thorns)
6. Who denied knowing Jesus 3 times? (Peter)
7. Why were the disciples amazed to see Jesus in the room they were hiding in after His death? (The door was locked)
8. Who tried to wash his hands free from the shedding the blood of Christ? (Pilate)
9. Were any bones in Jesus' body broken? (No)
10. What did Jesus serve the disciples at the last supper? (Wine and bread)

Questions for Block 2

1. What women were seen at the foot of the cross? (The Marys)
2. What did they use to place Jesus to the cross? (Nails)
3. What did they give Jesus to drink when He told them He was thirsty? (Vinegar)
4. What was used to seal the tomb where Jesus was laid? (A huge stone)
5. What was Mary taking to the tomb the morning she was looking for Jesus? (Her jar of spices)
6. What did Jesus ride on into Jerusalem for the Passover? (A donkey)
7. What did Jesus say as He died? ("It is finished")
8. Who was sitting in the empty tomb when Mary looked in? (Two angels)
9. What did the soldiers use to pierce Jesus' side? (A sword)
10. How many pieces of silver did Judas sell Jesus for? (30 pieces)

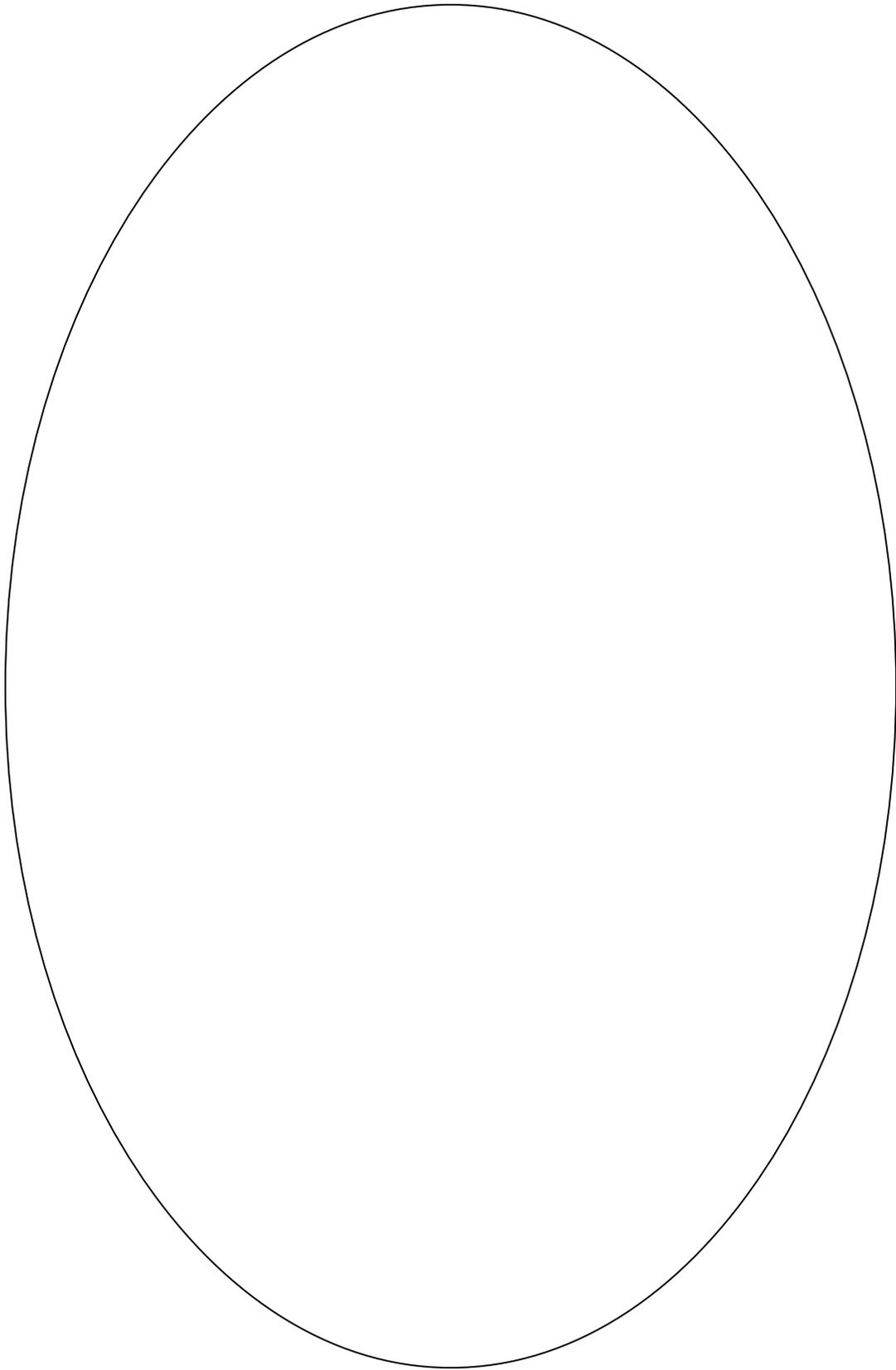
Resource Page— Roll the Stone Away

Questions for Block 3

1. Where did Jesus have the Last Supper with His disciples? (In the upper room)
2. What did Jesus sweat while He was praying? (Blood drops)
3. How many times did Jesus ask that this cup be passed for Him? (3 times)
4. What happened to the earth when Jesus died? (There were earthquakes)
5. What happened to the cloth in the temple? (It ripped)
6. What were the people waving at Jesus when He rode into Jerusalem? (Palm branches)
7. What were the people shouting at Jesus? (Hosanna!)
8. What did the sign say that they placed over Jesus' head? (King of the Jews)
9. How many stripes did Jesus receive on His back? (39)
10. Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty of any crimes? (No)

Questions for Block 4

1. How many more men were crucified on the day Jesus was? (2)
2. What did Jesus serve to drink telling the disciples this was His blood shed for them? (Wine)
3. Where will Jesus return some day? (The earth)
4. What did the Priest use the blood money Jesus was sold for to buy? (The Potter's Field)
5. Was the mother of Jesus present at the cross? (Yes)
6. What did the soldiers do for Jesus garments? (They cast lots for them)
7. Did the disciples see Jesus more than once after He was resurrected? (Yes)
8. Who did Mary Magdalene think was talking to her outside the tomb? (The gardener)
9. What did Jesus break at the Last Supper telling them this was His broken body? (The Bread)
10. What did Judas do to himself when he admitted he betrayed Jesus? (He hung himself)



Resource Page—Easter Cookies

To be made the evening before Easter

You need:

1 c. whole pecans

1 tsp. vinegar

3 egg whites

pinch salt

1 c. sugar

zipper baggie

wooden spoon

tape

Bible

Preheat oven to 300.

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces.

Explain that after Jesus was arrested He was beaten by the Roman soldiers.

Read John 19:1-3

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink.

Read John 19:28-30

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life.

Read John 10:10-11

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin.

Read Luke 23:27

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 c. sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that God gave us His Son because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him.

Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.

Read Isa. 1:18 and John 3:1-3

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.

Read Matt. 27:57-60

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.

Read Matt. 27:65-66. GO TO BED!

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.

Read John 16:20 and 22

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.

Read Matt. 28:1-9

Worksheet —Nail It On Or Cross It Out

NAIL IT ON OR CROSS IT OUT

JESUS SHOWED THE NAIL PRINTS IN HIS HANDS TO PROVE HE REALLY WAS THE SON OF GOD. READ EACH STATEMENT BELOW. IF IT IS TRUE, WRITE A **T**. IF IT IS FALSE, DRAW AN **X** TO CROSS IT OUT!

1. _____ JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.
2. _____ MARY TRIED TO WASH HER HANDS FREE FROM JESUS' BLOOD.
3. _____ THE ROOSTER CROWED AFTER PETER DENIED JESUS 3 TIMES.
4. _____ JESUS ASKED THAT THE CUP BE PASSED FROM HIM 2 TIMES.
5. _____ THOMAS BETRAYED JESUS.
6. _____ JESUS RODE INTO JERUSALEM ON A HORSE.
7. _____ THERE WERE EARTHQUAKES WHEN JESUS DIED.
8. _____ JESUS HAD THE LAST SUPPER WITH THE DISCIPLES.
9. _____ THEY FLOGGED JESUS WITH 39 LASHES.
10. _____ SOME PEOPLE WERE SPITTING ON JESUS.

Worksheet

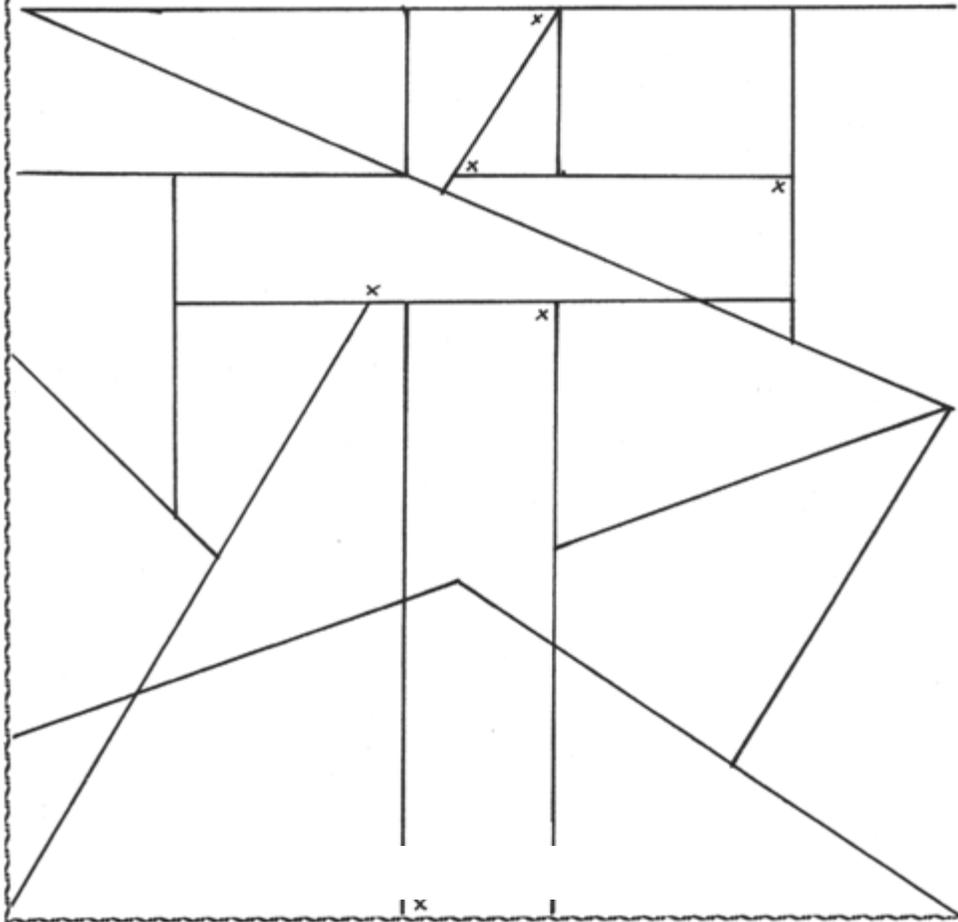
Jesus is Alive!

Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus did not do wrong, but some people said He did, and put Him on a cross until He died. He was buried in a cave in the rock. Some women went to His grave, but He was not there. An angel was there, who said, "Jesus is risen, and is not dead. Go tell your friends He is alive and they will see Him." Jesus' friends did see Him, and they were very glad. Jesus told them He must go to His Father, but He will come back."

* * * *

Color only the spaces marked X, and you will find something from our lesson.



Journal Page

Write out a headline and draw a picture about something from our story. What would the headlines in the newspaper about the story of Jesus look like today? Decorate your page anyway you would like.

“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her” (John 20:18).