

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Easter Sunday*

### Lesson Objective:

To celebrate Jesus' victory over death for His people, and to help children remember this was a promise given to us by God and God always keeps His promises!

"He died, but he vanquished death; in himself he put an end to what we feared; he took it upon himself and he vanquished it, as a mighty hunter he captured and slew the lion. Where is death? Seek it in Christ, for it exists no longer; but it did exist and now it is dead. O life, O death of death!" – St. Augustine

"He is Risen!" "He is Risen, indeed!" Today is the day that separates our faith from all others. Easter morning our Lord's bodily resurrection proves that indeed Jesus is God, or He is who He says He is. What a special day for every believer that we can know and live in the light of the Lord's defeat of death, the grave and sin. But for those who do not believe, what hope awaits them if only they would believe! Today is a great day to share the lesson and the hope of the Gospel with every child in your class.

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God promised that One would come to undo the curse of sin (Genesis 3:16-17). The promise came ultimately in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Jesus, only a few days prior to His Resurrection, was given over to the authorities, accused falsely, beaten, mocked, crucified, and buried.
- Three days later, just as He foretold, Jesus rose from the grave defeating His people's worst fears and enemies.
- Jesus rose from the grave fully – bodily – perfect over death.
- Several women, who were Jesus' friends, came to mourn Him, but upon their arrival He was not there. Two angels appeared and told the women that Jesus was not there!
- The women came back to tell the disciples, but the disciples did not believe what the women had said.
- Peter ran to the grave to see if it was true – and it was!

**Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12 (Matthew 27:62-28:16; Mark 16:1-13; John 20:1-18)

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 52-53 (New Testament section); Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 234-235; Beginner's Bible, Pages 486-490; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 310-317

**Scripture Memory for April:** Acts 20:24 (ESV)

But I do not account my life (*cross forearms to make an "X"*)  
of any value nor as precious to myself, (*form a "O" with both hands*)  
if only I may finish my course ... (*make hash marks with hand on opposite arm*)  
to tell (*make a "talking" hand*)  
the Gospel. (*open hands to form a Bible*)

### Craft: Tomb

**Supplies:** Cardstock tomb, rock, brad, crayons/markers

- Instructions:** 1. Color rock and tomb.  
2. Attach rock to tomb with brad.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

## Story

### Transition

Boys and girls, what did we learn about last week? Does anyone remember? (Palm Sunday) And today is a very special Sunday, does anyone know what today is? (Easter) But what happens in between Palm Sunday and Easter? (Allow children to answer: Christ's trial and crucifixion). Jesus died right; it was a sad time for all of Jesus' friends. But! God had a BIG plan and today we are going to find out what this BIG plan is...

### Setting (Verse 1)

Have you ever had to wake up early in the morning? I mean really early? Even before you can see the sun? That's called "dawn." Dawn is the time when daylight just starts to appear. Dawn is very early in the morning. When it's dawn, the sky seems a little lighter than it does at nighttime, but it's still pretty dark. It's funny though; birds seem to know it's almost morning and they usually sing and sing when it's dawn.

Today my story tells about the dawn of a very special day. Let me open my Bible to Luke 24 to find out what it says. (Open your Bible to Luke 24) Here we read that some ladies woke up very early one morning, before dawn.

They wanted to go to a special place as soon as they could see the way to get there! They had to wait until there was enough light to see though. Don't forget, when Jesus was on earth there was no electricity – that means no streetlights or anything like that. And remember if you wanted to get somewhere, you had to walk . . . no driving a car! The Bible says it was early in the morning on the first day of the week. That means it was Sunday. One of the ladies was Mary. She loved Jesus very much. (This was not the Mary who was Jesus' mother. It was another lady named Mary.) Mary and some other friends had gotten up so early on that special morning because they had a job to do. Mary wanted to go to Joseph's tomb and see where they had placed the Lord Jesus. Remember, Joseph had been so kind. He had owned a tomb; when Jesus died on the cross, Joseph wanted Jesus' body to be placed in his own tomb. So, after Jesus had died Joseph and another man named Nicodemus had carefully taken Jesus from the cross and wrapped him in special grave clothes and placed him in Joseph's tomb. Then a big stone had been rolled in front of the opening of the tomb. Mary and her friends had prepared some sweet spices and they were planning to take the spices to the tomb where Jesus was. The opening of the tomb was shut tightly by the big heavy rock. Mary and her friends did not know how they would roll that big rock away, so they could go inside. I guess they thought they would figure out a way to move it when they got there. It was probably very quiet that morning as Mary and her friends walked through the city to the garden where Joseph's tomb was. Maybe the sun was just peeping over the hill. Finally, they arrived.

Can you imagine how surprised Mary and the other women were when they saw that the stone wasn't in front of the tomb like it had been? The stone was rolled away! The tomb was opened.

### Empty Tomb (Verses 2-3)

Now the women could walk right inside the tomb and that's just what they did. But you know what? The tomb was different than it had been. The Bible says the tomb was empty. The body of the Lord Jesus was not there. He was gone. The women couldn't figure out what had happened. Jesus had died on the cross. They had watched, and they were so sad. They knew that friends had placed Jesus' body in the tomb. But now, where was He? Had someone taken him away?

### Report of the Two Angels (Verses 4-8)

The Bible says, "While they were wondering about this (that means thinking hard and trying to figure it out!) suddenly two angels in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them." The women were so frightened. They bowed down with their faces to the ground.

Then the two angels said to the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember what Jesus told you, while he was still with you. Remember how he said he would be crucified and on the third day be raised from the dead?”

The Bible says when Mary and the other women heard the angels say those words they remembered what Jesus had said. Jesus had said he would come alive again. Jesus would not stay in that tomb!

### **Report of the Women (Verses 9-11)**

Off they ran, out of that tomb through the garden to find the disciples. Mary and her friends needed to find Peter and James and all the rest. Did they know what had happened? Did they know that Jesus was alive? As soon as they could, the women found the disciples and told them everything that had happened. But the Bible says the disciples did not believe the women. The disciples thought their words were silly. The disciples had seen Jesus die on the cross too, just like the women had. They thought He just couldn't be alive! I guess the disciples didn't remember what Jesus had said either.

### **Peter's Response (Verse 12)**

But Peter must have wondered a bit because the Bible says he got up and ran to the tomb to see what had happened. Peter wanted to see for himself. When Peter got there, he bent over and looked inside. Sure enough, the tomb was empty. There were the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying all by themselves, but no Jesus. He was gone! The Bible says Peter went away wondering what had happened. But Peter didn't have to wonder long. Soon He would see Jesus. And so would Mary and the others. Those who loved the Lord Jesus would see their risen Lord.

### **Prayer**

Dear Father,

You keep Your promises. We were lost, but You sent Jesus to find us. Jesus brings us back to You, so we can love You, know You and enjoy You. Jesus died and then three days later rose on Easter morning to bring us back to You. Thank you for loving us so much! Amen.

### **Questions for Review**

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

- Mary and some of her friends visited the Tomb. (Yes)
- The women found the stone in place. (No! The stone was rolled away!)
- The women brought spices and ointments to put on Jesus' body. (Yes)
- Two men greeted the women at the tomb. (Yes)
- The two men told the women to go away and to leave Jesus' body alone. (No! The two men told the women that Jesus had risen, and he was not in the tomb.)
- Mary and the other women went and told Jesus' disciples that Jesus had risen. (Yes)
- Peter heard these words and then went to sleep. (No! Peter ran to the tomb to see that Jesus had risen!)
- Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful men, was crucified, and then rose three days later. (Yes! Luke 14:7)