

APRIL 12, 2020

JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

GAME TIME

EMPTY TOMB

Using chairs, tables and blankets, construct your own "tomb" to enjoy this Easter as a family! Drape blankets over the structure to make a kind of "cave." Allow the children to take turns going into the cave or crawl in together as a family.

SAY: *Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. Jesus' tomb would have been kind of like a cave; the Bible tells us it was cut into the side of a rocky hill. We took turns going into our little tomb and coming out, and today we will hear about how Jesus came out of His tomb. A little while later, some other people also went in the tomb and came out.*

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 26-28; 1 Corinthians 15

An angry crowd took Jesus away to the religious leaders. They wanted to find a reason to kill Jesus, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. They took him to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple robe around Him and pretended to bow down to Him. Then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Two criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus.

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would."

The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' disciples the good news. Just then, Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My brothers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to His other disciples. Then Jesus appeared to more than 500 people who followed Him. Many people saw with their own eyes that Jesus is alive!

CHRIST CONNECTION: The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. We can believe that Jesus is alive! When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we have hope and new life. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

IT'S EMPTY

Place a rock or paper wad beneath two of three cups while everyone is watching. Try to confuse your child(ren) by quickly rearranging the cups in front of them. After several seconds, ask the kids which cup they think is empty. To make the game more difficult, turn away from your child(ren) and mix up the cups. Then ask one person to guess which cup is empty. Allow them to ask the rest of the family to see if they agree. Then, lift the cup they chose to show whether or not it is empty!

SAY: *In the Bible story we will hear today, some of Jesus' friends went to the tomb and expected to find His body there. But the tomb was empty!*

