

STORY

7/17/03

The First Appearance of Our Living Lord after His Death - Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, bless my study of Your Word with the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Please guide and direct me to present the saving truths of this story in a direct and faithful manner to my students. I thank You for the assurance that Your word will never return to You void, but always accomplish Your good will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

MATTHEW:

Sabbath - With reference to the seventh day when God rested (ceased) from His creating work. The people of God were to observe the Sabbath Day (Saturday) as a day of rest, ceasing from their labors. The Third Commandment calls for the observance of that day. The Old Testament Sabbath was a shadow of things to come, but the body (making the shadow) is Christ's: Colossians 2:17. He is our Sabbath, for He brings us rest for our souls Matthew 11:28,29.

Countenance - Appearance, the "look" on a person's face.

Brethren - The brother-in-faith, spiritual family brothers.

Elders - Generally, an older person. Here, used with reference to the Jewish Old Testament officers known as the "Elders." For example, "rulers" of the synagogue and the "elders" of the people were one and the same.

Appease - To pacify, to quiet, to satisfy.

Make you secure - Keep you out of trouble, see to it that you will not be court-marshaled.

MARK

Anoint - To apply oil upon someone in a ceremonial manner, to dedicate someone to a special calling. Here, perfumed (spiced) oils were applied to the dead body to cover the odors of death and decay.

Demons - Used with reference to the fallen angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7—9), ministers of the devil. Satan is called the prince of the demons (devils).

LUKE

Perplexed - Puzzled, full of doubts, confused.

Idle tales - Nonsense, gossip

OUTER AIM

To teach us to believe that Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

INNER AIM

To recognize God's hand in our lives: Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 422-434)

We have heard how God sent His only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins by His suffering and death. On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished!" The payment for our sin was completed by His death. But Jesus not only died for sin, but He was victorious over death. Today we learn about this victory as He showed Himself alive to some disciples on Easter morning.

The ransom for our souls was paid by Jesus through His suffering and death. As He promised, on the third day He arose from death. He was victorious over sin and death. Jesus lives, the victory's won! And because He lives, we also have life; life now, and life forever with Him in His heavenly Home.

S The Sabbath (no-work day) was over.

S At the "first light" of Sunday morning the women, who followed and ministered to Jesus with their material things, went to the tomb with "sweet spices" to embalm Jesus' body for burial.

S Mary of Magdala (Mary Magdalene) may have gone to the tomb before sunrise, for she found the tomb empty and hastened with her cry of sorrow to Peter and John, assuming that the body of Jesus had been stolen.

S During her absence from the tomb, the other women arrived and even entered into it.

S There they saw the two angels (Matthew and Mark refer to only one angel, the one who was the spokesman).

S The angel's message was: "He is not here, for He is risen.. .go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.. .He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him!"

S Meanwhile Peter and John were hurrying to the tomb, followed by Mary.

S John arrived first and paused for a time outside the tomb, but when Peter arrived he went directly into it.

S John joined him to observe that the body of Jesus had not been stolen, for the tomb did not appear to have been burglarized.

S They silently pondered the discovery as they returned again to the city.

S Mary arrived at the tomb after Peter and John had left.

S She lingered there, weeping over what she believed to be her losses: first, the living Jesus; now, even His dead body.

S Once more, two angels appeared and addressed Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

S Mary replied: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

S She turned away as if to find the body of Jesus in another place and, suddenly, Jesus stood before her in His living presence.

S Tearful and sorely grieved, Mary did not recognize Jesus.

S She thought it was the gardener, so she begged information concerning the whereabouts of Jesus' body so she could take Him away.

S She again turned toward the tomb and now Jesus spoke to her: "Mary!"

S She immediately recognized His voice and with great relief uttered the comforting word: "My Lord!" (Rabboni, Aramaic; Rabbi, Hebrew.)

S We recall that Jesus had taught: "My sheep hear My voice...and they know me."

S Mary was the first to whom the risen and living Jesus revealed Himself.

S After that He met the other women who were returning to Jerusalem pondering the wondrous message of the angels.

S Jesus instructed them: "Rejoice! Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

S We are told that while Mary's report caused Peter and John to run to the tomb, the other disciples considered the report from the other women to be astonishing, but utter nonsense.

S They did not even go to the tomb out of curiosity.

S The disciples isolated themselves in their room to agonize in their grief over the loss of their Master, Jesus.

S They forgot that He had told them that He would rise again on the third day and go before them into Galilee.

STUDENT PRAYER

Lower Level: Dear Jesus, You died for me that I may live. You live to lead me Home.
Teach me to follow You. Amen.

Upper Level: Lord, give me ears to hear Your word and a heart that believes Your word.
You died to save me, You live to lead me. Teach me to follow You. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Tell the story with the same emotion and excitement as if you were there. Tell the story in your words, but be faithful to the account that God recorded through the four evangelists.

APPLICATIONS

1. The ransom for our souls was paid by Jesus through His suffering and death. As He promised, on the third day He arose from death. He was victorious over sin and death. Jesus lives, the victory's won! And because He lives, we also have life; life now, and life forever with Him in His heavenly Home.
2. That is why we confess in the Apostles Creed: "I believe in the resurrection of the BODY". Our souls do not die and are not buried. When God takes us to Himself, He leaves our corrupted bodies on earth to return to dust. But on the last day our glorified bodies will be raised unto life with Him. This is our joy, our comfort, and our hope.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

John 14:19 - Jesus said: "Because I live, you will live also!"

Hymn 200, Stanza 1: I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort that sweet sentence gives! He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my everliving Head.

Middle any of the above and...

John 11:26 - Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Hymn 211, stanza 4: The power of death He broke in twain When He to life arose again. Hallelujah! To Him all praise be given!

Upper any of the above and...

John 11:25.26 - I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Hymn 206, stanza 2: Jesus, my Redeemer lives; I too unto life shall waken. Endless joy my Savior gives; Shall my courage then be shaken? Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?

The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Very early Sunday morning after Jesus was buried, women went to the grave to make Jesus' body sweet-smelling. They had wanted to go the day before, but it was the Sabbath Day. Mary Magdalene was the name of one of the women.

As they walked to the grave, the women wondered who would roll away the big stone in front of the grave. It was too heavy for the them to move. As soon as they arrived at the grave, they saw that the stone was already rolled away! The body of Jesus was not there. How surprised they were!

Something wonderful had happened that morning! An angel had come and rolled away the stone. He did this to show that Jesus had arisen. The angel's face was as bright as lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. The Roman soldiers were afraid and fell to the ground. They got up and ran to the city.

Mary did not know what had happened. She thought the enemies of Jesus had stolen the body. Mary ran back to the city to tell two of Jesus' disciples, Peter and John.

The other women went into the grave. Two angels were sitting there. They were dressed in white clothes. The angels said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus is alive again. Tell the disciples they will see Him soon."

Peter and John went to the tomb, followed by Mary. They discovered that Jesus' body was gone! Peter and John went back to the city, but Mary stayed. She was very sad. She was crying, but while she was crying, she heard a man's voice. She thought the man was the gardener and asked where the body of Jesus had been taken.

Jesus said, "Mary!"

Mary recognized Jesus' voice and

praised God.

Jesus showed Himself to the other women on their way to Jerusalem. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Jesus is risen!

Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

Passages

Job 19:25 "For I know that my Redeemer lives."

John 14:19 (Jesus said,) "Because I live, you will live also."

Hymn - TLH 200 v. 1

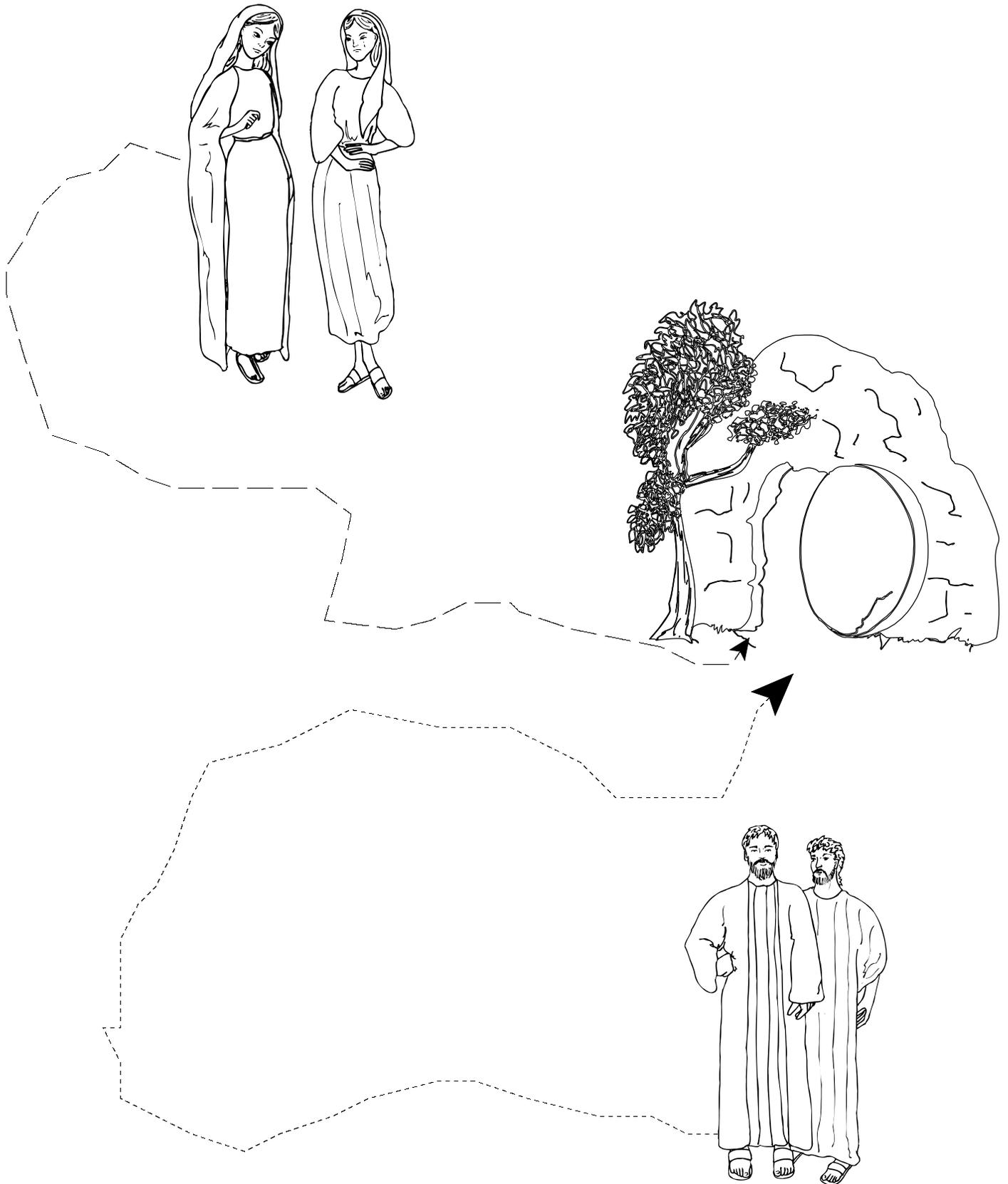
I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head.

Prayer

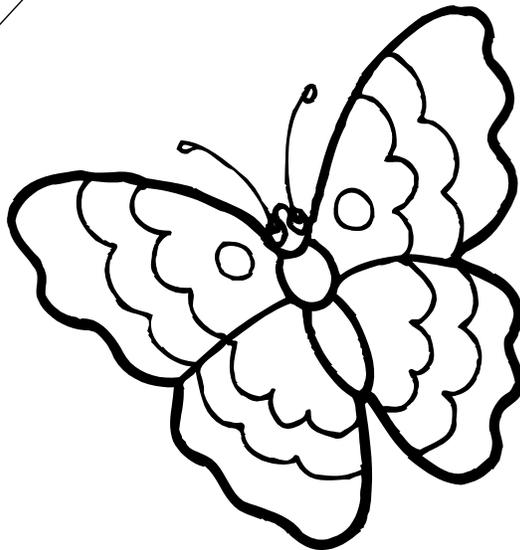
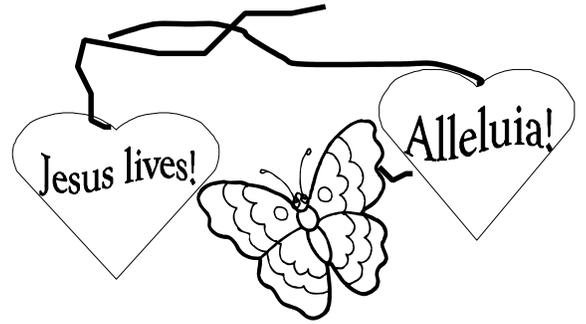
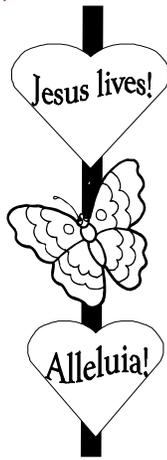
Dear Jesus, We are very happy that You rose from the dead. After dying on the cross, You showed everyone that You are God and that You have saved us all from hell. Thank you for dying and rising so that we can go to heaven with You. Amen.

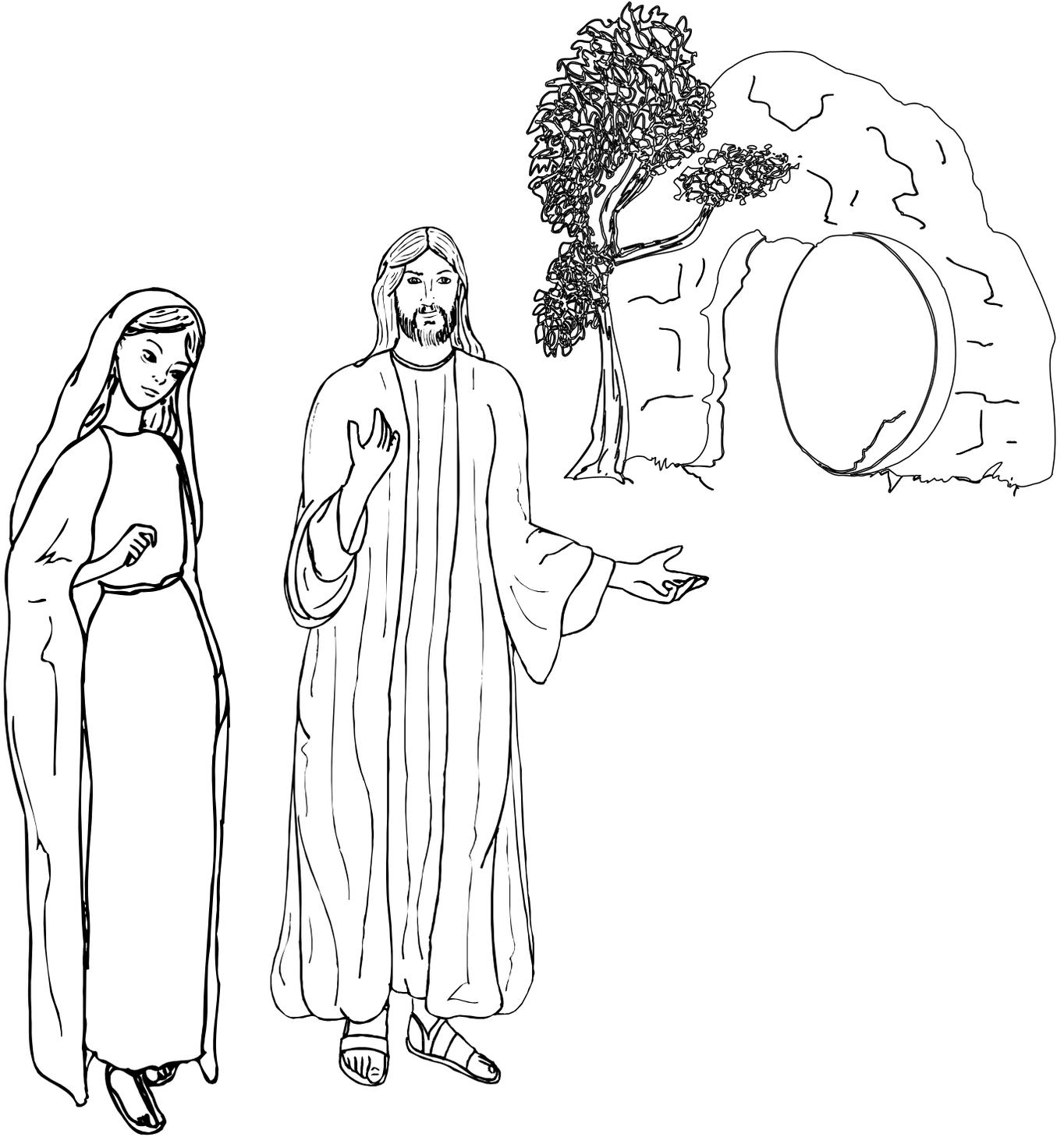


Classroom Activity - Help the women and Peter and John find the empty grave of Jesus. Use a crayon or pencil to trace the paths to the empty tomb. Say, "Alleluia, Jesus lives!" when you get to the tomb.



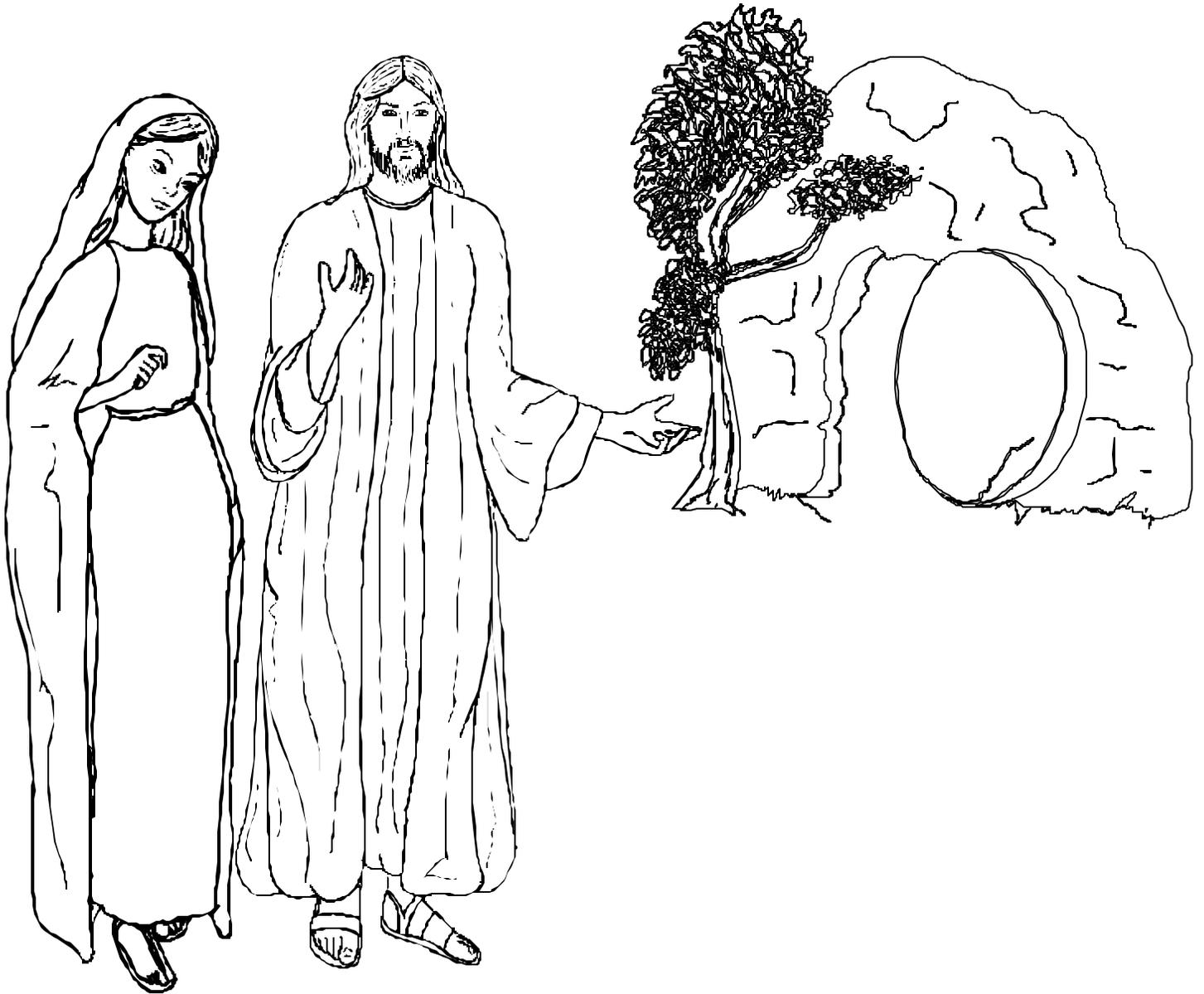
Classroom Art Activity - Help the children color and decorate the butterfly. Tell them that the butterfly is a symbol of the Resurrection because a butterfly comes out of a cocoon just as Jesus came out of the tomb. Cut out the hearts and fasten hearts and butterfly together with ribbon or yarn to make a necklace or mobile (as shown).





The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18



The Story

Very early Sunday morning after Jesus was buried, women went to the grave to make Jesus' body sweet-smelling. They had wanted to go the day before, but it was the Sabbath Day. Mary was the name of one of the women.

As they walked to the grave, the women wondered who would roll away the big stone in front of the grave. It was too heavy for the them to move. As soon as they arrived at the grave, they saw that the stone was already rolled away! The body of Jesus was not there. How surprised they were!

Something wonderful had happened that morning! An angel had come and rolled away the stone. He did this to show that Jesus had arisen. The angel's face was as bright as lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. The Roman soldiers were afraid and fell to the ground. They got up and ran to the city.

Mary did not know what had happened. She thought the enemies of Jesus had stolen the body. Mary ran back to the city to tell two of Jesus' disciples, Peter and John.

The other women went into the grave. Two angels were sitting there. They were dressed in white clothes. The angels said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus is alive again. Tell the disciples they will see Him soon."

Peter and John went to the tomb, followed by Mary. They discovered that Jesus' body was gone! Peter and John

went back to the city, but Mary stayed. She was very sad. She was crying, but while she was crying, she heard a man's voice. She thought the man was the gardener and asked where the body of Jesus had been taken.

Jesus said, "Mary!"

Mary recognized Jesus' voice and praised God.

Jesus showed Himself to the other women on their way to Jerusalem. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Jesus is risen!

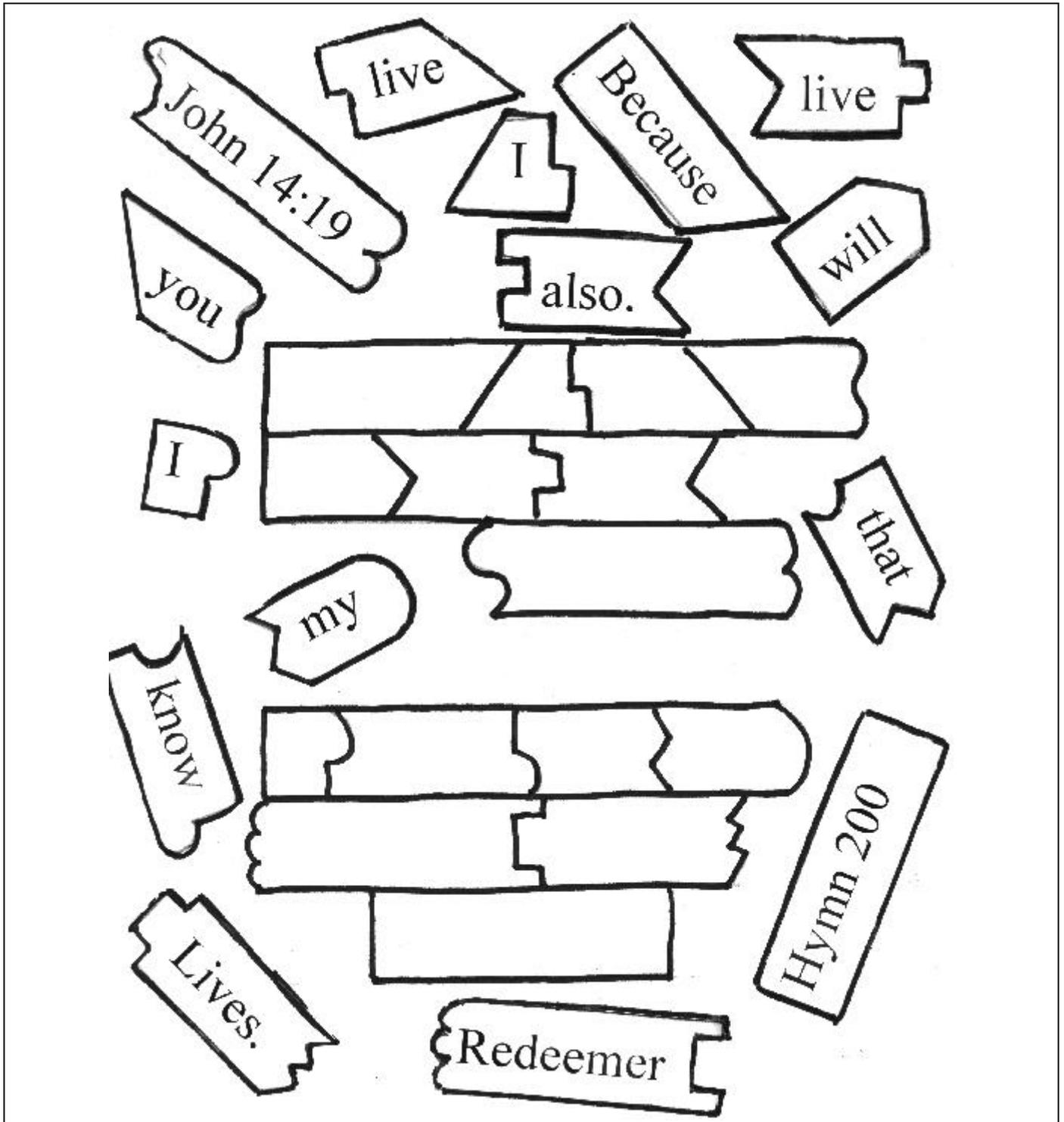
Activity One - Find the message. Starting with the "J", color every other box purple. This will help you find a hidden message. A triangle marks the beginning of a new word.

	J	O	E	H
S	W	U	A	S
D		F	I	D
S	I		L	A
N	L	C	I	J
V	A	E	S	

Answer: JESUS IS ALIVE

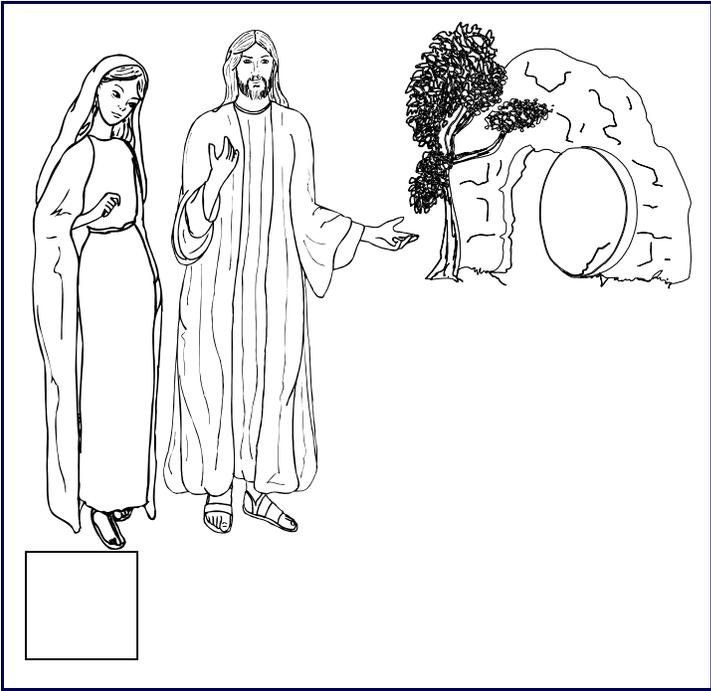
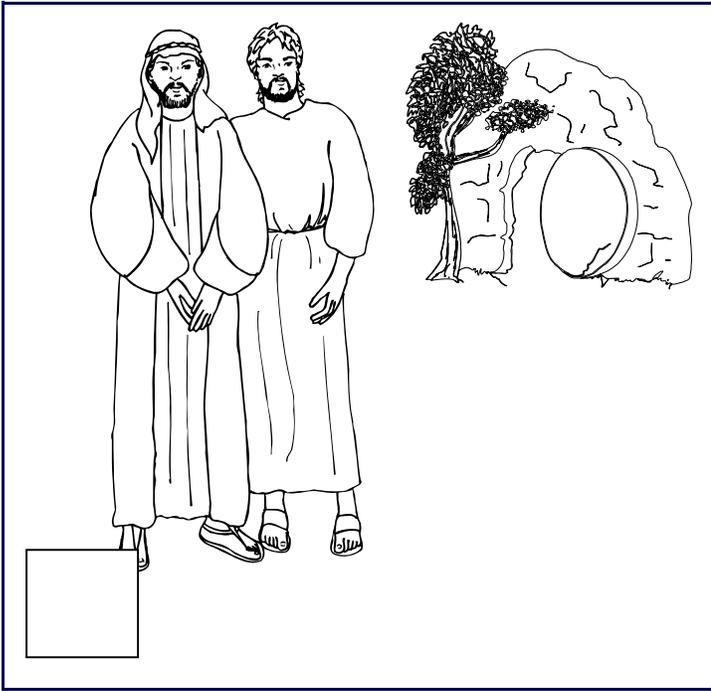
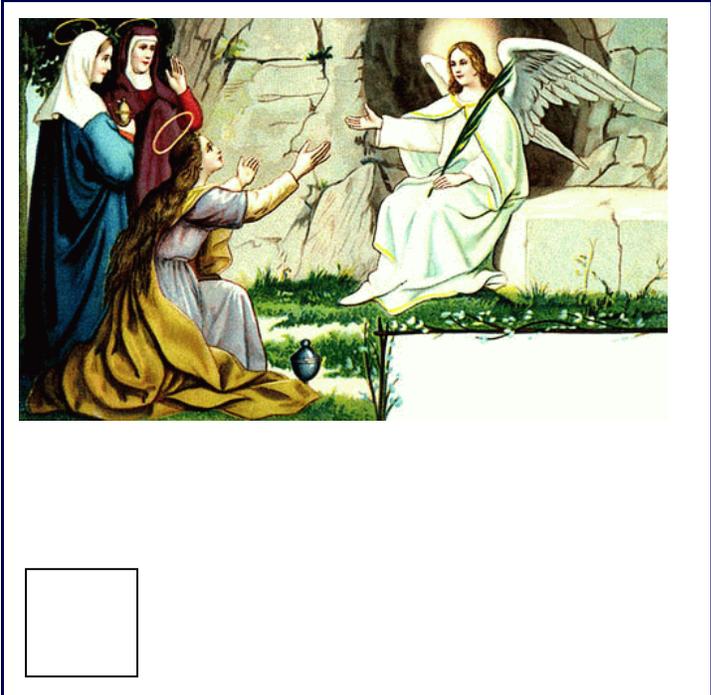
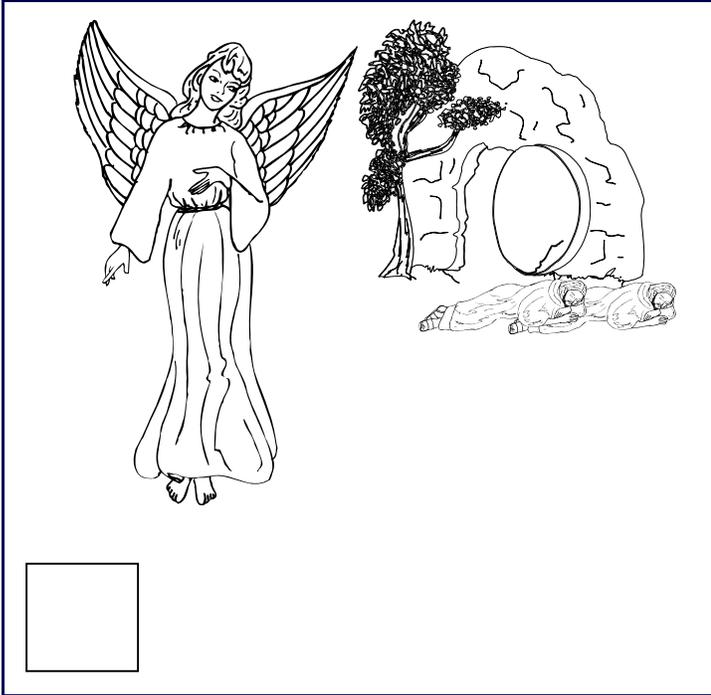
Prayer - Dear Jesus, we are very happy that You rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. After dying on the cross, You showed everyone that You are God and that You have saved us all from everlasting death in hell. Thank you for dying and rising so that we can go to heaven with You. Amen.

Passage - Memory Verse Puzzles. Cut out the puzzle pieces and put together the memory verses. You may wish to glue them to the outline guide.



The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18



The Story

After 6:00 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath day of rest was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to finish the loving task of burying Jesus' body. Early Sunday morning before the sun rose, the women took the spices to the tomb. As they walked they asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" When they arrived at the grave, the stone was already rolled away.

Earlier that morning there had been a great earthquake, and an angel from heaven had rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The soldiers guarding the grave had been so frightened that they fell down as if they were dead.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the grave was open, she ran back to Jerusalem to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus' body away.

The other women went into the tomb, but did not find Jesus' body. They saw two angels in shining white garments. The frightened women bowed down to the earth. One of the angels said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen as He said. Come and see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead; and indeed He is going before you into Galilee." The women quickly ran to report this good news to the disciples.

When Mary Magdalene returned to Jerusalem, she told Peter and John that the stone was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus. They ran to the grave. John outran Peter and arrived first, but he only bent down to look in and saw the linen cloths lying there. Peter went right into the tomb and saw that the linen napkin, which had been wrapped around Jesus' head, was folded by itself. Then John also

entered the tomb and believed. They returned home, marveling at what they had seen.

Now Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb and stood outside it weeping. When she looked inside, she saw two angels in white, sitting at the head and the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been.

The angels asked, "Why are you weeping?"

Mary answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I don't know where they have laid him."

Just then Mary turned around and saw Jesus, but did not recognize him. Jesus said, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Because Mary thought that he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Now Mary recognized Jesus and said, "Master!"

Jesus told her not to touch Him, but to go to tell His disciples the news. When Mary did tell the disciples, they did not believe that Jesus was alive.

As the other women were hurrying back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples the message of the angels, Jesus suddenly appeared before them, saying, "Rejoice." The women held Jesus by the feet and worshiped Him. Jesus told them to tell His disciples to meet Him in Galilee.

Meanwhile, the soldiers returned to the chief priests to report the happenings at the tomb that morning. The chief priests met with the elders and decided to bribe the soldiers with money to tell a lie. They were to say that Jesus' disciples had come during the night and stolen the body while the soldiers slept.

Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

Review - Look at the pictures on page 1. Write the number in the box according to the directions below.

1. Find the picture that shows the soldiers who saw the angel early on Easter morning. Put a number 1 by that picture. How did the soldiers feel?
2. Find the picture that shows the first friends of Jesus who saw the angels. Put a number 2 by that picture. What did the angels tell them?
3. Find the picture of the two disciples of Jesus who ran out to the grave. Put a number 3 by that picture. What did they see that gave proof that Jesus had risen from the dead?
4. Find the picture of Mary when she saw Jesus in the garden. Put a number 4 by that picture. Why was she crying?
5. Since Jesus rose from the dead, how can we feel about death?

Passage - Write the letter that would come after the letter that is given in the alphabet. The first word is given.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

I D R T R R Z H C A D B Z T R D H K H U D
J E S U S _ _ _ _ " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

X N T V H K K K H U D Z K R N . John 14:19
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . "

Review - Use the words below to fill in the sentences.

stone	angels	John	spices	earthquake
gardener	Peter	angel	stolen	linen cloths
Mary	disciples	Jesus	Master	live

1. The women brought _____ to finish burying Jesus' body.
2. The women worried about the _____ that was in front of the door of the tomb.
3. Easter morning an _____ and an _____ frightened the guards.
4. Mary Magdalene thought Jesus' body had been _____
5. The other women saw two _____ in the tomb.
6. Two disciples _____ and _____ ran out to the tomb.
7. The two disciples saw the _____ _____ in the tomb.
8. Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the _____.
9. Mary recognized Jesus when He said, " _____."
10. As the other women ran back to Jerusalem, they saw _____.
11. The chief priests told the guards to tell the lie that the _____ stole Jesus' body.
12. Explain why Jesus' resurrection is a comfort to believers.

We too will rise from the dead as Jesus rose from the dead.

Talking to Jesus

Dear Jesus,

We thank You for coming to earth to suffer and die for our sins. When You rose from the dead You showed that You had pleased our heavenly Father. Because we are sure that when we die we will also live with You in heaven, we do not have to be afraid of death. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Have you ever made a promise that was hard to keep?

Perhaps someone depended on you keeping your promise.

What if ten people depended on the kept promise?

What if 100 people needed you to keep your promise?

Jesus had the entire human race depending on His promise to rise from the dead. Because He DID keep His promise, we believers can be assured that we, in glorified bodies, will be with Him in heaven.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Bless our study of Your Word with the gift of Your Holy Spirit. May He guide and direct us in the study of His saving truths in this story. We thank you for the assurance that Your word will never return to You void, but always accomplish Your good will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Living Lord after His Death

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as

snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door to the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to



the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words.

And he said to them, "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead: and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying

by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and

had been seen by her, they did not believe.

And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice." So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Now while these women were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and counseled together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the correct answers as found in the lesson.

1. Now when the Sabbath was past, _____, _____, and _____ brought spices to anoint Him.
2. Behold, there was a great _____.
3. The women said among themselves, "Who will _____?"
4. The angel answered, "Why do you seek _____?"
5. Then the other disciple went into the tomb also, and he saw _____.
6. Jesus said to her, " _____!" She turned and said to Him, " _____", which is to say, _____.
7. Then Jesus said to the women, "Do not be afraid; go and tell _____ and there they _____.
8. The elders gave a large sum of _____ to the soldiers for telling a lie.

Outer Aim - Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

What God Tells Us - Mark each as (T)true or (F)alse.

- _____1. We know that Jesus is alive because He appeared to Mary and the other women.
- _____2. We know that Jesus is alive because the Bible tells us so.
- _____3. Believers should always follow their reason.
- _____4. We can be certain that we will go to heaven, because we believe in a living Jesus.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 11:26 "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Job 19:25 "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;"

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Inner Aim - Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

Hymn- TLH 206 v. 2

Jesus , my Redeemer, lives; I too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives; shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head rise and leave His members dead?

This verse speaks directly to all Christians that are living today. It gives the Christian a question to answer. Do you know what the answer is?

Your Turn

On the last day our glorified body will be raised unto life with Jesus. Compare and contrast that glorious body with our corrupted bodies here on earth.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You died for me that I may live. You live to lead me Home. Teach me to follow You. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

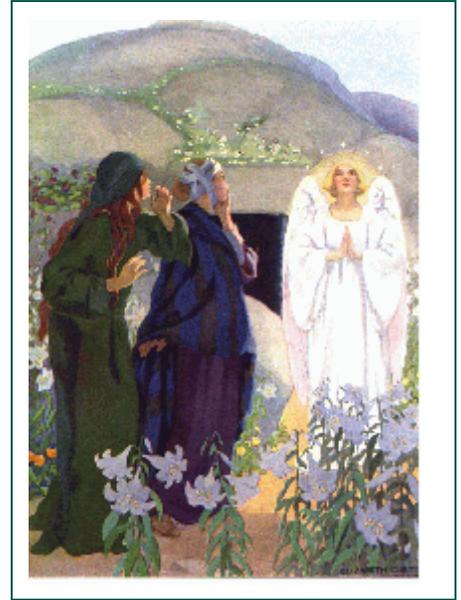
Television and movies have created images that equal our imaginations. Of course, movies make anything *look* real and they dream up explanations for what seems impossible. But the Bible states that a real person saw Jesus, someone that was declared dead and buried.

Can you imagine seeing someone alive on the street, whose body you saw in a casket at a funeral not three days before?

What would be the first thing you would say to him or her?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, bless our study of Your Word with the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Please guide and direct us in the study of Your saving truths in this story. We thank You for the assurance that Your Word will never return to You void, but always accomplish Your good will. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The First Appearance of Our Living Lord after His Death Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and

rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door to the tomb for us?" But when



they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words.

And he said to them, "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead: and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said

nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you

weeping? Whom are you seeking?

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice." So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My

brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Now while these women were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and counseled together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Recalling Details

1. What three women went to anoint Jesus?
2. Who rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb?
3. To whom did Mary run back and tell the news?
4. Who did the other women see in the tomb?
5. What did the angel say to the women?
6. what did Peter and John find in the tomb?
7. Who was the first person to see Jesus alive?
8. Why didn't the disciples believe the women?
9. What did the guards report to the chief priests?
10. What was given to the guards and what were they told to say?

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus forbid Mary to cling to Him, while He encouraged the other women to touch Him?
2. Faith accepts what cannot be proven, while unbelief rejects, at times, even that which can be proven. How was this true of the chief priests?
3. Explain why Jesus had to rise again in order to redeem the world.
4. What will our bodies be like when Jesus takes us to heaven on the last day? How will they be different from what they are like now?

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 11:25-26 " Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Inner Aim - To recognize God's hand in our lives: Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

Hymn

Hymn #211 vs. 4. The hymn writer mentions the power of death being broke in twain. To what is this also a reference?

Prayer

Lord, give me ears to hear Your Word and a heart that believes Your Word. You died to save me, You live to lead me. Teach me to follow You. Amen.