

Easter Sunday – year C

Preparation

Read [Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24](#) and [John 20: 1-18](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.coloring.ws/jesus.htm>

http://www.biblecoloringpages.org/showcover/Jesus/Jesus_Resurrected/

http://www.sermons4kids.com/he_is_risen_colorpg.htm

<http://www.childrenstory.info/biblestoryforchild/cb300.html>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/279PeterJohnJesusTomb.pdf>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwss.htm#ed>: word search puzzles

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White or yellow cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children what is special about today. Hopefully they will be able to tell you something about the meaning of Easter Day. Remind the children of all the things that Jesus went through after he got to Jerusalem. He had a special meal with his friends and washed their feet. He died on the cross. Tell them on the first Easter morning all of Jesus' friends were sad and that they had forgotten that Jesus had told them about the promise that God had made that something amazing would happen on the third day. Explain that in today's story they will what that amazing thing is that God did for them and for all of us.

Story Time

During this season, a paraphrase of a verse of the Psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following; ask them to say it as loud as they can:

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

It was very early in the morning. Mary Magdalene who had been with Jesus as a friend for a long time went to the tomb where they had laid Jesus. She wanted to be able to take care of the body and do one last act for her friend who was dead. As she was walking along Mary Magdalene wondered how she was going to get the large stone away from the front of the tomb.

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Mary was so surprised when she got to the tomb. The big stone in front of it was moved away. She ran back to Peter and to John and the other friends of Jesus. She was out of breath and very worried. Mary Magdalene came running and said, “They have taken Jesus’ body away. We have no idea where it is!”

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Simon Peter and John started running to the tomb. Mary Magdalene came up behind them. John got to the tomb first. He looked into the tomb but didn’t go in it. He saw that Jesus’ body was not there. When Simon Peter came running up, he went right into the tomb. John then came in. They both saw that the linen cloths that had been put on Jesus were folded up and that there was no body. They both stood there looking at the scene and at each other but were not sure what to think. They didn’t remember the promise that Jesus had made to them before he died on the cross. The promise that God would do something amazing. After a few moments they left and went back to their homes.

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Mary Magdalene was left all alone in front of the tomb. She was crying and crying. She was so upset that someone had taken Jesus’ body. She bent over and looked into the tomb and Mary saw two angels sitting there where Jesus’ body had been. They said to her, “Woman why are you crying?”

Mary Magdalene told them, “They have taken the body of Jesus away and I don’t know where they have put it.”

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Mary turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know that it was him. Jesus said to her, “Woman why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Mary thought it was the gardener and said to Jesus, “Sir, do you know where they have put the body of Jesus and I want to go and say good bye to him.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

Mary was astonished! She turned and looked at Jesus and reached out to him and said, “Teacher!”

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Jesus said, “Don’t hold on to me. Go to our friends and say to them ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and to your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went and found the others and told them, “I have seen Jesus!”

She also told them everything that Jesus had said to her in the garden.

Today God has acted! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

Response

Please note that for this day, there is only a story and no activity.

This is to allow people to attend church as a family on this most holy of our festival.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle.

Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us. Amen.