

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

## Resurrection – Matthew 28:1-10

### Prepare to Lead

#### Activities At-a-Glance

##### GATHER TOGETHER

- Jesus Is Alive! (Coloring)
- Easter Mobile (Craft)
- Tell the Story (Creative Writing)
- 3-D Butterfly (Craft)

##### EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Easter Card (Art)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

##### WONDER MORE

- Egg Rolling (Game)
- Stone Painting (Art)
- Good News Wall (Collaborative Art)
- Post-Easter Celebration (Outreach)

#### Supplies At-a-Glance

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>crayons</i>             | <i>Easter stickers</i>      |
| <i>colored pencils</i>     | <i>various art supplies</i> |
| <i>markers</i>             | <i>rocks</i>                |
| <i>scissors</i>            | <i>plastic butterflies</i>  |
| <i>pencils</i>             | <i>soft modeling dough</i>  |
| <i>unsharpened pencils</i> | <i>fly swatters</i>         |
| <i>string or yarn</i>      | <i>potted lily</i>          |
| <i>hole punch</i>          | <i>baking sheets</i>        |
| <i>paper</i>               | <i>acrylic pint,</i>        |
| <i>glue</i>                | <i>shaving cream</i>        |
| <i>plastic Easter eggs</i> | <i>cardstock</i>            |
| <i>construction paper</i>  | <i>craft sticks</i>         |
| <i>toothpicks</i>          |                             |

#### Suggested Books

- Good News! It's Easter!*  
by Glenys Nellist
- Waiting for Wings* by Lois Elhert

### Tips for the Leader

- Happy Easter! Whether you use this lesson before, on, or after Easter Sunday, enjoy celebrating the resurrected Jesus with the children in your group.
- Jesus' resurrection may bring up a lot of questions for younger children. Encourage questions, wonderment, and awe as you explore the story together.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to include items you are using from the Class Pack.
- Easter is a celebration, therefore the liturgical colors change from the purple of Lent to white. Be sure to change the color on your Wonder Table!

## Prepare to Wonder

### Faith Word: REMEMBER

Happy Resurrection Day! In today's story, women are the first to find the empty tomb. They do not come to anoint Jesus' body, like in Mark; they come to see the tomb. Some argue this is because they remembered Jesus' teachings about his resurrection and wanted to see if God's promise had been fulfilled.

As the women approach the tomb, there is a great earthquake and they see an angel roll the stone away and sit on top of it. The angel tells the women not to be afraid. The angel says that Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is alive! "Go and tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive and will meet them in Galilee," the angel says. In awe and amazement, and maybe fear, the women run to tell the other disciples what the angel had said.

But wait! As the women run down the path, Jesus himself appears to them. They fall to their knees when they see Jesus, and he reiterates what the angel had said: "Go, tell the disciples I will see them in Galilee." A direct command from Jesus to the women, to remember his resurrection share the good news with others.

We have many ways of remembering Jesus' resurrection. On Easter we use symbols like Easter lilies to represent the new life offered through resurrection. Resurrection can remind us that with each new day there is opportunity to see God's goodness and to share that goodness with others. God continues to give us new life, exemplified in the story of Jesus' resurrection. We may also shout in worship, "Christ is risen!" to remind ourselves and one another of the many ways God offers us new life through the life of Jesus.

### Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, remember Jesus' resurrection by helping others celebrate. You can plan and prepare to brighten Resurrection Day for friends and neighbors with cards, Easter lilies, or a special Easter treat (where appropriate). Involve your family in making and delivering everything. Which ritual of sharing the love of Christ with others on Resurrection Day speaks to you most?

# Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

## Jesus Is Alive! – Preschool

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy "Jesus Is Alive!" (Reproducible 5A) for each preschooler.*

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Jesus Is Alive!"

**SAY:** Today is Easter Sunday! Jesus Is Alive!

**ASK:** How do you feel today?

- Encourage the children color the picture of the Bible story as you talk about Easter.

## Easter Mobile – Younger Elementary

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids' Book, unsharpened pencils (2 per child) , crayons or markers, scissors, hole punch, string or yarn, paper*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy "Easter Mobile" (Reproducible 5B) for each child. Cut string or yarn into various lengths: 6, 8, or 10 inches.*

- Give each child a copy of "Easter Mobile," two pencils, and string.

**SAY:** Let's make a mobile to help us remember all the stories of Jesus we've heard this month.

**ASK:** What is your favorite story that you have heard during Lent?

- Encourage the children to color and cut out the images.
- Show children how to secure their pencils together. Place the pencils across one other in a cross pattern and secure by wrapping the string around the middle and tying together.
- Punch a hole in each image, and attach one end of the string or yarn to each image. Then, attach the images to the different ends of the pencils to create a mobile. Attach another piece of string to the mobile and make a loop to create a hanging piece.
- If time allows, encourage children to create their own images to add to their mobile.

**SAY:** Your mobiles can help you remember the stories of Lent and Easter.

## Tell the Story – Older Elementary

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "Tell the Story" (Reproducible 5C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Tell the Story."

**ASK:** What would it look like if Jesus' resurrection happened today? How would we hear about it?

- Encourage children to write and illustrate a blog or social media post about the Resurrection.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their writings.

## 3-D Butterfly Craft – All Ages

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, markers, scissors, string (optional)

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "3-D Butterfly" (Reproducible 5D) for each child.

**SAY:** Butterflies remind us of Jesus' resurrection and of new life.

**WONDER:** Who knows how the butterfly's life cycle works?

**SAY:** Butterflies go through a special life cycle and show us that life goes on and on, even when it seems impossible.

- Give each child a copy of "3-D Butterfly" to color and decorate.
- Show the children how to cut out the butterfly on the outside lines and then on the solid lines inside the wings. Fold the wings up on the dashed lines.
- If you choose, hang up the butterflies in your space.

## Come Together

*Supplies:* Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a lily

*Prepare Ahead:* Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the lily inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

**SAY:** Today is a day of celebration. It's Resurrection Day!

**ASK:** What is another name for today? (Easter)

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Resurrection” (pp. 170–171) from the storybook or read Matthew 28:1-20, from a CEB Bible.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you for the good news of Easter. Amen

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

*Supplies:* Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 5 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

**WONDER:** How do you celebrate Easter with your family? What is your favorite part of celebrating Easter?

### Interactive Bible Story

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids’ Book

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 5F–5G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

**WONDER:** Have you ever had good news to share? What did you do?

### Wonder with Me

*Supplies:* Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

*Prepare Ahead:* Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

*Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven’t already.*

*Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).*

**SAY:** Today’s Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and invite a child to read or recite the definition of the faith word.

**SAY:** This month we have been remembering stories of Jesus.

**ASK:** What do you remember about Jesus? What happened in our Bible story today?

- Have a child place the empty tomb on the Wonder Story Mat.

**WONDER** together:

- How do you think the women's faces looked when they saw the angel at the tomb? (*Let the children make faces.*)
  - How do you think the guards' faces looked when they saw the angel? (*Let the children make faces.*)
  - Why is it important to remember Easter?
  - What do you think is in our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the lily.

**SAY:** Today we are celebrating Easter and new life. We use signs of new life, like flowers and butterflies, to remember Easter.

**WONDER:** What else helps you remember Easter?

## Experience Wonder

### Easter Cards – All Ages

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids' Book, Easter stickers, construction paper, crayons and markers, scissors, glue, assorted art supplies

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "Easter Card" (Reproducible 5E) for each child.

- Show children how to cut out their card and glue it to construction paper to make a sturdier card.
- Have each child decorate the card with the supplies you provided.

**SAY:** The angel and Jesus told the women to share the good news that Jesus was alive.

**WONDER:** Who can you share the good news that Jesus is alive? Why is it important to share the good news of Jesus?

### Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

*Supplies:* CEB Bibles

**SAY:** Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

**ASK:** Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).  
Read the verse together.

**ASK:** Can you say our Bible verse from memory?

## Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

*Supplies:* copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Good News! It's Easter! by Glenys Nellist, Waiting for Wings by Lois Elhert, quiet toys and soft items, separated plastic Easter eggs, rocks and stones, plastic butterflies, crayons or markers, paper, soft modeling dough

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Have the children form rocks and tombs out of the modeling dough.
- Encourage children to write messages to place inside the plastic eggs, along with a plastic butterfly.

*Tip:* All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

## Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

### Preschool – Egg Rolling

*Supplies:* plastic eggs, flyswatters (one per team), painters' tape, scissors, plastic butterflies

*Prepare Ahead:* Mark two X's in painters' tape on the floor at one end of the room, and mark off one large square on the floor at the other side of the room. Place plastic butterflies in some of the eggs.

- Give each child a plastic egg and line them up in two teams by the X's. Give the first child in each team a flyswatter.
- Tell them to place the egg on the X and when you say, "Go," they are to use the flyswatter to move the egg into the taped square on the other side of the room. They must then run the flyswatter to the next person in line on their team, repeating until all team eggs are in the square.

**SAY:** The angel rolled the stone away, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was not there. The empty egg is a symbol of the empty tomb. It reminds us that Jesus is not in the tomb, that he is alive!

**SAY:** Let's open our eggs and see if they are empty.

- One at a time, have each child open an egg and see if there is a butterfly. If the egg is empty, the child will shout, “He is Risen!” If the egg has a butterfly, the child will say, “Jesus brings new life!”

**SAY:** We are so happy that Jesus is alive, we are celebrating!

## Early Elementary – Stone Painting

*Supplies: baking sheets, shaving cream, acrylic paint, cardstock cut into large circles (one for each child), toothpicks, jumbo craft sticks, smocks*

- Hand out the supplies, and have the children put on smocks.

**SAY:** In the Bible story, the stone was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb and Jesus was gone. Jesus’ disciples were sad at first, but then they remembered Jesus’ message and wanted to share that message with others.

- Have the children cover a baking sheet in shaving cream. Then squeeze a few drops of paint onto the shaving cream.
- Direct the children to use a toothpick to swirl through the paint to mix it into the shaving cream.
- Place the cardstock circle on the mixture, press down, and let it sit for two minutes.
- Gently remove the cardstock circle, and use a jumbo craft stick to scrape off the excess mixture. Set the circle aside to dry.

**SAY:** Now you have a special stone to remember Jesus’ resurrection.

## Older Elementary – Good News Wall

*Supplies: paper, crayons, markers, stickers, scissors, hanging materials (such as a stapler, tape, putty, or thumbtacks, depending on your surface)*

**Prepare Ahead:** Clear a wall or a bulletin board.

**SAY:** Let’s decorate a space where we can share our good news.

**ASK:** How do you think we should decorate our space.

- Once the children agree, let them work together to decorate the wall or board.

## Intergenerational – Post-Easter Celebration

*Supplies: paper, pens or pencils, markers*

**SAY:** We are celebrating Easter! We have heard the good news of the Resurrection, and we can share this good news with other.

- Divide the participants into groups of three or four.

**SAY:** Let's plan ideas for how we can share the good news with our community. What type of celebration can we host after Easter?

- Give the groups time to brainstorm their ideas.
- Invite groups to share their ideas and as a group, decide a plan that you would like to put into action.
- Plan your celebration and make plans to invite members of your community!

## Go in Peace

### Spiritual Practice – Exploring Remembrance Through Ritual

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

**SAY:** Today we have talked a lot of about Resurrection, new life, and new beginnings. Easter is a special day to learn about these things.

**WONDER:** What have you learned today?

**SAY:** Let's use our bodies to send out the good news of Easter. Do the motions I do.

- Bend down and wrap your arms around your legs.

**SAY:** I can begin somewhere,...

- Stand halfway up and place your hands on your knees.

**SAY:** Even if I am small.

- Stand all the way up and place your hands on your hips.

**SAY:** I can keep growing...

- Flap your arms like butterfly wings.

**SAY:** To share the good news!

### Family Spiritual Practice

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.*

**SAY:** Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 5F–5G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.