

# Sunday, April 8, 2012

## Easter Sunday

### Preparation:

Read Gospel, [Mark 16: 1-8](#), for this Sunday over . Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you. For this lesson there will only be the gathering, story time and closing time as it is expected that the children will attend regular worship on this day.

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.textweek.com/yearb/easterdb.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east1les.htm>

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

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/Acts/BurialResurrection.htm>

[http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming\\_faith.cfm?id=309](http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=309)

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/newtestament/resurrection.htm>

<http://children.ccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/278JesusIsRisen.pdf>

### Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

White cloth

Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the white cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!**

**Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!**

**Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!**

Blow out the candle. Ask the children what they remember of what has taken place this past week – Holy Week. List the various important days up on the newsprint – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday – and after each list the key thing that took place on each day. Palm Sunday – arrival in Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday – Last Supper. Good Friday – Jesus' crucifixion. Explain that Jesus' friends by early Sunday morning were very sad and that they had forgotten all the times that Jesus had told them everything would turn out the way that God wanted it to. In today's story they are all very surprised by what happens.

**Story Time:***Materials needed:*

A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table

Take four pieces of paper and make the following emotion faces: happy, sad, angry, surprised

Jesus' friends were feeling so sad. They were still struggling to understand what had happened. How is that Jesus, their dear, dear friend, had been put to death on a cross? How had it happened? *Place the sad face down for the children to see.*

They spent the previous day together quietly. They remembered so many of the things that Jesus had told them. They just could not figure out what they were going to do next. They remembered how angry they had felt when they saw Jesus on the cross. *Place the angry face down for the children to see.*

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome were all friends of Jesus. They were there when he died. They were there when Joseph of Arimathea had put Jesus' body into the tomb. These three friends made a decision. They talked it over together. All three of them knew that they had one last thing that they wanted to do for their friend, Jesus. They decided that they needed to go to the place where Jesus was buried early on the Sunday morning.

Salome brought the clean linens to wrap Jesus' body in. Mary Magdalene gathered the spices, myrrh, cinnamon and aloes, to care for Jesus' body. Mary the mother of James, brought the clean cloths to clean his body with first. They wanted to care for their friend in this most special loving way.

When they got to the tomb the three women had the surprise of their lives. They had all remembered that a large stone had been placed in front of the tomb. They had been talking as they went about how they were going to get the stone removed. Imagine their surprise when they got to the tomb and saw that the stone was gone. *Place the surprised face down for the children to see.*

There in the tomb was another surprise for the three women. They found a young man in the tomb. He looked at them and said, "Do not be scared. I know you are looking for Jesus who was put to death on the cross. Jesus has been raised. Jesus is not here. Take a look over there. You will remember that is where they laid Jesus' body. You have an important message to share. Go to Jesus' other friends, Peter and the others, and tell them Jesus is going ahead to Galilee and will be there waiting for them."

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome all stood there quite amazed. They were happy and scared at the same time. They ran out of the tomb, not sure what they were going to do next or who they were going to tell what had happened. *Place the happy face down for the children to see.*

**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 loving us.**

**Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.**

**Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.**

**Amen.**