

# 24



## THE EMPTY TOMB

### The Resurrection

#### 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** John 19:20 – 42; John 20; Matthew 28; Luke 24

**Objectives** To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, and appeared to his disciples.
- The disciples' sadness and confusion was replaced by joy when they realized that Jesus was risen.
- Jesus conquered sin and death when he died and rose again. He is the Forever King. It was a new beginning for God's people.
- When we accept Jesus into our lives, we are a new creation.

**Memory Verse** "Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 - NIRV)

**ACNA**

**Catechism  
Connection**

The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Q 29 What is in the New Testament? ...contains the record of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection...

Q 64 What does the Creed mean when it affirms that Jesus again rose from the dead? ...God restored him physically from death to life in his perfected and glorious body, never to die again. His tomb was empty: Jesus had risen bodily from the dead. The risen Jesus was seen by his apostles...

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

**Lesson props:****Outside the classroom** (for the first part of the story):

- Large cross
- Sign saying "Good Friday" on one side and "Easter Sunday" on the other side
- Classroom "entrance" windows to be covered so the children cannot see into the classroom.
- 2 question cue cards for the children to ask the angel:

**CHILD #1:** He is alive?

**CHILD #2:** What did the disciples think?

**Inside the classroom** (for the second part of the story):

- Picture of the empty tomb
- White cloths to represent the burial cloths
- Song: He's alive again
- Basket of red boiled eggs (optional)
- Chocolate Easter eggs to be hidden around the classroom (optional)

**Costumes:** Mary Magdalene (adult), Angel (adult)

**Memory Verse:** (Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.



Outside classroom



Inside classroom

## 2 | Lesson Outline – In this story it is suggested that you only do the story, life application and related activities.

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	<b>PLEASE NOTE: In this lesson the story and life application comes <u>before</u> the liturgy and music.</b> Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.)  <b>Big story props:</b> Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</b>
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <b>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Poster Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss this week's poster.</li> <li>• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story.</li> </ul> <p><b>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</b></p>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b>Proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom.  <b>See Resource Section.</b>

### 3 | Poster Discussion

**Poster**

As the story comes first in this lesson, the poster can be used at the end as a review of the story.

What do you see in this picture? (empty tomb, sun)

I wonder who was in the tomb?

I wonder why the tomb is empty?

Is there anything else you are wondering about in this picture?



## 4 | Story and Life Application

**NOTE:** *If your classroom door has windows, cover the windows with black paper (or black plastic bags) so the children cannot see into the classroom.*

*Have the cross outside of the classroom with the sign, "Good Friday" at the base of the cross. Do not let the children go into the classroom. Start the story in the hallway.*

**CROWN:** *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from Gospel of Matthew, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true'*

**LESSON SUMMARY:** *Omit the summary for this lesson.*

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Last Sunday, we talked about Jesus dying on the cross. The disciples were sad and confused. They expected Jesus to live until he became king here on earth. But instead, the Forever King had been hung on the cross and was dead. After Jesus' death on the cross on the Friday, they took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in white linen and put it in the tomb.

The Jewish leaders were nervous that the disciples might come and steal the body, so they had soldiers guard the tomb during the day and night.

Now, it is three days later....it is Easter Sunday.

**ACTION:** *Change the sign at the base of the cross to "Easter Sunday" (3 days later).*

**TEACHER:** On the third day after Jesus had died on the cross, Mary Magdalene got up very early to go to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Look here she comes now ..... (point to Mary Magdalene)

**ACTION:** *Mary Magdalene enters, walks by the children crying in the hallway and enters the classroom. Shuts the door. After a few seconds, she comes running out of the classroom.*

**MARY:** Help, help! The soldiers are gone. The big stone that covered the entrance of the tomb has been moved. Jesus is gone!! Come, come and see. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb".

**TEACHER:** Let's go in and find out what has happened.

**ACTION:** *Take the children inside the classroom. There should be a picture (or setting) of a tomb and linen clothes. An angel appears from behind the tomb.*

**ANGEL:** Why are you here? Why are you looking for Jesus among the dead? He is not here.....Jesus has risen. Remember when Jesus said to you that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise again.

Do you remember?

**TEACHER:** Yes we remember ..... but where is Jesus?

**ANGEL:** He is alive. He is risen from the dead!

**CHILD #1:** He is alive?

**ANGEL:** He conquered sin when he died on the cross, and he conquered death when he rose from the grave. No-one else could do that. Only God the Son could do that. He is the Forever King!

**CHILD #2:** What did the disciples think?

**TEACHER:** The disciples were filled with JOY! This makes us excited and filled with joy too. Jesus is the Forever King!

Let's celebrate. Let's sing the song "He's alive again" .....

He's alive again, the stone's been rolled away.

He's alive again, he is no longer in the grave.

He's alive again, I can hear the angel say

Let all the world rejoice, He's alive.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He truly is the Son of God, he is powerful, he overcame death, he has a glorious eternal body)
- **How does this event change how I live?** (I am thankful that Jesus overcame death, I can live knowing that someday I will have a new and glorious eternal body too.)
- **How did Mary feel when she saw that the stone was rolled away?** (frightened, confused, sad)
- **Who told Mary that Jesus was not in the tomb, but that he was alive?** (an angel)
- **Why did Jesus die on the cross?** (that by his perfect life and sacrificial death, Jesus paid the just penalty for our sins and he gives us the power to overcome sin and temptation, to take away our sin)
- **Why is it important that Jesus rose again from the dead?** (Jesus defeated even the enemy of death. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that we who are united to him by faith, will be resurrected to everlasting life too. We will also rise from the dead and will be given a glorious, new and eternal body like Jesus has; we will live in God's Kingdom with Jesus as the Forever King)

**Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):**

Let's read our memory verse again. (*Read the memory verse.*) What does it mean to be a new creation?

Before I asked Jesus into my life, I knew that I (*put out left hand palm up which represents you*) was made in God's image BUT I did not have HIS life (*with left hand point to heaven*) in my heart (*with left hand point to your heart*). I was sinful (*sad face*).

On the other hand, (*put out right hand, which represents Jesus*) Jesus died for my sins! He rose from the grave (*raise right hand palm up*) and He can now live in us! (*With right hand point to heart.*)

He lives in me! (*Place both palms of hands together.*)

So when you put your hands together like this, (*prayer hands*) or like this, (*intertwined fingers*) remember that when we believe in Jesus, he forgives us our sin and now lives within us and gives us power to live for him.

## 5 | Related Activities

### Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### Optional Activities

- **EASTER EGG HUNT:**  
Bring out the basket of red boiled eggs and explain the meaning to the children: The egg is seen by followers of Christ as a symbol of the resurrection. In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross. The hard shell of the egg symbolizes the seal – the tomb of Christ. The cracking of the egg symbolizes his resurrection from the dead.  
Have chocolate Easter eggs hidden around the room for the children to find.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Learning station: Modelling clay

"Anyone who  
believes in Christ is  
a new creation. The  
old is gone! The new  
has come!"

(2 Corinthians 5:17)