

Jesus Is Risen

Grades
1-2

SURPRISE

JOHN 20:1-18

What's happening in this story?

This morning begins with confusion: Mary Magdalene arrives in the garden to find the stone moved and the tomb empty! Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and Mary becomes the first to proclaim the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead!

What does this story mean for kids?

The story of Easter morning ends with Mary running to tell the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" We, too, are called to proclaim the good news. That's the mission of our church bodies—no matter how fancy the words in our mission statement, we are called to proclaim the good news. God is always at work. In this story, kids learn that death and destruction are never the last word. Grace, hope, and joy finish out the story.

Why this theme?

Many kids have already heard this story many times over the years in church and Sunday school. But help them imagine the shock—the surprise!—of Mary and the disciples when they first realized Jesus was resurrected and had defeated death! Help kids grasp that it was *way* more surprising than finding hidden Easter eggs or unwrapping a present in a box. What if Jesus, his face beaming in love for us, walked through the door *right now*? Easter is something like that!

AGE LEVEL TIP

Easter is an exciting day for many kids. Give kids time to talk about the family Easter activities they participate in. Once they've been able to share their exciting news, kids will have an easier time listening in class!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Clear tape
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Crayons (white)

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Socks (6 adult size)
- Classroom objects (6 total; such as crayon, toy car, tape dispenser, block, etc.)
- Tissue paper (assorted colors)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Place six different classroom objects (such as a crayon, toy car, tape dispenser, block, etc.) inside of socks. Kids put their hands inside a sock and try to guess what's inside by touching only. Later, reveal what was inside each sock.

Today's class is full of surprises!

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Today is Easter Day! What are some things you are excited about today? Allow kids to respond. **During Easter, we celebrate that Jesus is alive! New things that are alive remind us of Easter. What new things come to life in the spring?** Allow kids to respond. **Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!**

Pray together: **Dear God, the mystery of Easter makes us excited about what is next in our lives! Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Easter is an exciting season! What are some things that remind you of Easter? As a class, read the words listed under the puzzle out loud. Encourage kids to find and circle all of the Easter story words in the puzzle. Challenge kids to find words that aren't on the list as

well. Eventually, kids will realize the word *Jesus* does not appear in the puzzle. **We are not the only ones who have been looking for Jesus. I wonder where Jesus is?** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

It's Easter Sunday, but Ada and Otto are quite upset. Let's find out why.

View Episode 7, "Easter Objections," on the Year Gold Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Why were Ada and Otto so upset?**
- **What would you have said to Ada and Otto?**
- **What good news did Clara share with Ada and Otto?**
- **What surprised you in this video?**
- **Why do you think people go to church on Easter?**



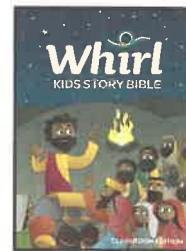
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "Jesus Is Risen" on page 330. Before you read, invite kids to look for sad women, surprised women, and happy women.

Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

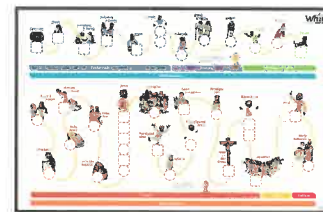
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **Why were the women going to the tomb?**
- **Who did the women see in the tomb?**
- **What do you think you would do if you saw an angel?**
- **Where was Jesus?**
- **Who can you tell that Jesus is alive?**



Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), Bible section (Gospels), and character image (Risen Jesus). **Today's Bible story is about how the women felt when they went to the tomb. Let's add a sticker to remind us of what they found in the tomb** (empty tomb). Point to the corresponding images of the empty tomb and Jesus on pages 331 and 333 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Gather the kids in a circle. **The women expected to see Jesus inside the tomb. Instead, they saw an angel. What a surprise! We're going to play a silly game about some other surprising things that they could have seen!** Have kids go around the circle and tell what they saw in the tomb alphabetically. ("I looked in the tomb and I saw an apple." "I looked in the tomb and I saw a box.") To challenge the group, have them repeat all of the items mentioned before theirs as well. **The only thing you can't say is "Jesus" because Jesus wasn't there. Jesus is alive!**

BIBLE BIT

Paul was the first person to write the Easter story in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul wrote this account around AD 50, while the Gospels were written between AD 62 and 69.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Ada and Otto's big brother, Leo, tries to tell his siblings the truth about Jesus. Where did Leo learn the truth about Jesus?

OUR CHURCH

Talk about the meaning of the words *risen* and *alive*. Count the number of times these words are used in the Easter bulletin, readings, hymns, songs, or sermon!

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, markers, glue sticks, and tissue paper.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Talk about the tomb on the leaflet. **A tomb is like a large cave where people used to put bodies after someone died. Let's use this tomb to tell the Easter story.**
2. Have kids tear a piece of tissue paper in the size and shape of a rock big enough to cover the entrance of the tomb. Set aside.
3. **Who was inside the tomb?**
4. Have kids tear an angel shape from white tissue paper and glue it inside the tomb.
5. **Who was outside of the tomb?**
6. Have kids tear and glue tissue paper or use markers to draw Jesus and the women on the outside of the tomb.
7. Invite kids to use their "rock" and leaflet to tell the Easter story to their neighbor.
8. **Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is alive! What a wonderful surprise!**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Today was full of surprises! Jesus was not in our word search. Jesus was not in the tomb! We played a silly game making up surprises that might be in the tomb. Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb? Allow kids to respond.

Pass out leaflet panels, white crayons, and markers.

Draw a picture of something inside the tomb and egg with a white crayon. Give kids time to draw. Exchange pictures and color over a friend's picture with markers to see their surprise!

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.