

# Jesus Is Risen

PreK-  
**K**

## **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**

Kids this age are full of wonder, and the story of Jesus' resurrection will capture their imaginations. Help them to enter fully into the mystery of the resurrection by leaving space for amazement as well as questions. Acknowledge this story can be hard for even adults to understand.



### **GENERAL SUPPLIES**

- Glue sticks
- Scissors

### **LESSON SUPPLIES**

- Plastic Easter eggs (8 per kid)
- Basket
- Stickers
- Noisemakers (1 per kid)
- Bedsheets or blankets (2 or 3)
- Chairs

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Place stickers inside some of the Easter eggs; leave some eggs empty. Put the eggs in a basket on a table.

**Can you guess which eggs are empty and which have something inside?** Kids may sort the eggs, opening them to find them filled or empty.

## Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

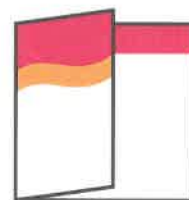
Place the noisemakers on the floor. **Today is Easter, the day we begin to celebrate Jesus' resurrection! After Jesus died, he didn't stay dead. He became alive again! It's a happy, happy, happy, joyous day! Let's show how happy we are that Jesus is risen! Jesus is alive!** Invite kids to take a noisemaker from the floor and celebrate.

Pray together: **Blessed Jesus, we are so happy that you are not in the tomb but alive with us today! Amen.**

## Pass out leaflets, scissors, and glue sticks.

Ask kids to point to the tomb on the leaflet. **A tomb is a place where someone may be buried after they die. When Jesus' friends went to the tomb where Jesus was buried, they found it empty. There was a big surprise waiting for them! Sometimes things**

**that may seem empty can be filled with surprises.** Invite kids to cut the pictures off the back of the leaflet panel. **Presents, Easter eggs, and balloons are all things that can be part of a surprise. Choose a surprise from the back of the leaflet, cut it out, and glue it to the picture on the front of the leaflet. Surprises are fun!** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



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

In today's video, two of the kids are feeling very, very sad. So sad that even Easter candy doesn't cheer them up! That's REALLY sad. But there's a big surprise in store for them! I wonder what will help them feel happier.

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

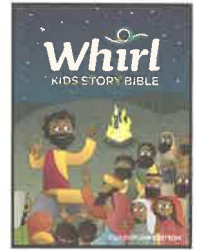
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Why was Ada sad on Easter morning?**
- **How did you feel when you heard the story of Jesus dying?**
- **What is the good news Clara tells Ada and Otto?**
- **How did Ada feel after Clara told them the good news?**
- **Who can you tell the good news that Jesus is risen?**



## 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 the expressions on the faces of the women who go to Jesus' tomb.



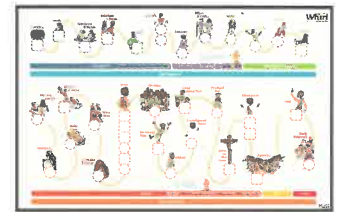
Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **Why were the women going to the tomb when the earthquake shook the ground?**
- **What did the angel at Jesus' tomb tell them?**
- **What would you do if an angel spoke to you?**
- **When Jesus appeared, how did the women react?**
- **What is the best part of the good news that Jesus is risen?**

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

Point out the Testament (New) and character image (Jesus). **Today's Bible story is about the women who went to Jesus' tomb. Remember, they did not find Jesus there because he had risen from the dead! Let's add a sticker to remind us of what the women found** (empty tomb). Point to the corresponding images of Jesus and the empty tomb on pages 331 and 333 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



## Play together!

Build a fort together using chairs and sheets or blankets. **When the women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, they found a big surprise. Jesus wasn't there! An angel told them Jesus was alive. Later, Jesus appeared to tell them that he was alive!** Have kids take turns being Jesus, the angel, and the women. The angel hides in the fort. Jesus hides somewhere else in the room (not in the tomb!). When the women come to the tomb, the angel jumps out to surprise everyone, saying, "Jesus isn't here! He is alive!" Next, Jesus "surprises" everyone, saying, "Go! Tell my disciples I'm alive!" The women run to tell the others that Jesus is alive!

### BIBLE BIT

In Jesus' day, tombs were holes in caves or rocks. According to the Gospels, Joseph of Arimathea donated the tomb where Jesus was buried.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, wonder about why Ada and Otto believed the good news when Clara shared it, but not when Leo shared it.

### OUR CHURCH

What Easter traditions are special in your congregation: flowers, an Easter breakfast, worship at sunrise? If possible, go to the part of the church where you can find out more.



# RESPOND 10

## Pass out leaflets and 16 Easter egg halves per kid.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Invite kids to call out what they see on the leaflet. **There are lots of pictures on your leaflet! Some of the pictures are of things that remind us of Easter.**
2. **Where is Jesus? What was Jesus' big Easter surprise for everyone?**
3. **Find the happy women. Why were they happy?**
4. Show kids how to cover the pictures with their egg halves.
5. **We're going to play an Easter memory game. Uncover two pictures. If the pictures match, you can put the egg aside. If not, cover the pictures and try again until you find a match. Keep trying until all of the pictures are uncovered.** Kids can play by themselves or in pairs. Play a few rounds, until kids learn the board well enough that it's no longer challenging.
6. **What kind of creature transforms into a butterfly? Why does a butterfly remind us of Easter?** (Its life cycle, from caterpillar to cocoon to butterfly, reminds us of Jesus, from his life on earth, to the tomb, to being raised from the dead.) **What about spring flowers, eggs, and ducklings?** (New life.)

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Today we learned one of the most joyous stories in the Bible—that Jesus rose from the dead! **What was the happiest part of the surprise for you?** Take time to hear kids' responses.

## Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, and empty Easter eggs.

**We've going to deliver a message that Jesus is alive! The leaflet says, "Surprise! Jesus is risen!"** If any pictures along the top of the panel remain, have kids cut them off. Invite kids to fold the message strip until it will fit easily inside an Easter egg. **Give the egg to someone to share the news that Jesus is risen!**

## 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.