



## Family Easter Lesson

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Show your child the four pictures (found on [GCK Resource Page](#)), tell them that you want them to look at the pictures and tell you which one or ones represent what makes Easter special, or different, for those who believe in what Jesus has done for us. Once your child has had a chance to respond, talk to them about how the TOMB is what makes Easter special for Christians. We want to make sure that your child has an understanding that while Jesus dying on the cross was real and serious (and sad and painful, etc), it's not what we consider the "good news" or the gospel. Many people died by crucifixion back then. What makes Jesus different from those people (among other things) was that he rose from the dead and THAT is what we celebrate on Easter—that he is risen and gives us new life!

Today, we will spend time considering Jesus' death and resurrection and what that means for us as followers of Christ. Jesus' desire is for us to believe and share our faith in his life, death, and resurrection with those around us. We will be reminded along the way of Jesus' desire for us to have peace.

### Activity

"Empty Tomb Keepsake" —the purpose is to create a reminder that Jesus rising from the grave and defeating death is what gives us reason to celebrate.

### Supplies:

Craft Instructions (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))  
Tangerine-sized piece of earthy colored Play Doh or Model Magic

Toothpick or ½ coffee stirrer

White piece of paper

Bottle of white glue or tape

Give your child a tangerine-sized piece of Play Doh or Model Magic. Explain that they'll be making an "empty tomb" while you talk through the rest of the Bible lesson. Use the craft reference guide to help them along the way. They can use the white piece of paper to cut a small rectangle, write "HE IS RISEN!", and create a small flag for their tomb.

**What do you know about Jesus and what he did after he was raised from the dead?** (Allow time for responses.) **What happened after the angels told Mary that Jesus was alive?** (Allow time for responses.) **Let's begin reading in the Bible from John 20 (NLT):**

### John 20:14-15

*<sup>14</sup> She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. <sup>15</sup>"Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"*

*She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."*

**Does Mary recognize who Jesus is at first? Who does she think was talking to her? Can you imagine seeing someone who was dead come back to life? Do you think you would recognize them at first?** (Allow time for responses.)

Let's keep reading.

### John 20:16-18

<sup>16</sup> "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Teacher!" <sup>17</sup> "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

**Jesus tells Mary that it is really him—he is alive! She is so overjoyed and overcome with emotion that she grabs hold of Jesus. But Jesus really wants her to go do something quickly. What is it he asks Mary Magdalene to do?** (To go and tell the disciples that he is alive and will be ascending to the Father.) **Jesus wants her to spread the good news—that Jesus is not dead any longer. He has actually beaten death and come back to life! And not only has he come back to life, he soon will be going to be in the place of eternal life—with God the Father in heaven!**

**So Mary goes and tells the disciples what?** (That she has seen the Lord.) **She tells them she has seen Jesus. Just as Jesus asked her to do, she goes and shares the message of his resurrection with others.**

We, too, are called to share the message of his resurrection with others. The early church was all about telling others what Jesus had done—the book of Acts tells us that the apostles continued to tell others about the resurrection of Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all (Acts 4:33). Jesus' words to Mary help us remember that we should also go and tell others about Jesus' resurrection—because the resurrection is proof that Jesus did everything he said he would do. Our sin has been paid for; we can live forever with him if we put our faith and trust in him as our Savior. This—the resurrection—is why we celebrate Easter.

### John 20:19-23

<sup>19</sup> That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said.

<sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup> Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

**The same day Jesus rose from the dead, after he tells Mary Magdalene to appear to the disciples, Jesus appears to them himself. Why do you think Jesus decides to appear to them? Notice that it says that before Jesus comes, the disciples are meeting behind locked doors because they are afraid of the Jewish leaders who had put Jesus to death. Jesus appears to them when they are worried and afraid.**

**How do the disciples respond when they see Jesus?** (They were filled with joy when they saw him.)

**He says to his disciples "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." What do you think he means? In Matthew 28, right before ascending to Heaven to be with God the Father, Jesus tells his disciples: "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

**Do you remember what this command or commission is called?** (The Great Commission.) **Jesus wants his followers to know that he is with them through his Holy Spirit, and that they have been given a job or mission to do—to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey Jesus'**

commandments. Out of the joy and peace that Jesus gives, disciples are to go and share the gospel message with others! At the center of that gospel message is Jesus' resurrection from the tomb.

We see the big picture, but do we all believe it and see how it changes our lives? When we believe that Jesus died for us and rose again, we can also die and become alive again—receiving new life from him.

If we believe and trust that Jesus died and rose again for our sins, we become a new creation. God changes our hearts. Jesus forgives our sins, and we are made alive in Christ. It changes our whole life!

And when it changes our whole life, we will be like Mary—who had reason to rejoice when she found out that Jesus wasn't dead, but he was in fact alive! Like Mary, we will go and tell others about the truth that Jesus has risen!

And like the other disciples, we will be sent by Jesus to go and make disciples. Jesus' resurrection is proof that sin and death have been defeated; there is good news in Jesus' resurrection, and our mission is to go and share that with other people. Can you think of anyone you could share the news of Jesus' resurrection with? (Allow answers.)

Do you have questions about any of this? You can ask me if you have questions. (Give your child plenty of time to share their thoughts and questions about all of this.)

As time allows, read through the following verses to finish family time:

**John 1:12**

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**John 3:16-17**

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

**Romans 5:8**

*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

**Prayer**

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Ask God to help each of us recognize the sin in our lives and ask him for forgiveness. Pray that your child will accept the free gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus.

