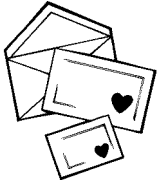


Easter Rise Up



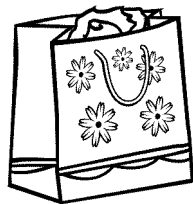
The Invitation (Lesson Point)

He has risen,
He has risen indeed.



The Candlelight (Bible Verse)

"He is not here, for He has risen just
as He said..."
(Matthew 28:6).



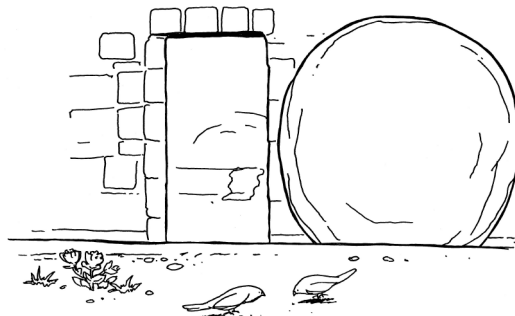
The Gift (Object Lesson)

For today's object lesson have **NOTHING** in your gift bag.
Pick a child to come up and see what is in the gift bag today.

What did you find in the gift bag today? Nothing? Are you sure there is nothing in the bag? Check one more time to make sure. (Shake the bag upside down to show the children that it is empty).

How many of you have ever gotten a birthday gift and were so excited to open it, but when you did there was nothing in it? I never have, but I'm sure my heart would feel sad and confused as to why someone would give me an empty gift.

In the Bible it tells us of two ladies who went to see where they had put Jesus after they had crucified Him only to find that the tomb was empty. Let's open the Bible and see what happened.



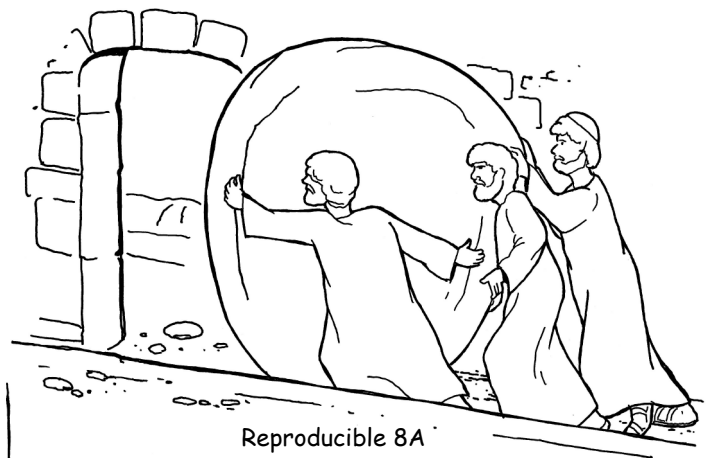


To: You...Love, God (Bible Story)

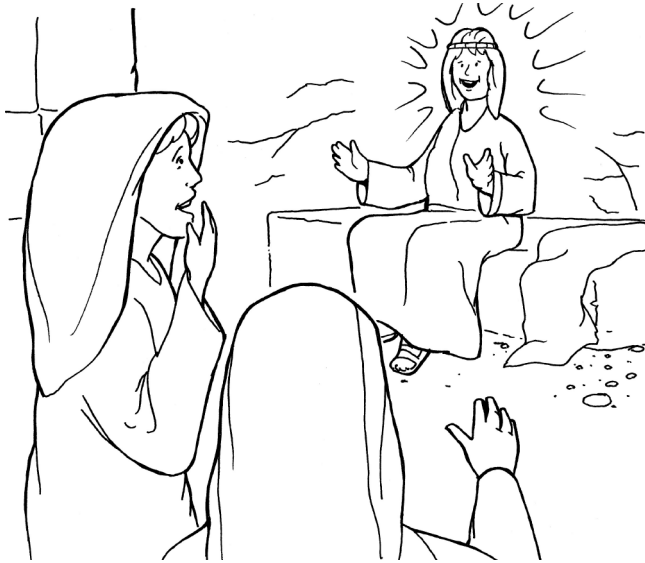
Read from Matthew 28:1-20 or read the story below.
Allow the children to comment on different parts of the story.

It was a day that would change everyone's lives forever — the day that the soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They crucified Him because they did not believe that Jesus was who He said He was.

After He died, they took Him and placed Him in a small cave called a tomb. Everyone watched as a HUGE stone was rolled and placed in front of the hole. It was so heavy that it took many strong men to roll it into place. Once the tomb was sealed, a leader put some guards outside the tomb.



Reproducible 8A



Reproducible 8B

The first of the next week Mary Magdalene and one of her friends came to the tomb to see where they had laid Jesus. When they got there, they found that the stone was rolled away, and when they looked in, they saw an angel dressed in white. They were afraid and ready to run away when the angel said, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has risen just as He said. Go and tell the others that Jesus is not dead; He is alive." They were afraid

and excited as they ran home to tell the others.



Song: Easter Rise Up

Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins

Play the song a few times in the classroom before introducing it to the children.
This way when it is introduced they will have some recognition of the song.

Easter Rise Up

Stand up turn around touch the ground
For I am alive
I can dance I can sing I can do so many things
I'll tell you the reason why

(Chorus)

He rose up from the grave
He rose up from the grave
He is not dead, He is alive
He rose up from the grave

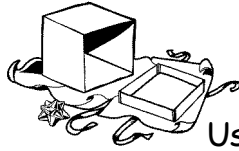
I can run I can walk I can listen I can talk
I am glad to be alive
I can work I can play
I am happy to say this is the reason why

Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up oh children of the Lord

(Second Chorus)

Rise up oh children
Rise up oh children
We are not dead we are alive
Rise up oh children

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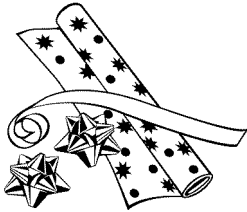


Unwrap It

(Discussion and Questions)

Use this time to talk about the story.

1. Why did the soldiers crucify Jesus?
2. Where did they bury Jesus?
3. What happened on the third day?
4. Did Mary go and tell the disciples the good news?
5. Do you believe that Jesus is alive right now?
6. How can you get to Heaven?



Paper, Ribbons, and Bows (Art/Craft/Activity)

Art ~ Child-directed art

Craft ~ Teacher-organized craft

Activity ~ Small or large group activity

Empty Creations ~ Art

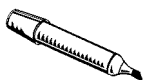
During this activity the children will be creating things out of empty containers. Provide them with all kinds of things that they can glue together, paint, staple, or just create.

Have Available But Not Limited To:

- Paint / Markers / Crayons
- Glue / Tape / Stapler
- Old empty containers (cereal boxes, tubs, toilet paper tubes etc.)
- Paper

Allow them to create however they would like.

Empty Tomb Plate ~ Craft



Have Available for the Children:

- 1 paper plate per child
- Brown construction paper
- Hole punch
- Markers / Crayons
- Scissors
- Brad



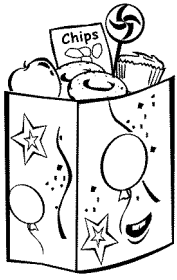
Pre-cut a large hole from the center of the paper plates for the children. (Older children can do these themselves). Allow the children to decorate their plates with the markers and crayons. Next, have the children cut out a large circle from the brown construction paper to represent the "stone." Then punch a hole in the paper plate and the stone and fasten with a brad.

When they move the stone away, they will be able to see that the tomb is empty.

I Can ~ Activity

For this activity you will need some dice or a square box to look like dice. Have the children get into a circle and roll the dice. Whatever number the dice lands on, the person who rolled it gets to pick what everyone gets to do. Just like in the song for the day: Turn around, touch the ground, dance, sing, play, and talk. Let the children come up with all the different things that they can do because they are alive.

Example: If the dice lands on the number 5, the children can dance 5 times, etc. This can be done as a large group (8-10) or smaller groups (5-8).



Goodie Bag (Snack time)

Provide a snack that will help emphasize the day's lesson. Be sure to check for any allergies before planning a snack item.

Raisin Bagels

For today's snack we are going to have raisins and bagels. They will illustrate that Christ has "risen" and the hole in the bagel represents the empty tomb.



Thank You Card (Closing Prayer)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you so much for what you have done and continue to do for us. Thank you for your Son, Jesus. We can dance and sing because He has risen and is alive today. We love you!

In Jesus' Name, Amen