

The Connection

▶ April 12, 2020

Together



Though right now we are not gathering on a regular basis, we want to continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Weekly Bible Verse: "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." Matthew 28:5-6a NIV

He Is Not Here! He Has Risen!

What an awfully sad day it had been for the friends of Jesus! They had stood watching sorrowfully, as Jesus hung on the cross dying. They didn't fully understand why it had to happen. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they remembered how He had healed the sick and made blind people see. Just before the sun was beginning to sink into the west, Joseph, one of Jesus' friends, noticed that Jesus was no longer breathing. He hurriedly went to ask Pilate if he could have the body of Jesus so he could bury Him. When Pilate agreed, Joseph and Nicodemus (another friend) carefully wrapped Jesus' body in clean cloths. Then they took Him to a tomb to bury Him.

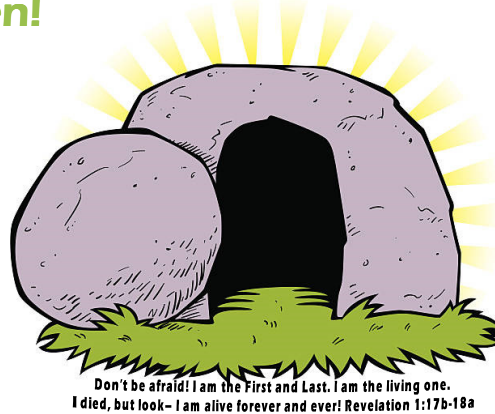
The *Pharisees* (who had wanted to kill Jesus) started thinking about Jesus and remembered that Jesus had said that He would rise again after three days. They were worried that it might be true! They also thought that Jesus' disciples might try to steal the body from the tomb just so they could say

that Jesus rose..

They went to Pilate, suggesting that the tomb be closed up with a huge stone and that guards be placed all around the tomb.

Just before daylight the next day, the most *amazing* thing happened! There was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE! An ANGEL from the Lord came down from heaven, moved the gigantic stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it. The guards began to shake with fear! They fell down to the ground as if they were dead!

Mary and some other women had decided to get up very early in the morning and go to visit the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed. They had brought along some spices and perfume that they wanted to place on Jesus' body. They knew the huge stone had been placed in the doorway and they had no idea how they were going to move it.



What a SURPRISE they found when they reached the tomb! The stone had already been moved! And . . . there was an ANGEL sitting on the stone! The women were quite afraid, but the angel spoke gently to them: "Don't be afraid. I know that you have come to see Jesus. He is not here; for He is risen just as he said. Come inside and see the place where he lay." The women went inside the tomb and found it empty, just as the angel had told them. The angel spoke to the women one more time: "Go *quickly* and tell the other disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead; and he is going into Galilee where you will see him."



Special points of interest:

Watch YOUTUBE stories of Easter:

- God's Story: Easter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ4gQnIUVO8>
- Easter: Jesus' Sacrifice
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>
- The Story of Easter: Beginners Bible
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PSgoPdKQFO>

He is Risen!



Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Easter

Word Search - Easter

Find + Color - Easter
(childrensministry-deals.com)

Journaling Page - Easter

Craft Ideas for Easter

Reflections

Easter this year will probably be different from how you and your family celebrated last year. Life can be tough, confusing, joyful, sad or any range of emotions. Kids need a way of releasing how they are feeling to God. Let's encourage them to journal their thoughts and feelings about Easter. God understands. He cares about us and wants us to bring our fears, hopes and experiences to Him. A journaling page is provided as an additional page (OR any piece of paper will do). Younger children can draw pictures.



Count Your Blessings



Expressing our thanks to God is an important habit to develop as a family. But it's also important to share our own requests in prayer so our kids understand that even though we are blessed, we can still go to God with our needs. The Bible is full of examples of answered prayer and blessings. Plant a seed today and grow a garden of gratitude for years to come.

- List or think about the many ways God has lavished His love on us through people, experiences and even things. Perhaps your family could make "Blessings Jar" or spend time together listing a 'blessing' for each letter of the alphabet.
- Find the good in people. Model looking for the good in people, despite their current actions or attitudes.
- Find the good in every situation. Even on the hard days or through difficult circumstances, children need to see us choose to find the good.

Connecting your child's



- Pray. Even over the little things. Practice prayer with your children so that it becomes a habit in their lives.
- Help them to know who God is. Study Scriptures that speak of God's love, forgiveness, fairness and generosity.