

Jesus Rose from Death on Easter Sunday, and He Lives Forever



Choose any of these children's learning activities

Let the children copy or colour this picture.

Let the teacher or an older child read or tell the story of Jesus rising from death. Mark 15:1 – 16:8. It tells how Jesus died, was buried and rose again three days later.

After telling the story, ask these questions. The answers appear after each question.

What did Jesus do for us when he died and when he rose again?
[Jesus' blood covered our sins, and that His resurrection gives life to all who believe in Him.]

What did Pilate call Jesus? [King of the Jews', Mark 15:2]

How did the soldiers treat Jesus? [*Mark 15:17–19*]

What did they write on a sign over his head? [*Mark 15:26*]

What did Jesus shout before he died? [*Mark 15:34*]

What did Joseph of Arimathea do? [*Mark 15:43–46*]

What was placed over the opening to the tomb? [*Mark 15:46*]

Who went to the tomb and found it empty? [*Mark 16:1*]

Dramatize parts of the Easter story.

Arrange with the congregational leaders for the children to present their drama during worship time.

The children may ask the adults what Jesus did for us when he died and when he rose again. Answers should include that Jesus' blood covered our sins, and that His resurrection gives life to all who believe in Him.

Let some of the children draw pictures of Jesus on his cross, and others draw pictures of Jesus alive outside of his tomb. They can show the pictures to the adults at worship time and explain that it shows how Jesus died for us and rose again on the third day to give us life.

Memorize 1 Peter 1:3

Poem: Let four children each recite one of the verses from Psalm 21:1-4. You may also let the older children write a poem themselves about Jesus' resurrection.

Prayer: "Dear Jesus, today we remember your death and resurrection. Through your death we have forgiveness for our sins. Your resurrection gives us life. We praise you!"

Third Part (Mark 16:1–8)

Narrator: Tell the third part of the story (Mark 16:1-8). Say, “Hear what Joseph says.”

Joseph: “Pilate, let me bury the body of Jesus.” (The women watch.) Take Jesus off the cross, wrap him, and put him in the tomb (under a table). Put a stone (a chair) in front of it.

Narrator: “On the third day the great miracle happens.” Remove the stone.

Jesus: Gets up and walk to one side.

Women: Go to the tomb with perfume bottles. Wipe away tears. Ask, “Who will roll away that heavy stone?” “Look! The stone is gone!” “Look! There is an angel!”

Angel: “Jesus is alive! Go tell his disciples!”

Narrator: Announce that the drama is over and thank the children.

Use your time with the children to practice it.

You may omit some parts, or add more from the Scripture verses.

Let older children help the younger ones prepare.

Let **older children** or adults play these parts:

Narrator: Tell the story. Help children recall what to say.

Soldiers: Prepare things to signify a whip, crown of thorns and robe.

Priest

Jesus

Pilate

Joseph: Prepare a cloth.

Let **younger children** play these parts:

Women: Prepare bottles to represent perfume

Crowd

Angel

Present the Easter Drama in three parts:

First part (Mark 15:1-20)

Narrator: Read or tell by memory the first part from Mark 15:1-20. Announce, "Hear what the priests say."

Priest: "Sir, this man broke our laws. He deserves to die."

Pilate: "Jesus, are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus: "I am."

Pilate: Look surprised. Then say, "I find nothing wrong in this man. People, do you want me to release him?"

Crowd: Shout angrily, "Release Barabbas! Crucify Jesus!"

Pilate: "Soldiers, take him and crucify him."

Soldiers: Pretend to whip Jesus. Put a robe and a crown of thorns on Him. Mock him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" "Here is your crown!" "Here is your robe!" "Here is your cross! Carry it!"

Second Part (Mark 15:22-47)

Narrator: Read or tell the second part (Mark 15:22-47).
Meanwhile...

Jesus: Bend over, pretending to carry a heavy cross on your back, slowly moving around the room.

Soldiers: When the Narrator stops, soldiers pretend to lay the cross on the ground.

Narrator: "Hear what the soldiers say."

Soldiers: Pretend to nail Jesus to the cross. Say, "Let us throw dice for his clothes." (Pretend to lift Jesus, nailed to the cross, by placing him on a chair, standing with arms outstretched.)

Crowd: "Look! That sign says that Jesus is a king." "Ha! Jesus, save yourself!"

Priest: "Jesus, show your power! Come down from the cross!"

Jesus: Cry loudly, "My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Women: "Oh no! Jesus has died!"