

The Empty Tomb



Set up the tomb.

Behind the tomb, have these figures, ready to be moved into place:

Mary Magdalen

The other Mary

The Angel

Jesus

Two soldiers

Today, we will be thinking about what actually happened on Easter Sunday morning when Jesus rose from the dead.

Because we will be reading from the Bible, we will now light a candle.

Light candle.

First, read from the Bible the following passage without comment. **Mt 27: 57-66** **Jesus In the Tomb**

Ask the children: What did you hear in this story?

Allow time for comment.

Then present the passage again – either in your own words, or by re-reading the same passage with these actions...

Mt 27: 57-66 Jesus In the Tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had cut out in the rock.



Take a linen cloth and put it in the tomb – it can be made to look as if Jesus is inside, but it is in fact empty.

Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Roll the stone in front of the tomb.

But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary stayed, sitting there, facing the tomb.

Place the two women facing the tomb. Wait a little while, and then take them away out of sight.

The next day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.'

Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can."

So, they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

Place the two guards in front of the tomb.

The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1-10)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

Bring the two women to the front of the tomb.

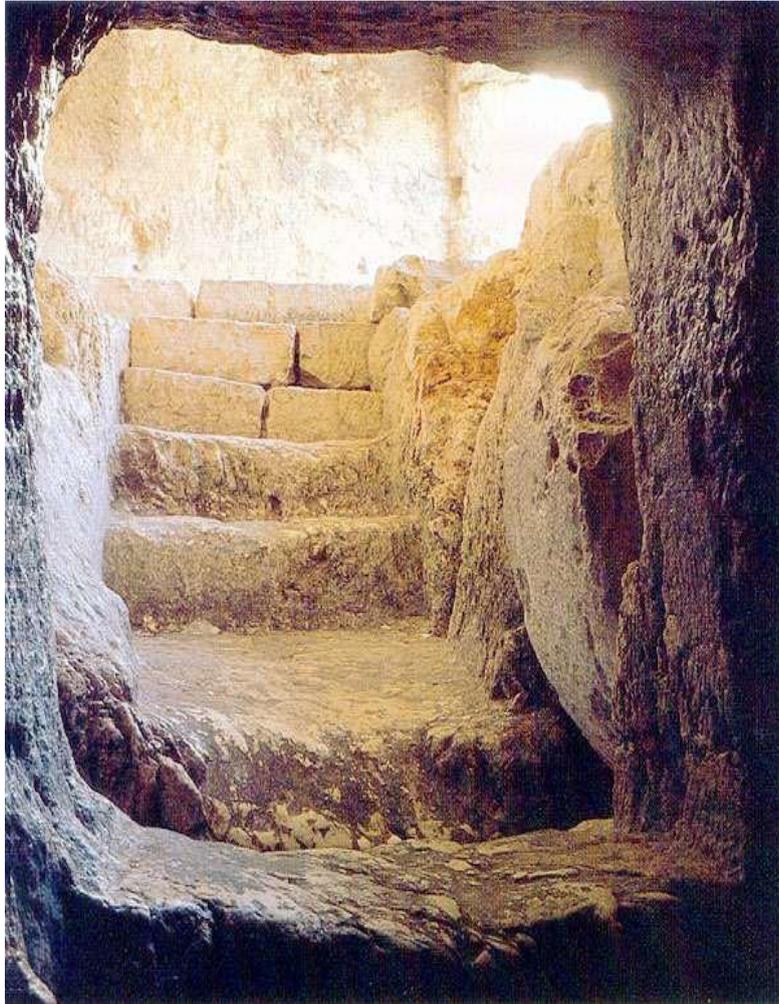
And there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

Bring the angel to the tomb, roll back the stone, and place the angel above it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Have the soldiers fall over and lie down.

Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.



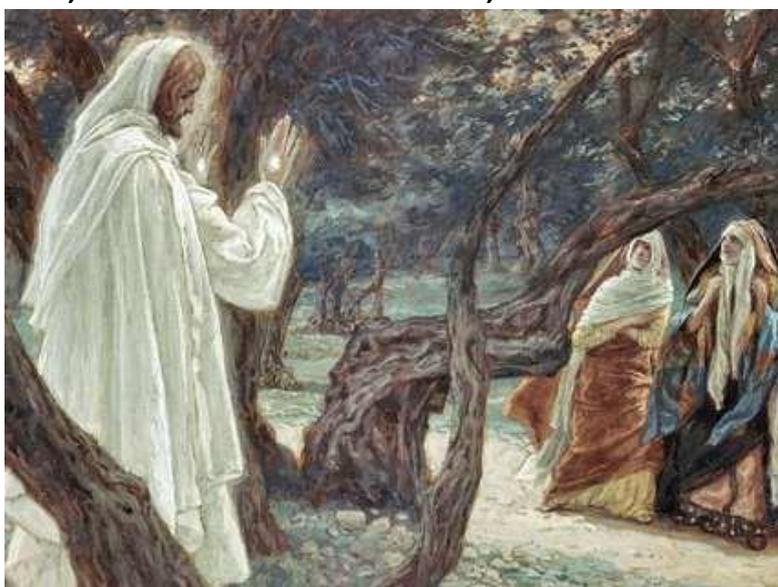
Open up the tomb and have the women go beside the resting place. Open up the cloths – Jesus is not there!

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

Have the women leave and go around to the side of the tomb; then have the soldiers leave.

And Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.



Have a figure of Jesus meet the women beside the tomb

Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Take the figure of Jesus and put him out of sight behind the tomb.

Move the women some distance further, but still in view.
Extinguish candle

I Wonder.... (only use some of these)

I wonder how the women are feeling on the way to the tomb?

I wonder what they felt when the stone was rolled away and the tomb empty?

I wonder what it was like for them to meet an angel? I wonder, could this news be for us too?

I wonder what Jesus' rising from the dead means for us?

I wonder how Jesus shares his risen life with us?