

### Review

Boys and girls, does anyone remember last week's story? (Palm Sunday) And today is a very special Sunday; does anyone know what today is? (Easter) But what happens in between Palm Sunday and Easter? (Allow children to answer; Christ's trial and crucifixion). Jesus died right? It was a sad time for all of Jesus' friends. But! God had a BIG plan and today we are going to find out what this BIG plan is!



### Setting (Verse 1)

Our story begins very, very early in the morning. Before the sun has come up and when it's still dark outside. This is called "dawn." When it's dawn, the sky seems a little lighter than it does at nighttime, but it's still pretty dark. In our story, a few women woke up very early at dawn. They wanted to go to a special place as soon as they could see the way to get there! But the women had to wait until there was enough light to see. One of the ladies was Mary. She loved Jesus very much. This was not the Mary who was Jesus' mother. It was another lady named Mary. Mary and some other friends had gotten up so early on that special morning because they had a job to do. Mary wanted to go to Joseph's tomb and see where they had placed the Lord Jesus. Remember, Joseph had been so kind. He had owned a tomb; when Jesus died on the cross, Joseph wanted Jesus' body to be placed in his own tomb. So, after Jesus had died Joseph and another man named Nicodemus had carefully taken Jesus from the cross and wrapped him in special grave clothes and placed him in Joseph's tomb. Then a big stone had been rolled in front of the opening of the tomb. Mary and her friends had prepared some sweet spices and they were planning to take the spices to the tomb where Jesus was. The opening of the tomb was shut tightly by the big heavy rock. Mary and her friends did not know how they would roll that big rock away so they could go inside. I guess they thought they would figure out a way to move it when they got there. It was probably very quiet that morning as Mary and her friends walked through the city to the garden where Joseph's tomb was. Maybe the sun was just peeping over the hill. Finally, they arrived.



### **Empty Tomb (Verses 2-3)**

Can you imagine how surprised Mary and the other women were when they saw that the stone wasn't in front of the tomb like it had been? The stone was rolled away! The tomb was opened. Now the women could walk right inside the tomb and that's just what they did. But the tomb was different than it had been. The Bible says the tomb was empty! The body of the Lord Jesus was not there! He was gone. The women could not figure out what had happened. Jesus had died on the cross. They had watched, and they were so sad. They knew that friends had placed Jesus' body in the tomb. But now, where was He? Had someone taken him away?



### **Report of the Two Angels (Verses 4-8)**

The Bible tells us while the women were thinking about where Jesus was buried, suddenly two angels in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. The women were so frightened. They bowed down with their faces to the ground.

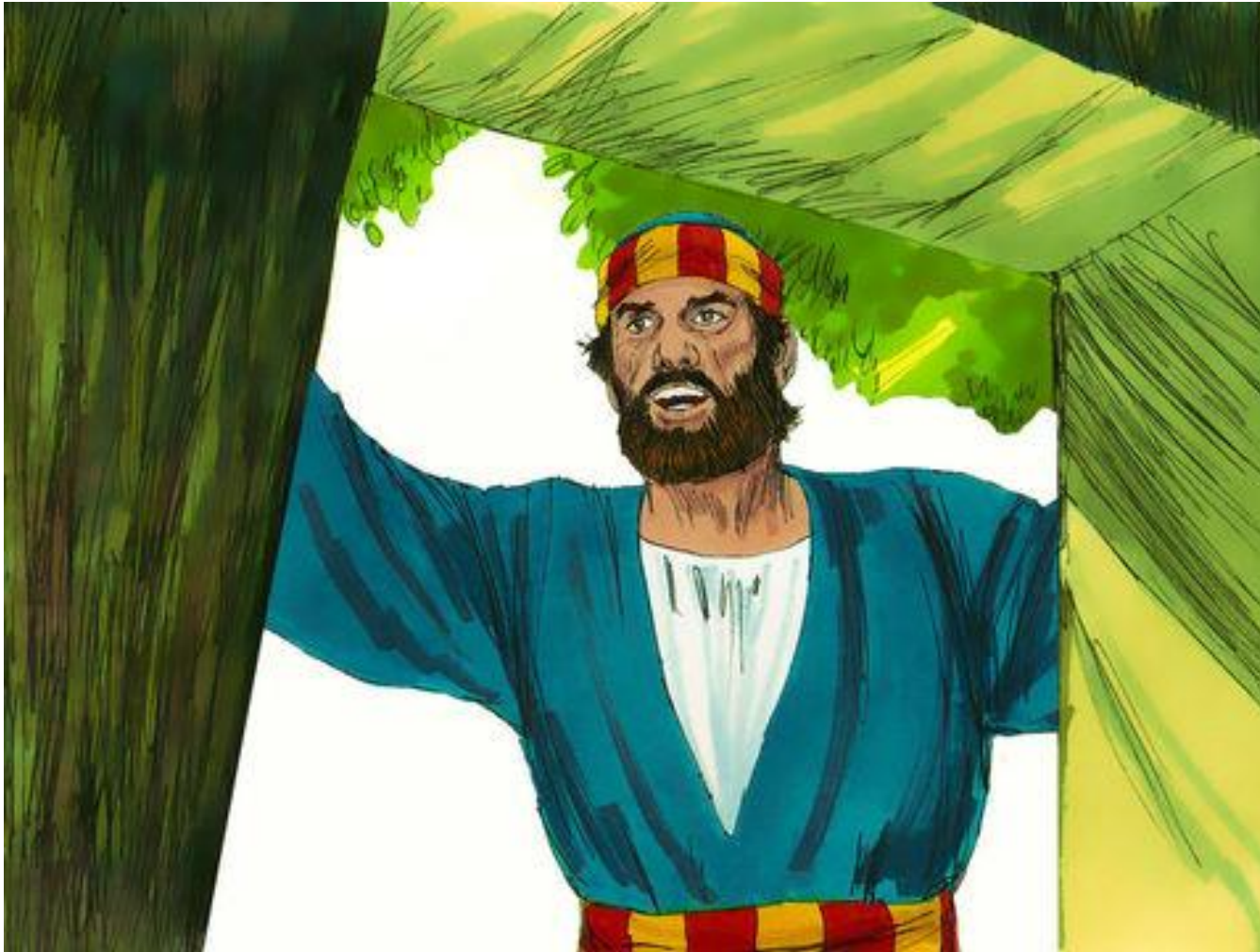
Then the two angels said to the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember what Jesus told you, while he was still with you. Remember how he said he would be crucified and on the third day be raised from the dead?”

The Bible tells us when Mary and the other women heard the angels say those words, they remembered what Jesus had said. Jesus had said he would come alive again! Jesus would not stay in that tomb!



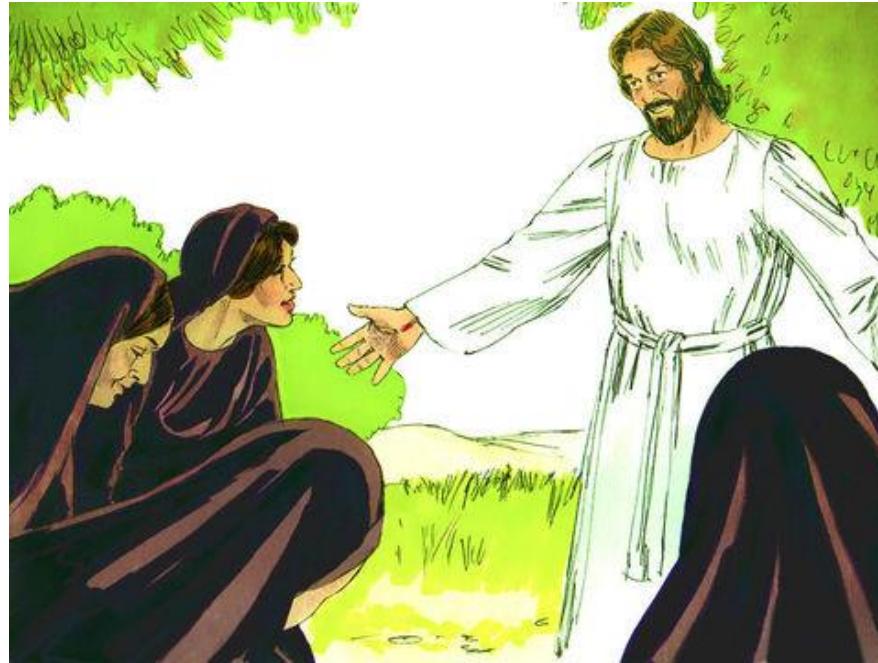
**Report of the Women (Verses 9-11)**

Off they ran, out of that tomb through the garden to find the disciples. Mary and her friends needed to find Peter and James and all the rest. Did they know what had happened? Did they know that Jesus was alive? As soon as they could, the women found the disciples and told them everything that had happened. But the Bible says the disciples did not believe the women. The disciples thought their words were silly. The disciples had seen Jesus die on the cross too, just like the women had. They thought He just could not be alive! I guess the disciples didn't remember what Jesus had said either.



**Peter's Response (Verse 12)**

But Peter must have wondered a bit because the Bible says he got up and ran to the tomb to see what had happened. Peter wanted to see for himself. When Peter got there, he bent over and looked inside. And he found the tomb was empty too! There were the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying all by themselves, but no Jesus. He was gone! The Bible says Peter went away wondering what had happened. But Peter didn't have to wonder long. Soon He would see Jesus. And so would Mary and the others. Those who loved the Lord Jesus would see their risen Lord.



Jesus promised He would rise from the dead. And Jesus always keeps His promises. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He offers us eternal life! We can know God and live with Him forever. God loves each of us very much and wants us to have eternal life too!

### **Questions for Review**

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- Mary and some of her friends visited the Tomb. (Yes)
- The women found the stone in place. (No! The stone was rolled away!)
- The women brought spices and ointments to put on Jesus’ body. (Yes)
- Two men greeted the women at the tomb. (Yes)
- The two men told the women to go away and to leave Jesus’ body alone. (No! The two men told the women that Jesus had risen, and he was not in the tomb.)
- Mary and the other women went and told Jesus’ disciples that Jesus had risen. (Yes)
- Peter heard these words and then went to sleep. (No! Peter ran to the tomb to see that Jesus had risen!)
- Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful men, was crucified, and then rose three days later. (Yes! Luke 14:7)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)
- God always loves us. (Yes)
- God will never leave us. (Yes)