

*Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Eastertide is a period of 50 days, beginning on Easter Sunday and ending at Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the Church. During Eastertide, we celebrate the Risen Christ and imagine how we might live as Easter people. Rachel Held Evans wrote, "God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy, how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the ground, God got up."*



## Scripture

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As

she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

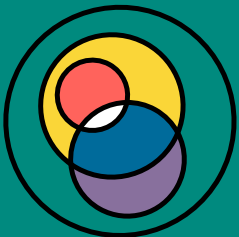


## Questions

- Today is Easter Sunday, which begins one of the most important seasons of our Christian year! What makes Easter special? What has happened leading up to today?
- Easter begins early in the morning. How does Mary Magdalene's Easter day begin? How did your day begin today? What Easter traditions does your family practice?
- How did Mary and the disciples act when they discovered Jesus' body was missing? How did Mary react when the angels and Jesus appeared to her?
- Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first? Why did she recognize him once he said her name?
- Can you think of a time you saw someone you weren't expecting to see or hadn't seen for a long time? Tell the story, sharing what it felt like and how you reacted.

### Look it Up!

Look up burial rituals in the 1st Century CE to understand why Mary was visiting Jesus' tomb and why she would have been so upset to find his body missing.





## Activity

### Materials:

Copies of today's scripture      Pens/highlighters, preferably bright colors

Begin by sharing with participants verbs are action words. They can be commands, like "jump" or "sit," but they can also tell what a person is doing, like "he jumps" or "she sits." Brainstorm a list of verbs. Play a short game of charades where a participant acts out a verb, and other participants try to guess the verb.

Next, pass out the copies of the Bible passage and the pens. Participants will work to find the verbs in the scripture passage. First, underline the verbs that show what Mary Magdalene is doing. You will find came, saw, ran, went, said, stood, wept, bent, etc. Go slowly so all participants can succeed.

Now, move to Simon Peter's verbs. When you find a verb describing what Simon Peter is doing, circle it. For the unnamed disciple, use parentheses to show their verbs. Put boxes around the verbs which indicate the angels' actions. Finally, use a double underline to show Jesus' verbs.

These marked-up papers will be your scripts. Divide the roles of Mary, Peter, Disciple, Angel, and Jesus among the participants. Choose someone to be the narrator. As the narrator reads, the actors' only job is to act out their verbs when they are read. Beyond that, actors should freeze.

Allow participants to take turns in various roles. Talk about how their body language and facial expressions can show what they expected the characters to be feeling, and discuss what emotions they want to portray.

## Activity Adaptation

### Materials:

Copies of the story booklet

Begin by telling participants verbs are action words. They can be commands, like "jump" or "sit," but they can also tell what a person is doing, like "he jumps" or "she sits." Brainstorm a list of verbs. Play a short game of charades where a participant acts out a verb, and other children try to guess the verb.

Next, read through the Bible passage using the storybook version. Ask participants to raise their hands when they hear a verb. Do this a few times until the children are familiar with all the verbs in the story.

Once they can identify the verbs, have everyone stand up and act out the verb when they hear it. Caution them that running should be done in place, and speaking should be silent miming. Act out the story a few times with the motions. If you have particularly brave participants, see if they would like to act it out alone in front of the group. Talk about how their body language and facial expressions can show the characters' feelings, and discuss what emotions they want to show.



## Micropractice

Easter begins the season of "Hallelujahs!" In your prayer time this week, practice saying "Hallelujah!" which means "Praise the Lord!" How does it feel to speak a word people have been proclaiming for thousands of years?



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: [illstrtdm.in/minirevAEaster](http://illstrtdm.in/minirevAEaster)



## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the wonderful news that Jesus is risen! Help us remember how the disciples felt when they discovered Jesus was alive! Amen.

MARY

MAGDALENE

WENT AND

ANNOUNCED

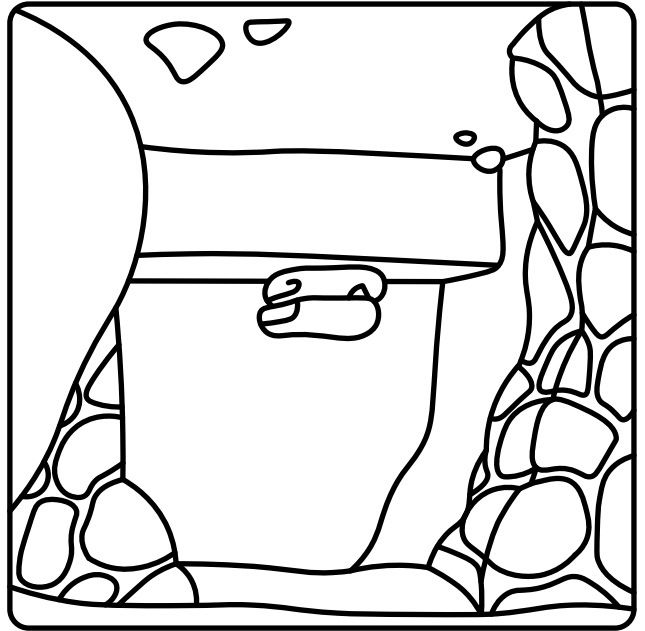
TO THE

DISCIPLES

"I HAVE SEEN

THE LORD"

2. They saw the cloths that covered Jesus' body folded up where his body should have been. The disciples hadn't understood when scripture said, "He must rise from the dead." Once they saw the empty tomb, they believed and went home.



3. Mary stayed and cried outside the tomb until she went in and saw two angels in white where Jesus' body had been. They asked why she was crying, and she explained. Then, she turned and saw Jesus but didn't recognize him.



1. One early morning after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene went to his tomb. When she saw it was empty, she rushed to tell Peter and another disciple. The two disciples ran to the tomb to see for themselves.



4. When Jesus said, "Mary!" she knew it was Jesus and called him teacher. He told her not to touch him (because he had not returned to God) but to go and tell the disciples what she had seen. And Mary did.