

The First Easter

John 19:1–20:10

Bible Passage: John 19:1–20:10

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians
15:3b-4

Text Truth: The Tomb is empty.
Jesus is alive!

Christ in Context: The Book of John reveals as the Word of God who became flesh. Jesus used the personal name of God, I am, seven times in the Gospel to declare that He is God. John's Gospel describes the eternal, all knowing, ever-present, and all-powerful nature of Christ.

Key Points:

- Even though Jesus never sinned, He took the punishment for our sins.
- Jesus rose from the dead, as Scripture promised.
- Jesus is alive today!

Activity

PUT THE STONE ON THE TOMB

Tools: blindfold, poster board, construction paper, tape, pencils

- On the poster board, draw a simple tomb with an outline of where a stone would be. Cut a circle for each child out of the construction paper.
- Place a piece of tape on each "stone"
- Turn the Child around three times

Say: "When Jesus was buried, a great stone was rolled across the entrance of the tomb. Guards were even posted outside the tomb and sealed the tomb as best they could, but early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene discovered that the stone had been rolled away! The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!"

THE FIRST EASTER

John 19:1–20:10

The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. A mob of people found Jesus and arrested Him. They took Him to Pilate. Pilate allowed Jesus to be beaten up.

Pilate told the people, "I can't find any reason to charge Him (Jesus)." But the religious leaders yelled "Crucify Him!" The religious leaders did not believe the truth about Jesus.

Pilate tried to release Jesus. He was afraid of what was happening, but the crowd of people would not give up. They wanted to crucify Jesus. Pilate had a sign made for the top of Jesus' cross that said: Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews.

While Jesus was dying on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of Jesus' mother Mary. Jesus knew that every Scripture prophesied about Him would be fulfilled so He said, "It is finished." Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin.

Joseph of Arimathea was a follower of Jesus. Joseph went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus' body. Nicodemus and Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen clothes. They placed Jesus' body in a new tomb in the garden.

Three days later, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark. She saw the stone had been moved away. So she ran to Peter and John. Peter and John ran to the tomb but all they found were the linen cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. They didn't understand yet, but Jesus had risen from the dead just as Scripture had promised. Jesus is alive!

Prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, that
You're alive!"