

## Sunday Club – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Easter Day

The following is one way of delivering this session with children. This week we step into the Easter story, and explore the truth of this wonderful mystery that is at the very heart of the Christian story.

### Opening activity – Mystery objects

Blindfold your child(ren), then put an object in their hands and ask them to describe it – can they guess what the object is?

Then ask if they give an example of when they have found something hard to explain or describe.

### Opening prayer:

Wonderful God,  
we are here to celebrate the miracle of new life,  
and to discover more about the mystery of Easter.

**Amen.**

### Open the Bible at John 20.1-18

[John 20: 1-18 NIV - The Empty Tomb - Early on the first day - Bible Gateway](#)

or watch: [The Resurrection Bible Animation \(John 20\) - YouTube](#) until 2.08mins

or Act it out: You will need: a rock or stone, a large piece of cloth or scarf and a torch.

Stand in a circle facing inwards. Retell the story using the items and actions (in italics) as you tell the story.

By the time she reached Peter and John, Mary was out of breath and very upset. She'd been running. (everyone run on the spot) 'They've taken Jesus,' she announced. 'I went to the tomb, but the stone's been moved from the entrance and the Lord's gone.' (pass around the rock for everyone to feel) Distressed, Peter and John went running to the tomb. (everyone run on the spot) John got there first and saw the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in, abandoned inside. (stretch out the cloth and ask your child(ren) to drop it in the middle of the circle)

Peter rushed past John into the tomb. He saw the wrappings, but noticed that the cloth, that had been on Jesus' head was rolled up and placed on its own. (ask your child(ren) to roll the cloth up). John came in and saw it too. Neither of them understood the Scripture saying Jesus must rise from the dead. Having seen the empty tomb, they went home. Mary who'd followed after them was too sad to go home. She stayed there crying. (everyone put their hands over their eyes)

Through her tears, Mary could see into the tomb. (everyone uncover their eyes) She was shocked. There were angels in there now, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet. (turn on the torch and shine it around) The angels spoke: 'Why are you crying?'

'They've taken away my Lord,' said Mary. 'I don't know where they've put him.' Mary glanced away from the tomb and saw another man standing there. 'Why are you crying?' the man asked her. (everyone put their arms out) 'Who are you looking for?' (everyone make their hands into 'binoculars' and look around) Thinking he was a gardener, Mary said, 'If you've taken him away, please tell me where he is.' The man replied with a single word. 'Mary!' As soon as he'd spoken it, Mary saw that the man was Jesus. (everyone join hands, put them in the air and shout hooray)

'Don't hold onto me, Mary,' Jesus said. (release hands) 'Go and tell my brothers that I'm going up to my Father, to my God and your God.' And so Mary went running off again. This time to tell the disciples that she'd seen the Lord. (everyone run around the space and tell each other 'Jesus is alive!')

## Stop and share

- Ensure everybody knows who Mary, Peter and John were.
- Ask the children what sort of things had happened before this story.
- Explain that Peter and John may have thought someone had taken Jesus' body away.

## Talk Together:

- Talk about a time when you have felt you weren't sure what was going on. What did that feel like?
- Why do you think Jesus appeared to Mary?
- How would you describe the importance of the Easter story to someone?

## Craft Activity - Easter & Hallelujah Rocks

Collect smooth rocks or pebbles and paint an Easter Scene, or something that reminds you of Jesus' amazing love through his sacrifice for us. You could also try using tissue paper to create bright Hallelujah rocks to give away to share Jesus' love around your community.



## Praise Song:

What A Saviour - HTB Worship - HTB at Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBYLvvhITog>

Worship along!

## Closing Prayer:

Dear God, Thank you for the story of Easter and the empty tomb.  
Thank you that your plan did not end with death on the cross but with your resurrection and new life.  
Thank you that you made a way for us to be forgiven for all our mistakes and to be your friends forever.  
We pray today for all those in the world who do not yet know you, that they would draw closer to you this Easter. Amen

## Other ideas for family worship:

An alternative is provided by Hull minster (John 20.1-18)

<https://hullminster.org/family-resources>

Kid's Church (Easter) This is great fun and very interactive.

Beforehand, you can read the details which shows you the resources that will be required.

[HAPPY EASTER! High Energy Church Season 2 Episode 14 - YouTube](#)

Rochester Diocese Ministry at Home (John 20.1-18) Attachment