

Church at Home Pack – 4th April 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

The place of death is empty.

The stone has been rolled away!

The grave clothes are discarded!

The stone has been rolled away!

Now death itself is defeated!

The stone has been rolled away!

Heaven's gates are open wide!

The stone has been rolled away!

Our hearts were heavy, now they are light!

The stone has been rolled away!

Alleluia, praise the risen Lord!

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head

(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;

(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears

(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

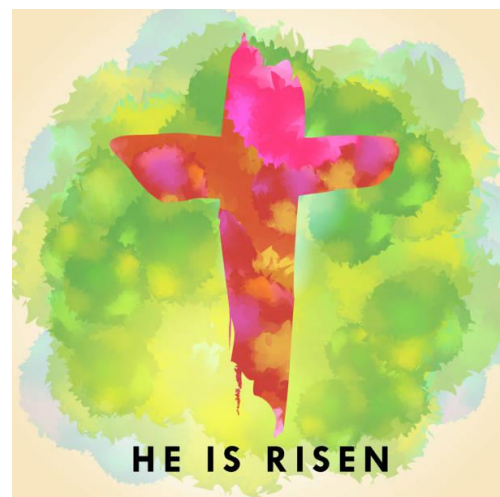
(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

(jump up and down)



READ TOGETHER

John 20: 1-18



International Children's Bible (ICB)



20 Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. Mary saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb. ² So Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other follower (the one Jesus loved). Mary said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb. We don't know where they have put him."

³ So Peter and the other follower started for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter. So the other follower reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down and looked in. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then following him came Simon Peter. He went into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying there. ⁷ He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up and laid in a different place from the strips of linen. ⁸ Then the other follower, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed. ⁹ (These followers did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from death.)

¹⁰ Then the followers went back home. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. While she was still crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She answered, "They have taken away my Lord. I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?"

Mary thought he was the gardener. So she said to him, "Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, "Rabboni." (This means Teacher.)

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me. I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them this: 'I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, "I saw the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

New International Version (NIV)

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the

other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.



¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

WATCH TOGETHER



The Easter Story – J John <https://youtu.be/J E-3BqgeiU>



God's Story – Easter – Crossroads Kids Club <https://youtu.be/cZ4gQniUVO8>



Easter Spoken Word – Chynasie Zayas

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

TALK TOGETHER

- Tom talked about Star Wars and how understanding who Darth Vader really is changes the way we look at the story. Are there any other films or books you've watched/read where a character's true identity changes everything about the story.

STUDY TOGETHER

Read John 20:1-10

- v.1-3 What do you think Mary thought had happened to the body of Jesus?
- v.3-7 John describes the scene inside the tomb in some detail. What picture does it give to you?
- v.8-9 What is the response of John ('the other disciple') when he sees the linen cloths and the empty tomb?

How do you think this might fit with v.9?

If you get stuck this might help:

John seems to imply that he believed that Jesus had come back to life but he and the other disciples didn't yet understand the larger biblical context – that Jesus' resurrection was inevitable because of who he was and the promises God had made.

- What is the difference between the resurrection of Jesus and Lazarus coming back to life (see Jn.11:38-44)?
- What does the active presence of a risen Jesus mean for your life going forward?

MAKE TOGETHER

Make an Easter Garden – Indoors and Outdoors versions

Creating an Easter Garden can be quite a reflective process as you think about each part of the story and recreate it. With young children, you can use small toy figures (such as lego or playmobil) to re-tell the story. Playing out the story, helps their understanding.

If you are older, once you have created your garden, spend some time looking at the empty tomb and think about what it means for you today.





Indoors – using things from around the house or from your recycling box, you can create an Easter Garden on a plate or tray. If you have a paper plate or the inside of a cereal box, you can stick down coloured paper and flowers cut from magazines or leaflets to make the garden. Use a yoghurt pot and lid for the tomb. Make a cardboard cross.

Outdoors – Find a container (a seed tray or a plastic tray from your recycling will work – make sure it has some drainage holes in the bottom). Fill it with compost or earth the cover the bottom. Add a pot, resting on it's side for the empty tomb and mound the earth up around it. Find a large flat stone to lean against it. Then use whatever you can find to decorate your garden:

Moss, grass, leaves and flowers. You could even sew cress seeds in the bare soil.

Pebbles and shells for the path.

Twigs tied together to make crosses.



PLAY TOGETHER

Resurrection Egg Hunt

If you have some, take 6 plastic, hollow eggs and fill them with symbols of the story.

- 1 – **Leaf** (Palm Sunday)
- 2 – **Bread** (The Last Supper)
- 3 – **Cross** (this could be a picture or one made from card) (The Crucifixion)
- 4 – **Cloth** (or tissue) (The folded grave clothes)
- 5 – **Stone** (The stone rolled away)
- 6 – **Empty** (Jesus isn't there, He's alive today!)



If you don't have plastic eggs – cut out 6 egg shapes and draw on the symbols of the story.

Then...

- Hide them
- Hunt for them and see who can put them in the right order and say what part of the story each symbol tells.

SING TOGETHER

Happy Day – Spring Harvest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ixN8BugVmQ>

Christ is risen, he's risen indeed – Keith & Kristyn Getty (Live at The Gospel Coalition)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRnG2xzzEaU&list=PL0ONU3wVC9D2M2sp7Fvblt9mZOTDD9bWI&index=13>

Knowing You – Graham Kendrick https://youtu.be/4r8XfE_VNb0

Christ is Risen – Phil Wickham <https://youtu.be/gdIIX5cxEno>

Jesus is Alive – CityAlight <https://youtu.be/L-70IOsdU7I>

1 2 3 Jesus is Alive – Yancy <https://youtu.be/Mlf9jv4pVTM>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Reading backwards: the empty tomb shows us who Jesus was.

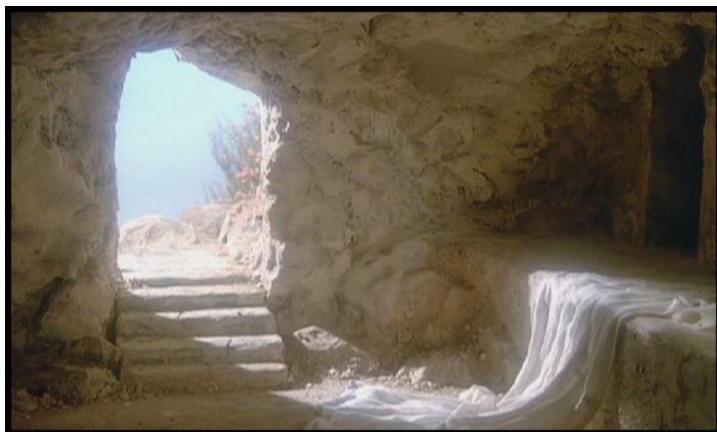
Reading forwards: the empty tomb shows us who Jesus is.

What difference does it make in your life today?

Read this poem by Chloe Axford – *The Promise of the empty tomb* – as you reflect on those questions.

The promise of the empty tomb
Rips the rug from under your feet,
And says hold on tight
We're going for a ride
Into the deep unknown
The promise of the empty tomb
Says the story doesn't end the way
You think it will.
Yes, your future is set in stone,
But I carved it and it's beautiful
The promise of the empty tomb
Says you are worth so much more
Than you think you are
You are to die for
And I did

The promise of the empty tomb
Drives nails through darkness
And says trust me
I have a plan
And it is good
The promise of the empty tomb
Rolls back the stone
Dances on death
And says why are you crying,
Don't you know me?



PRAY TOGETHER

Exciting Jesus, bless us with joy this Easter.
Amazing Jesus, bless us with the gift of wonder this Easter.
Saviour Jesus, bless us with thankfulness this Easter.
Teacher Jesus, bless us with wisdom and faith this Easter.
Encouraging Jesus, bless us with reassurance this Easter.
Risen Jesus, bless us with hope this Easter and always.

Amen.

Go in the hope of Easter because Jesus is behind you. (***point behind you***)
Go in the joy of Easter because Jesus is with you. (***hold hands out to the sides***)
Go in the confidence of Easter because Jesus goes ahead of you. (***point ahead of you***)
Alleluia!

Amen.

DO TOGETHER

Reading the Gospel Backwards...

Think of stories about Jesus you know from the gospels. Read one or two of them again in the light of the resurrection, knowing that Jesus is God.

- How does that make you feel to know this is God walking among people?

Jump for joy!



When we get good news, we want to jump for joy! If you live with others, one person should say '***Christ is risen!***' Then everyone jumps in the air and shouts, '***He is risen indeed!***'

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Action Reminder and Prayers taken or adapted from

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