

# 58 Resurrection



## The Resurrection

On Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene goes to prepare Jesus's body – but it has gone. An angel says that Jesus is alive and says to tell the disciples. Later Jesus speaks to Mary near the tomb and then visits the disciples. Jesus loved us so much, he died for us, so God would forgive us.



*Please first introduce yourself and ask each child his or her name.*

### **The Empty Tomb and Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

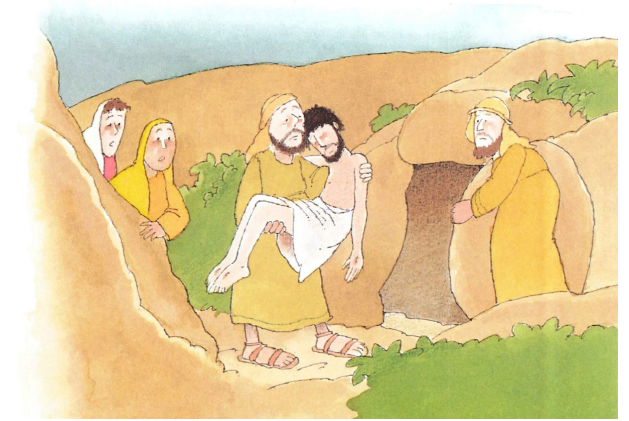
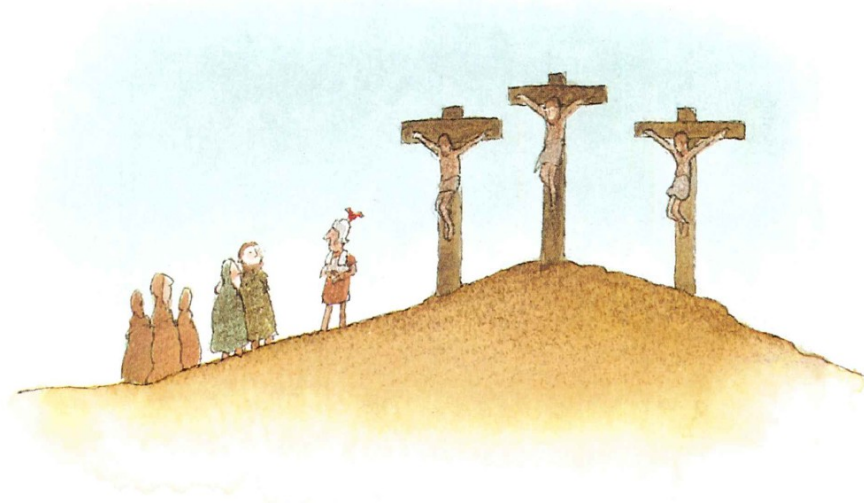
Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday.

Some of the disciples stayed with him until he died.

They had to be careful, because all the friends of Jesus were in trouble now - they could all be arrested and punished by the Romans and the chief priests.

That evening, a rich disciple of Jesus, called Joseph of Arimathea, went to see Pontius Pilate.

*Who was Pontius Pilate?*



*The Roman governor who condemned Jesus to death at the request of the chief priests.*

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pontius Pilate for Jesus' body.

With Pilate's permission, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (another friend of Jesus) took his body down from the cross and carried his body to the cemetery.

They wrapped his body in a big piece of linen cloth and spices to keep him smelling clean and good.

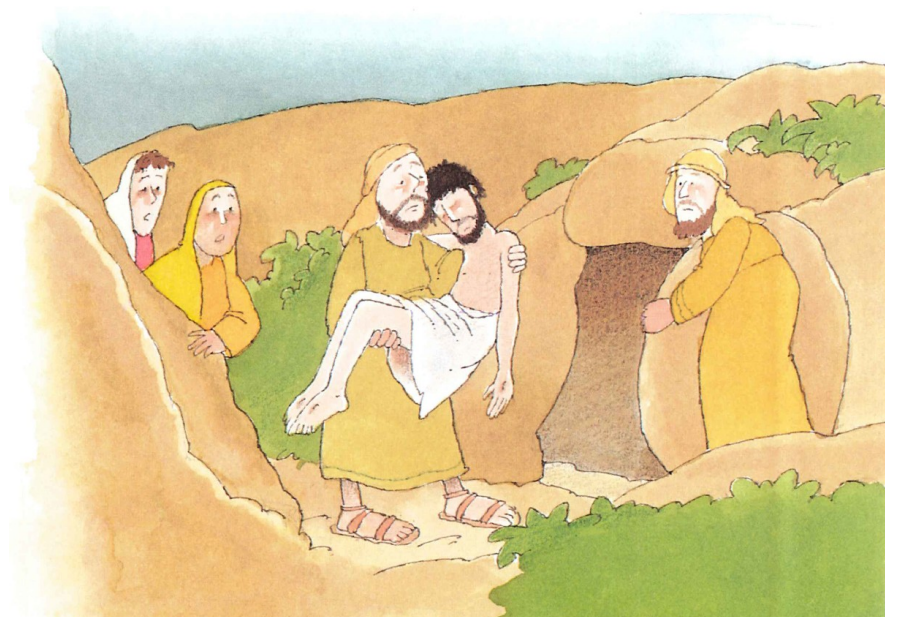
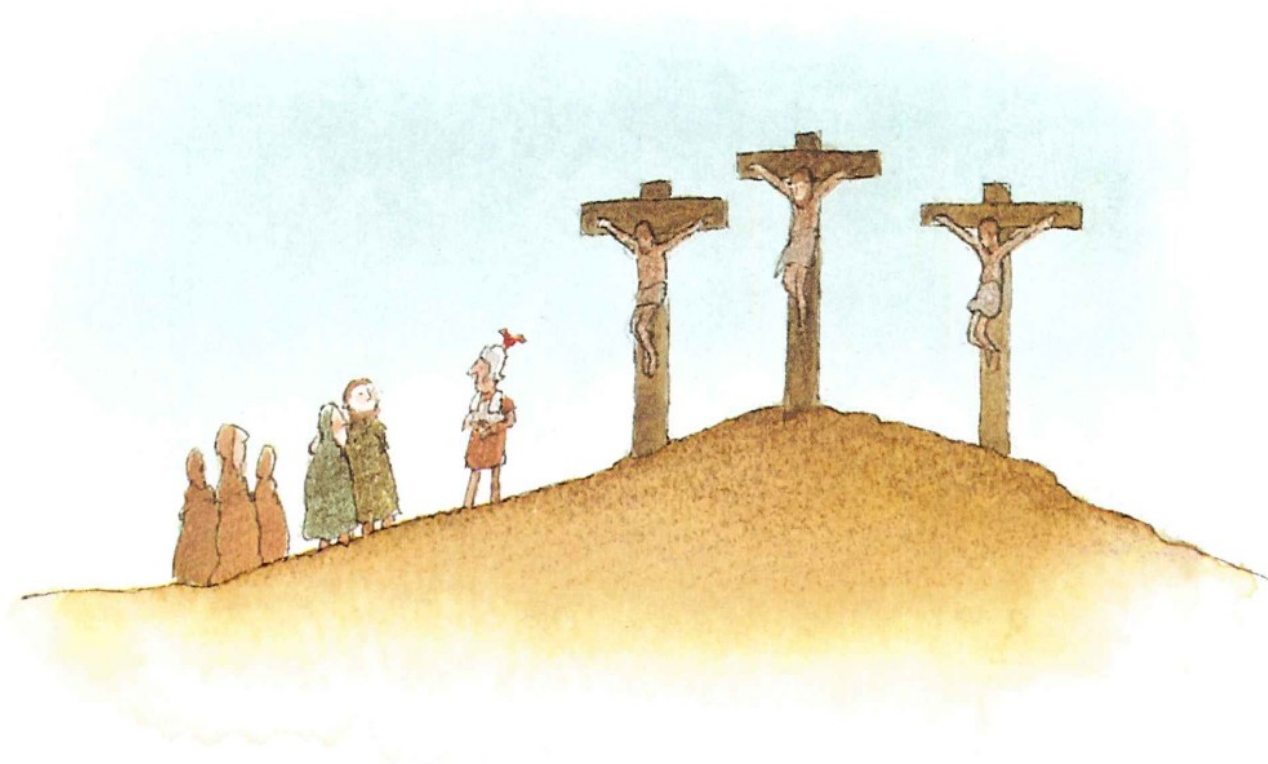
Then they placed his body inside a tomb.

*What is a tomb?*

*A place where dead people are buried.*

*In Jesus' time this was like a cave in a rocky hillside and the cave would be blocked by a big rock.*

*The rock was very heavy so it took several men to roll it in front of the mouth of the cave.*





Saturday was a day of rest in the Jewish religion, so on Saturday nobody went to the cemetery or visited the tomb of Jesus.

But very early on Easter Sunday morning, two women went to the tomb.

Do you know the names of the women who visited Jesus' grave?

*Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of the apostle James.*

Who was Mary Magdalene?

*One of Jesus' good friends and followers.*

The two women had brought spices with them to make it all smell nice inside the tomb.

But where was the big heavy stone that covered the tomb entrance?

Someone had rolled it away!

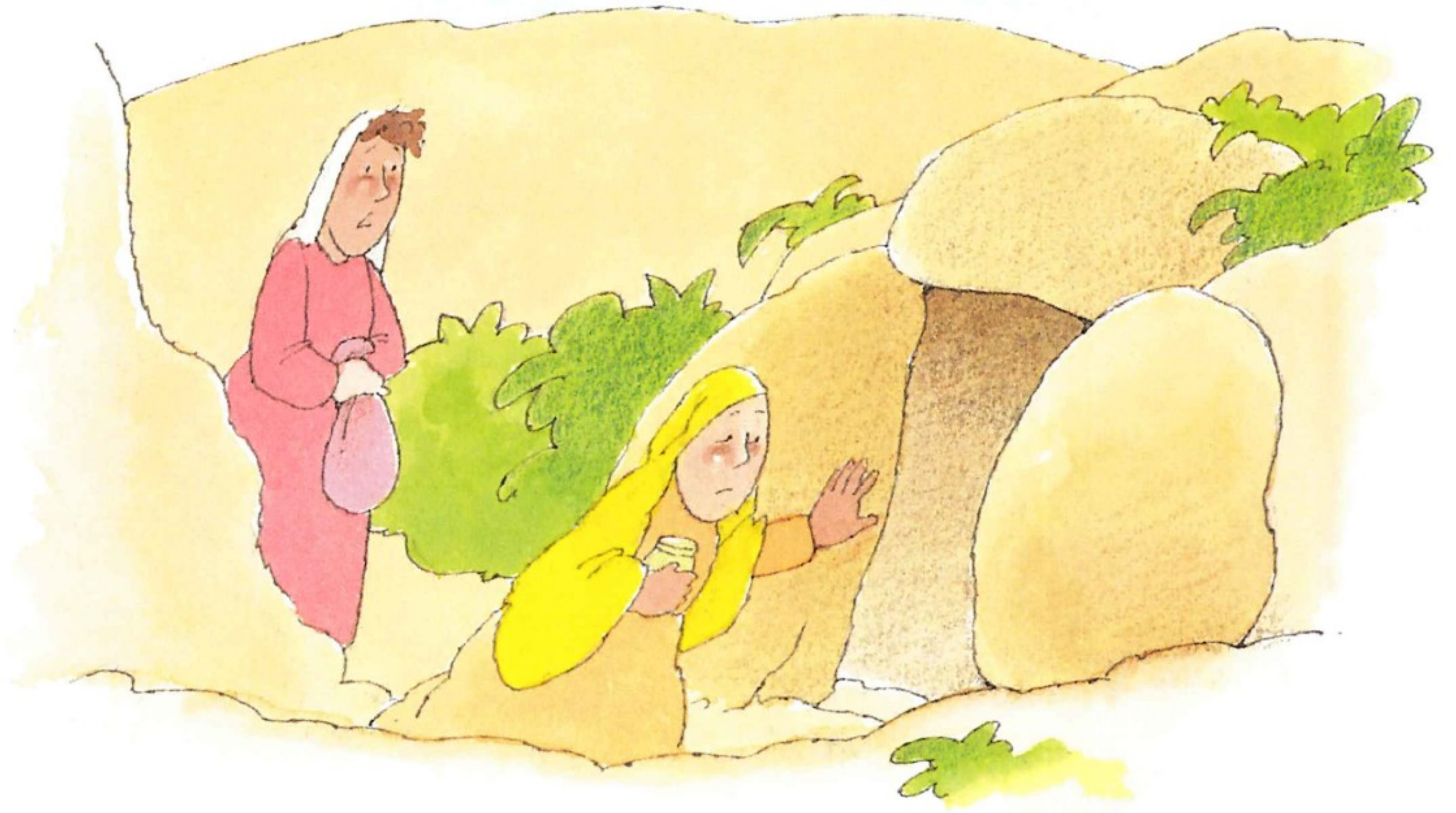
The women went inside.

They gasped:

“Jesus' body isn't here. It's gone!”









Suddenly, a shining angel appeared in front of the women.

*The women can't find Jesus' body - and now an amazing angel has appeared.*

*How do you think they feel?*

“Don't be afraid” the angel said.

“I know you are looking for Jesus.

But he isn't here!

God has brought him to life again, just as Jesus said would happen.

Go now and tell all of Jesus' special friends about this.”

*What is the word we use when someone dies and then comes back to life?*

Resurrection

*There is somebody else who Jesus brings back to life, can you remember his name?*

Lazarus. A few days before Jesus dies, he visits the house of his friend Lazarus.

Lazarus had just died and been buried, but Jesus goes inside the tomb and brings him back to life again.

The women hurried away and ran to find the disciples.









The women burst into the room where all the disciples were hiding.

“He’s alive! He’s alive” they shouted.

“Jesus is alive! An angel told us.

We went to the grave, and his body wasn’t there.”

The men shook their heads.

They couldn’t believe the women.

But Peter and John rushed to the tomb to see for themselves.









John ran faster and got there first, he looked in but did not go in.

When Peter caught up, he went in and John followed him.

When Jesus had been buried his whole body had been covered up by cloth and a cloth had been wrapped around his head.

The covers were still in the tomb, neatly folded.... but the body of Jesus was gone...

That was how John *knew* that no one had just taken the body away, because they would have lifted it up with the clothes.

It must mean that Jesus was alive and had taken the cloths off his body!

Peter and John ran to tell the others.











Mary Magdalene was standing close to his grave and she was crying when she heard the voice of a man behind her.

He said:

“Woman, why are you crying?

Who are you looking for?”

She thought that he was the gardener and explained to him that she was looking for the body of Jesus.

She said to him:

“If you have taken away the body, please tell me where and I will come and get it”.

Then man then said:

“Mary”.

At once, Mary recognised the voice of Jesus and she cried out:

‘Rabonni!’

*Do you know what that word means?*

*What language did Jesus and his friends speak?*

*Aramaic. An old language that doesn't exist anymore.*

*The word Rabonni is similar to a word in Hebrew “Rabbi”.*

*Do you know what Rabbi means?*

*Teacher. Mary recognises her teacher and leader.*







Before she recognised him, Mary Magdalene thought that Jesus was a gardener.

Because of this little mistake by Mary, we sometimes also call him “Jesus the Gardener”.

*Can you remember any very famous gardens in the Bible?*

The Garden of Eden.

*What happened there?*

God made a perfect garden, and Adam and Eve were the first gardeners there.

Then things went wrong.

They disobeyed God and so God made them leave the perfect Garden.

Now God sent his son Jesus to us, to teach us how to love each and be closer to God.

Jesus died, and came back.

*If Jesus is like a gardener, what are his plants and flowers?*

Us, our souls. He looks after us.

Even though things went wrong in the first garden of Eden, now Jesus has started a new Christian garden, where as Christians we can learn to be close to God again.

Jesus said:

“Go and tell the others you have seen me”.

And she went off laughing and crying at the same time, she was so happy.

So Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus after he resurrected.



*Did you notice how all of Jesus’ disciples were men, but the first person to see Jesus was a woman?*

*Do you think there is something special about this? (If time discuss Mary Magdalene being the first Christian)*

Prayer:

Dear Lord.

Thank you for sending us your Son to teach us how to be good people and kind to each other.

Please look after us all.

Amen.



