

Jesus was put on a cross on a Friday morning. Later that afternoon, he died. Jesus had finished his work of saving sinners.

The soldiers checked to see that Jesus was dead. One of them stuck a spear into Jesus' side. Yes, they were sure he was dead.

Later that day a man named Joseph came to Pilate. Joseph believed in Jesus as the promised Savior. Joseph asked Pilate, "May I take the dead body of Jesus down from the cross and bury it?" Pilate told Joseph that he could have Jesus' dead body.

Nicodemus, another man who believed in Jesus, came to help Joseph. Together they took Jesus' body down from the cross. They wrapped his body in cloth and placed it in a grave. The grave was a cave cut out of rock. The men rolled a very large stone in front of the doorway to the cave. Then they went home.

Some women who loved Jesus watched to see where the two men buried him. The women wanted to add nice smelling spices to the body.

But it was late. So the women said, "We will come back on Sunday."

The enemies of Jesus knew that he was dead, but still they were worried. They went to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember something that Jesus said while he was still alive. Jesus said, 'I will come back to life after three days.' Pilate, we want you to put soldiers at the grave to guard it. We do not want someone to come and take Jesus' body and then say, 'He is alive!'" Pilate said the enemies could have soldiers guard the place where Jesus was buried.

But something very special happened on the third day. Early Sunday morning Jesus came back to life! He left the grave, even though it was still closed and the large stone was in front of the doorway.

Other special things happened that first Easter morning. Suddenly the earth shook and God sent an angel to roll the stone away from the empty grave. This showed that Jesus was already alive and gone. Jesus had risen!

That same morning some women were on the way to the grave to finish putting spices with Jesus' dead body. One of women was Mary Magdalene. The women wondered, "Who will roll that big, heavy stone away from the opening to the grave?" They did not know that Jesus had risen.

When the women looked up, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. When Mary saw that the stone had been moved, she did not go any farther. She turned and ran to find the disciples. She wanted to tell them what she had seen.

But the other women went up to the

open grave and walked into it. There they saw an angel dressed in a shining, white robe. The women were afraid.

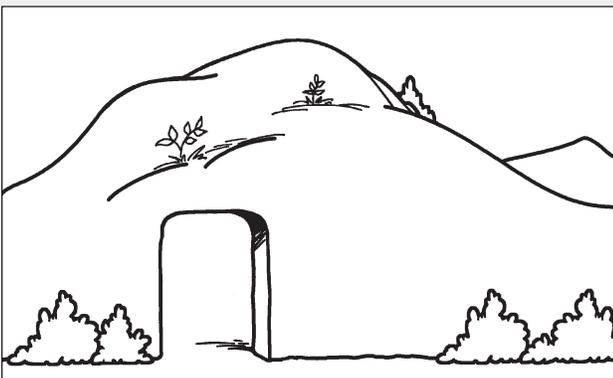
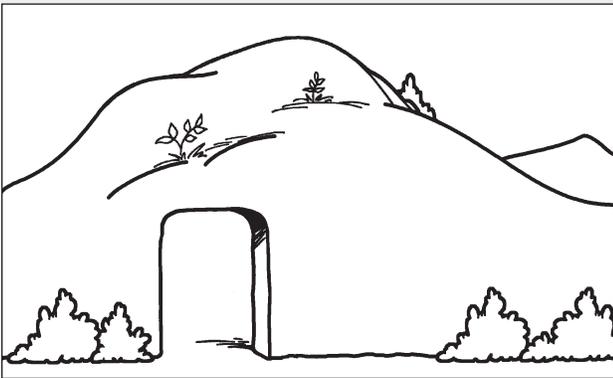
But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid. You

are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He is alive! Now go quickly and tell his disciples.” So the women ran into town to share the good news. Jesus was no longer dead. He had risen!



On the first Easter morning, an angel told some women the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead. We trust Jesus’ promise to raise us to life in heaven.

1. Add a large stone to the first grave to show what it looked like after Joseph and Nicodemus placed Jesus’ body inside. Then add a large stone to the second grave to show what the grave looked like on Easter morning.



Remember the good news of Easter morning as you sing the following words to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

An angel rolled the stone away to show  
the grave was empty.  
Jesus was not there; Jesus was not there;  
Jesus was not there;  
He rose on Easter morning!

2. Have one family member portray a news reporter and other family members portray any or all of the following: a soldier, Mary Magdalene, one of the women. Pretend it is the first Easter morning, and have the reporter interview each Bible character to learn what that person saw and heard that day.

## Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for using your Word to tell us the good news that you came back to life on Easter morning, just as you said you would. Help us always trust in your promise to give us life in heaven. We love you, dear Savior! Amen.



John 11:25