

This week we are learning about
The Empty Tomb!

The Empty Tomb

Matthew 29:1-10

Peek-a-boo, Jesus, I see you!



Empty Tomb
Jesus is not here!

SPARK
ACTIVATE FAITH

Name _____

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
The Empty Tomb
from Matthew 28: 1-10

The earth moves, an angel appears, the stone is rolled away—Jesus is risen!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Stone
- Angel
- Raised
- Message

In Bible times, it was common for the stones used to close tombs to weigh two tons. That's like having two large elephants sit in front of the tomb and refuse to move!

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 482-487

Spark Bible page 1097

Family Prayer

Father, thank you for sending your Son,

For raising him up

Against death he won.

Father, thank you for sending your Word,

For raising us up,

Good news we have heard.

Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

1 How did Jesus' followers know he was risen?

2 Who is someone in your life who really needs to hear the good news about Jesus? How can you help them to hear?

3 Some of the best known hymns are about Jesus' resurrection. What is your favorite song about the resurrection, and why?

4 Find a few favorite verses about Jesus. Tape the reference for each Bible verse to the bottom of clear dinner glasses, with the words facing toward the top rim of the glass. After dinner, once everyone has finished their drink, they can look through the bottom to see the verse. Have everyone read their Bible verse and then talk about how each verse teaches us about Jesus.

Eye Spark

Look closely at mail and mailboxes this week. When you see a mail delivered to your neighborhood, remember that you can carry Jesus' message to all people!

Ear Spark

Listen closely each morning for signs of a new day. When you hear birds waking up, roosters crowing, or someone making breakfast, remember that Jesus is alive today.

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Throw a "Jesus Is Alive" party. Invite friends and family who love Jesus too. Make banners with Bible verses about Jesus for decorations, and play a special game of Hide and Seek. Have everyone hide except one person who will play the part of 'Jesus.' Invite 'Jesus' to carry a basket of wrapped surprises (candy, small toys) as he or she hunts. When 'Jesus' finds each person, he or she can shout, "Surprise! I'm alive and I love you!" and give that person a surprise from the basket.

For younger kids

Make a card for someone you've never met. Ask your parents or pastor to help you find the name of someone you don't know, then send that person a card that tells them all about the good news of Jesus.

For older kids

Use a digital camera to take pictures throughout the week of things that remind you that Jesus is alive. Use the pictures to create a slide show titled "Jesus Alive in My World." Share the slide show with your family and friends!

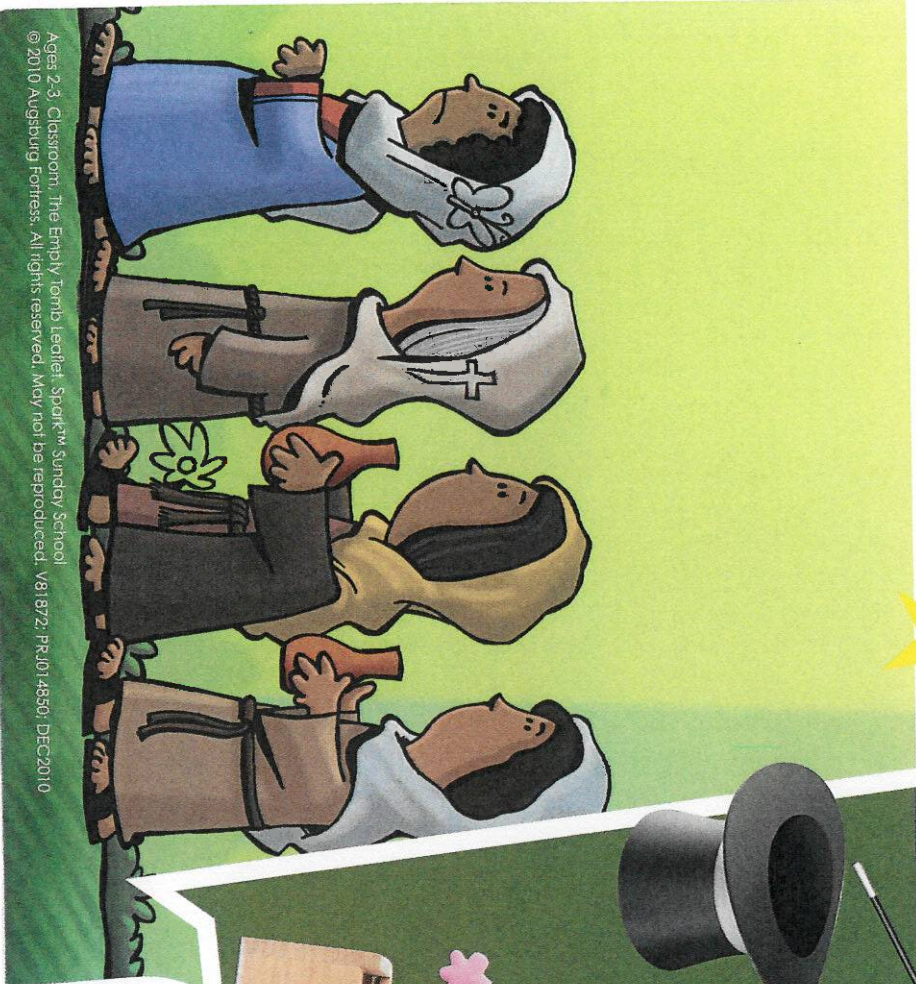


Women Walking

The women are on their way to find Jesus.



Surprises!
Surprises can be fun!



Ages 2-3 Classroom: The Empty Tomb Lesson: Spark™ Sunday School
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FAITHontheGO!

Go for a walk and pick up a few rocks. Use paint or markers to paint crosses, flowers or butterflies on the rocks. Share your Easter rocks with family and friends.

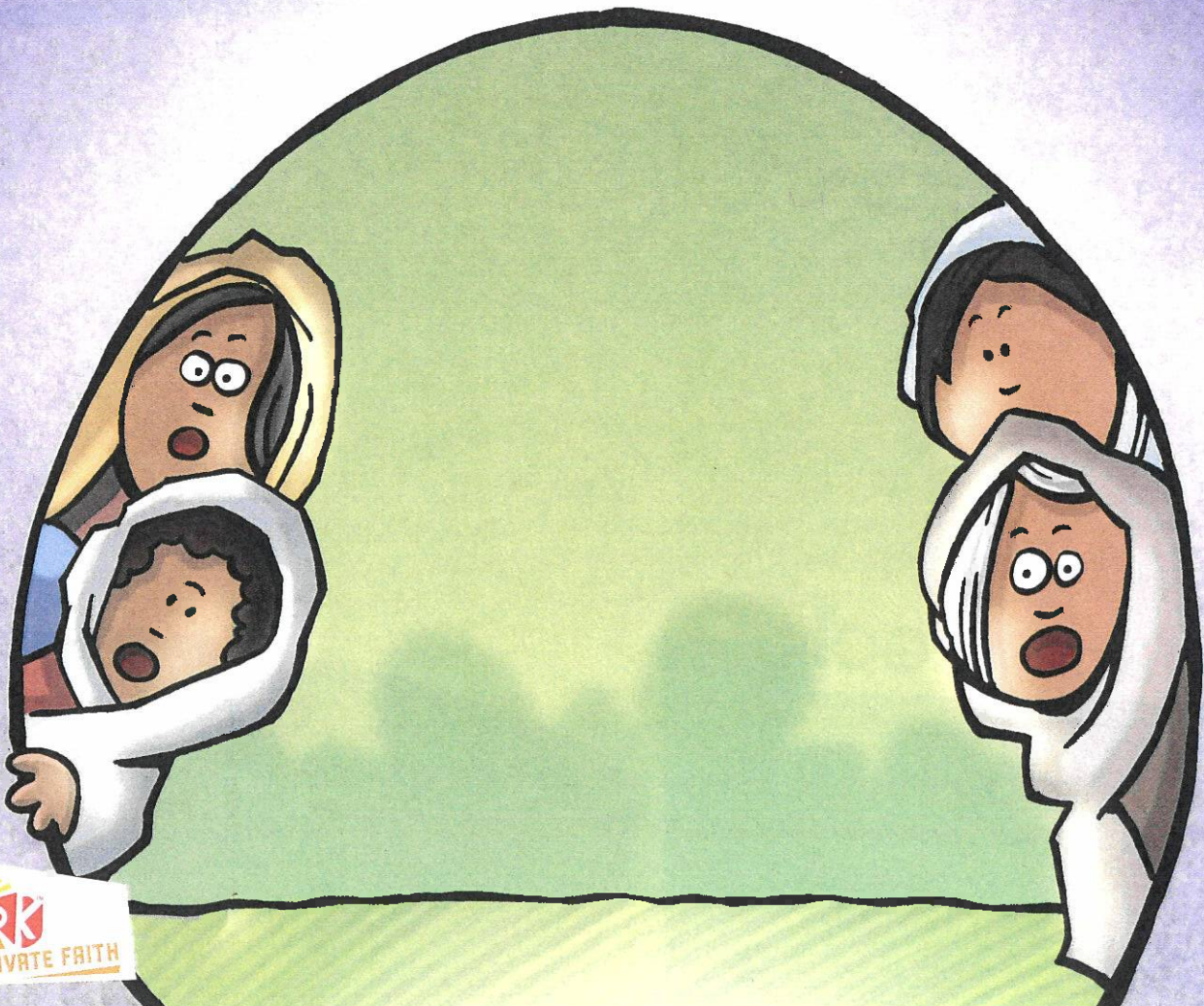
The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

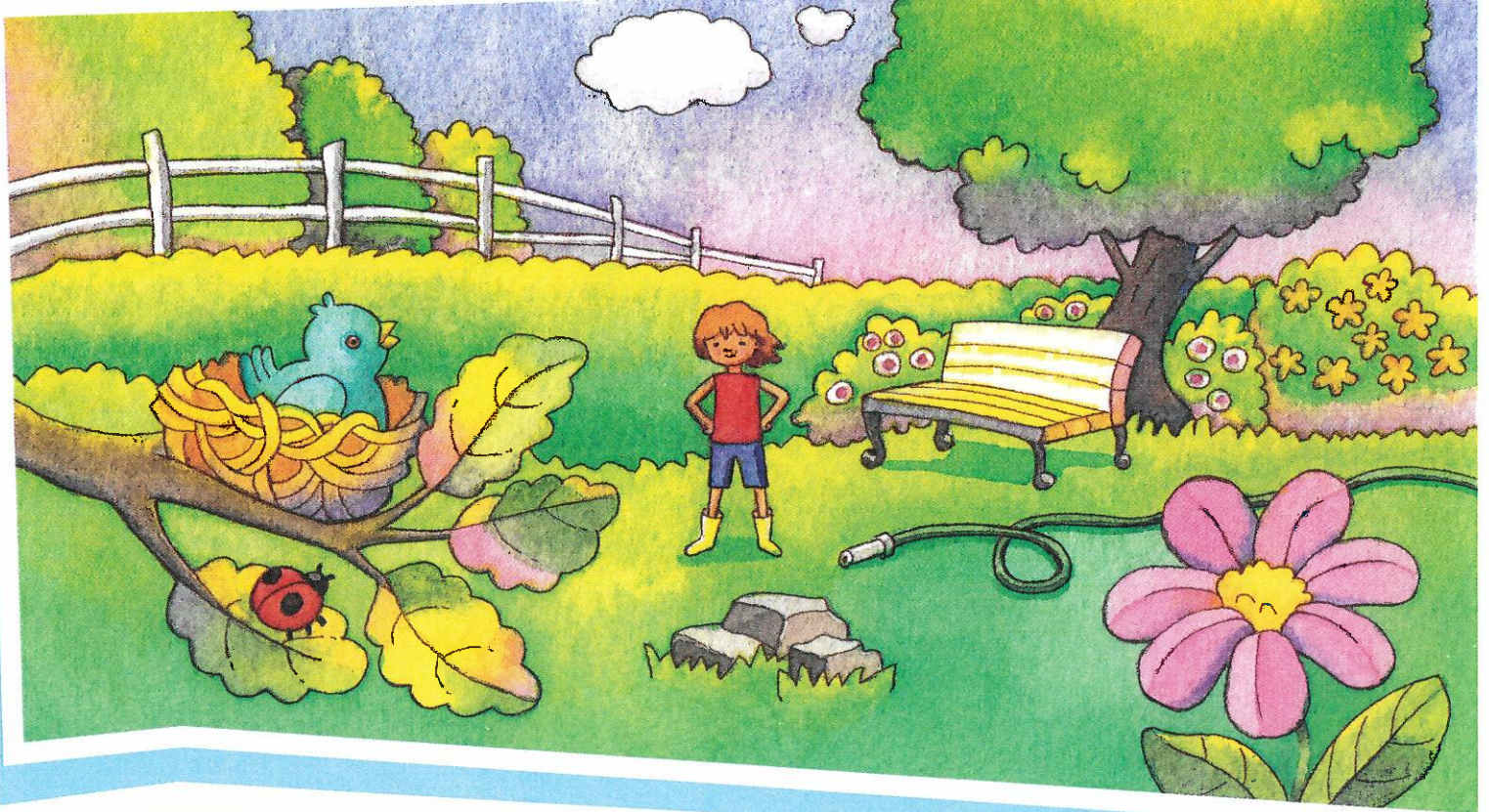
Roll away a paper stone. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

Name _____



Five Alive

This park is filled with life. Shout out Alleluias! as you circle at least five living things.



Flower Power

How does your garden grow?
Add stickers, buttons, and silk flower petals to make a beautiful flower grow from seeds to full bloom.

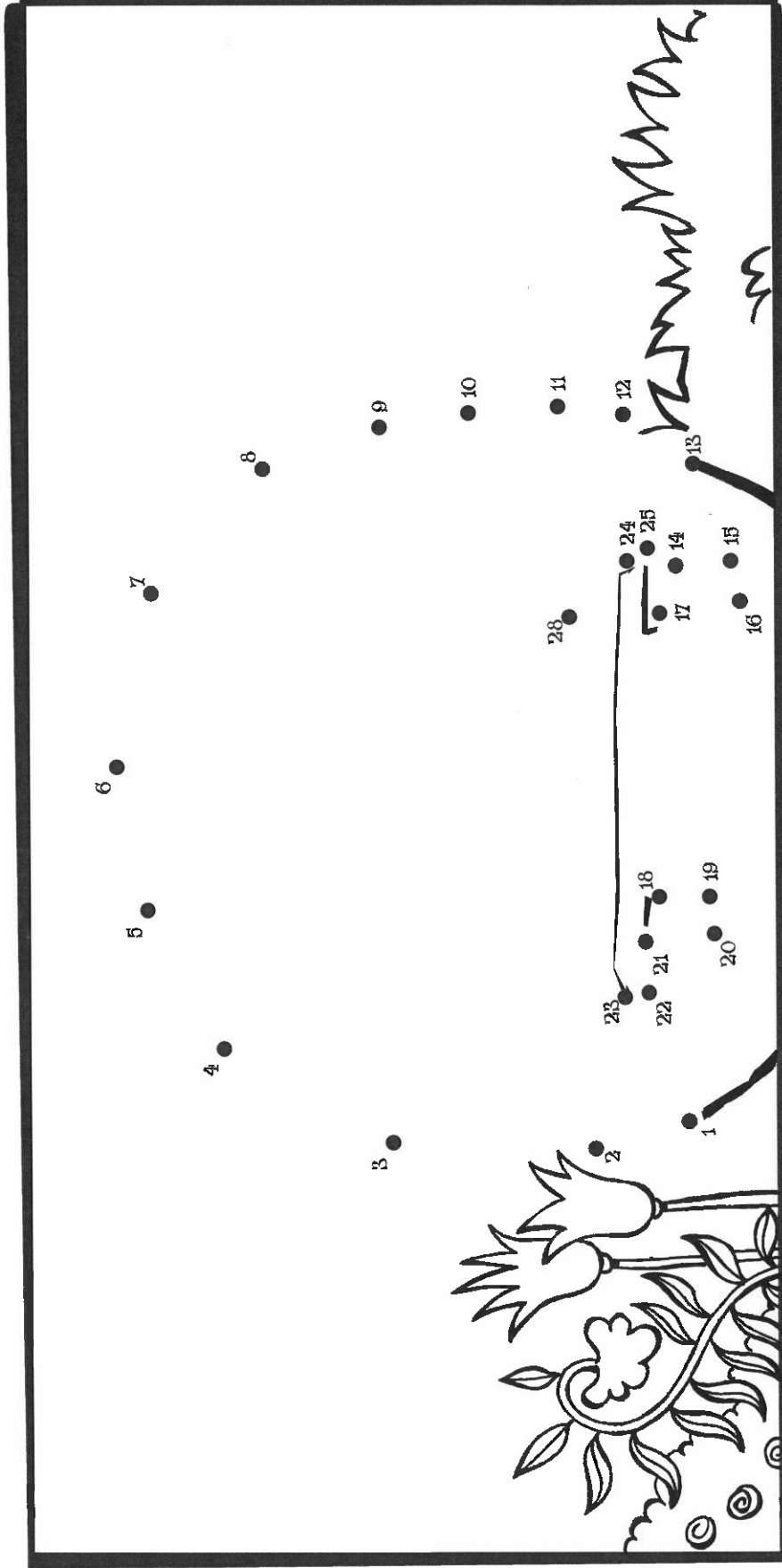
FAITH on the GO!

Shake Alleluia Sticks to praise God. Tape white and gold crepe paper to the end of a dowel. Parade around your home or neighborhood to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Alleluia!



Surprise on Easter

The disciples went to the tomb where they laid Jesus' body. They were very surprised at what they found when they got there! Connect the dots to show the place they visited.



Matthew 28:1-10

I wonder...

- Why angels always say "Do not be afraid!"
- What you look like when you look like lightning.
- What it is like to have good news that no one else knows.



Go and tell the good news.

Good News to Tell

Marta stepped off the bus and started to run home. She had such good news to tell her mom!

"Hi Marta!" said Mrs. Hendley, the neighbor down the street. "Did you have a good day at school?"

"I did!" said Marta. "And guess what? My teacher is going to have a baby. In the spring!"

"Wow!" said Mrs. Hendley. "That's good news!"

Marta slowed her running to a skip. She felt light and happy.

"Hey, Marta!" called out Hannah, her neighbor across the street. "Can you come play?"

"Maybe after I do my homework," said Marta. "Guess what, Hannah? My teacher is going to have a baby!"

"A baby! Just like we have at our house!" said Hannah.

"I know!" Marta said.

Marta ran up her driveway and the front steps. She dropped her backpack on the porch and burst through the front door.

"My goodness!" said her mom. "You look excited!"

"I am! Guess what? Mrs. Nugent is going to have a baby! In the spring! We'll have a sub for a few weeks at the end of school but she promised to bring the baby to school so we can see it. Maybe I'll get to hold her—or him! I guess we don't know yet!"

"Well, that is good news!" said Mom. "Did you tell everyone you saw on the way home?!"

"I did! Is Dad in the backyard? I'm going to go tell him, too!"

Empty Spaces



Below are the 10 verses in the story of the Empty Tomb. See if you can fill in the blanks. Remember, if you need help, all you have to do is look in Matthew 28:1-10.

After the _____, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the _____ went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great _____; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the _____ and sat on it. His appearance was like _____, and his clothing white as _____. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the _____, "Do not be _____; I know that you are looking for _____ who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been _____, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and _____ his disciples, 'He has been raised from the _____, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will _____ him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with _____ and great _____, and ran to tell his _____. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "_____!" And they came to him, took hold of his _____, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to _____ them, "Do not be _____; go and tell my brothers to go to _____; there they will _____ me."



Look It Up!

Find the names of the two women who went to the tomb Easter morning.



Memory Verse

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!"

Matthew 28:5-6a

Fun Facts

In all of the Gospels, the **women** are the first to learn that Jesus was raised.

The **tomb** Jesus was placed in was a small cave. A large stone would have been rolled across the entrance to close it.

A rich man named **Joseph** put Jesus in his own tomb.

Some of the religious authorities were afraid someone would try to **steal** Jesus' body and fool people into thinking Jesus had been raised from the dead. But he really was!

The word **angel** means "messenger."

Easter Eggs

Cut out the Easter Eggs. Each egg contains a summary of one of the verses from today's story. See if you can put them in order.



Faith on the Go!

Cut out and **give** your banner design to someone.

Decorate some paper napkins or place mats with the words "**Go and Tell!**" and "**Good News!**" and "**Jesus Is Risen!**" for your Easter dinner table.

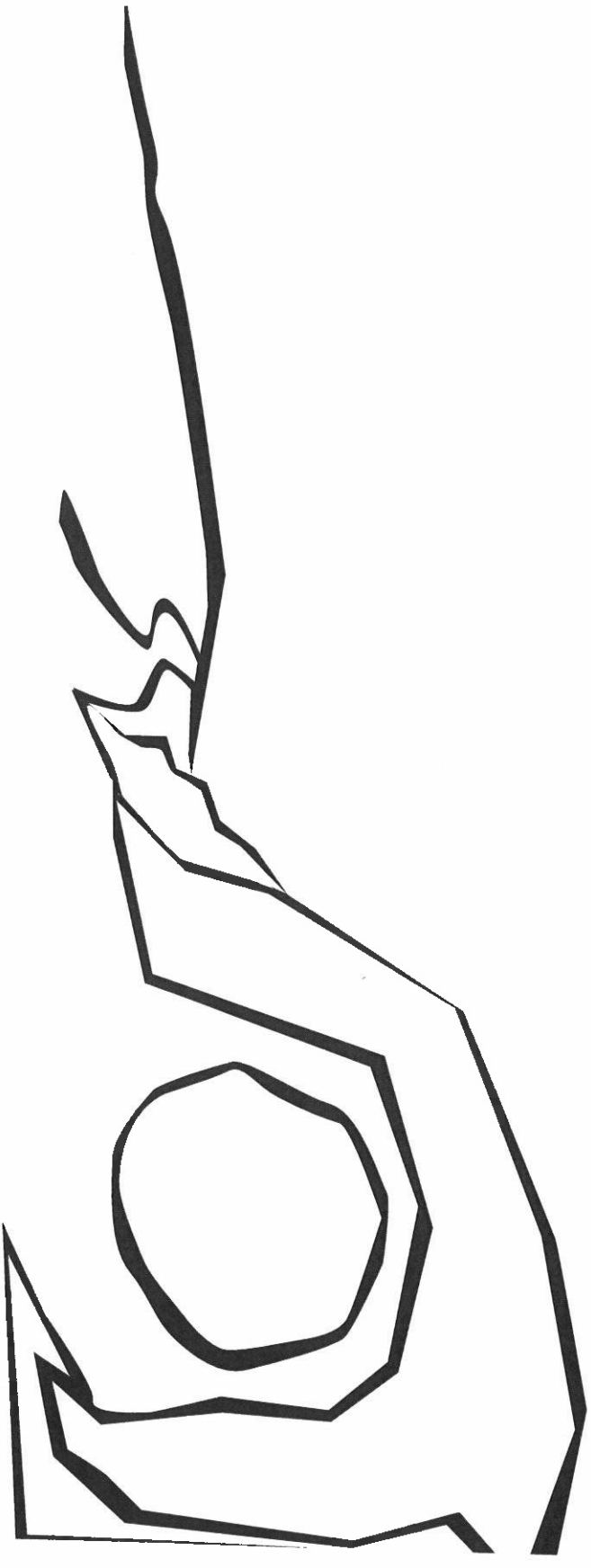
Retell the Easter story to someone younger than you.

Read the Easter stories in the other three Gospels.

Ask other people you know **celebrate** Easter what their traditions are.

Surprising Sunday

Imagine how surprised Jesus' followers must have been when they found Jesus' tomb empty. Draw the surprised men and women outside the tomb.



Good News to Tell!

Your leaflet has a fun story about a kid your age who has some good news to tell. Let's read it! Read Good News to Tell! from the front page of the leaflet.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Why was Marta so excited when she got off the bus? (*She had good news to tell.*)
What was her good news? (*Her teacher was going to have a baby.*) **Who did she tell her good news to?** (*neighbors and her parents*) **Does this story remind you of the empty tomb story in any way? Have you ever had some good news to share? How did you feel when you were getting ready to tell the good news to someone else?**

Supplies
None

I bet that is how the two Marys felt when they were sharing the good news of Jesus rising from the dead!

Empty Spaces

Direct kids to Empty Spaces on the second page of the leaflet. **Well, I bet you know this empty tomb story so well that this will be easy. Close your Bibles! Let's see if we can fill in the blanks without looking. If we need help, we'll look up Matthew 28 again.**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Answer Key
SABBATH
OTHER MARY
EARTHQUAKE
STONE
LIGHTNING
SNOW
WOMEN
AFRAID
JESUS
RAISED
TELL
DEAD
SEE
FEAR
JOY
DISCIPLES
GREETINGS
FEET
AFRAID
GALILEE
SEE



The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10

Empty tomb,
full hearts.



How can something be **big** and **small** at the same time?

Now THAT'S a short story!

Here are some short stories by well-known writers that have something in common:

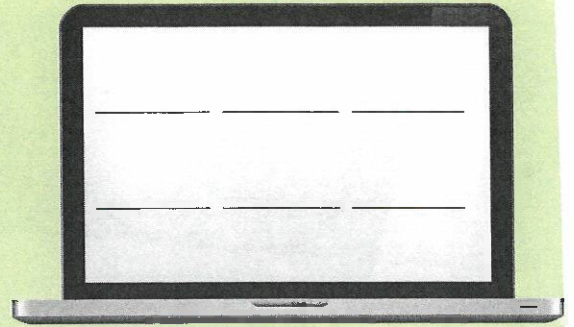
Epitaph: He shouldn't have fed it. – Brian Herbert

For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn. – Ernest Hemingway

Easy. Just touch the match to. – Ursula K. Le Guin

Each of these stories is only six words long, but they say a lot! Now it's your turn.

Write a six-word story on this computer screen, but be sure to make it interesting to read!

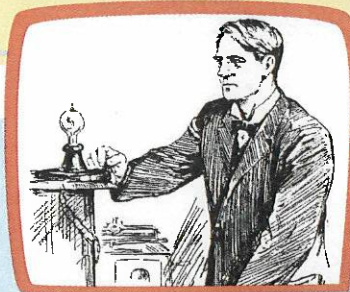


This Week in Good News

The
Daily Times
EXTRA! EXTRA!

**KID DOES SOMETHING SMALL:
LEADS TO OTHER GOOD THINGS!**

Here's a chance to fill in today's headline with something that you did to start a chain reaction of good news. It may just be a little thing, but it's still good news!



Did You Know?

It's believed the inventor Thomas Edison's last breath is captured in a test tube that is on display at a museum in Dearborn, Michigan.



Look it Up!

Today's story is important – and that's putting it lightly. Do the other Gospels (Mark, Luke and John) have their own accounts of Jesus' resurrection? See if you can find them. (Hint: They're probably near the end of those books.)

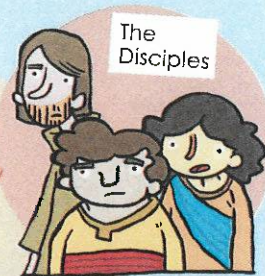
Tracking Jesus

There are a lot of people running and traveling in today's story.

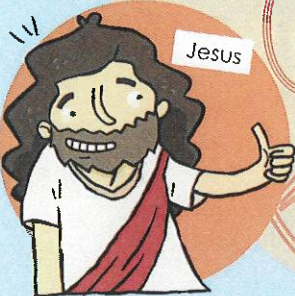
Everyone is going from the empty tomb to share good news! But who is going where? Use your Spark Bibles and the pictures below to match the people up with their destinations. (Some people have more than one destination!)



Mary Magdalene and Mary



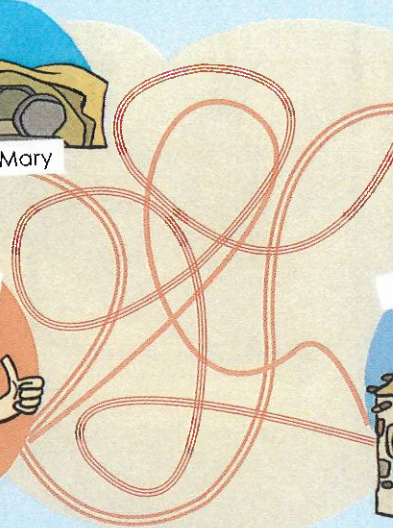
The Disciples



Jesus



Galilee



Something to Flip For

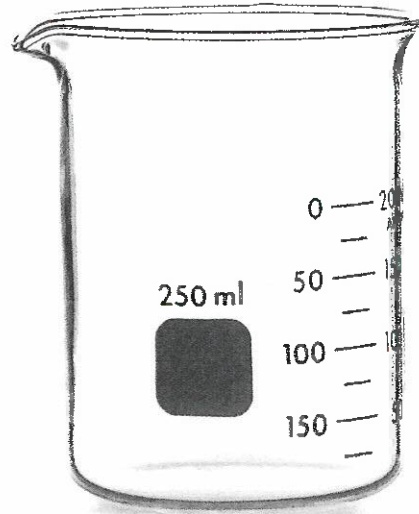
As if things weren't happening fast enough in today's story, there are angels appearing and disappearing again like lightning! Follow your teacher's instructions to make a flipbook of your own that tells the story of the angels' Easter adventure!

Now, whenever you need a reminder that God's good news appears in empty, unexpected places, just flip your Bible over, and watch the story unfold!



Forwarding Good News

In today's story, Jesus starts going ahead of the disciples to bring good news. Your leader will read the good news your group has sent out. Every time you hear news that's good news for you, fill up the jar below, line by line, by coloring it in.



Faith on the Go!



Does your church say creeds when they worship together? The next time you're in worship, if you have a hymnal at your church, look up the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and/or the Athanasian Creed in the hymnal. If you don't use hymnals, do a web search for them. What do these creeds say about Jesus' resurrection? Do you agree with what it says?

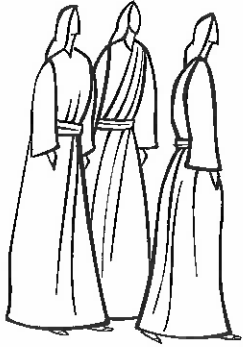
Memory Verse



He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:6

Follow Me!

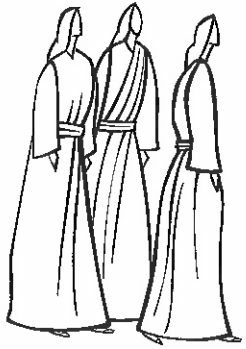
Follow the women to the empty tomb as you track the verse from Matthew. Starting with "I Know," follow the verse as the words go right, left, down, or diagonally. If you get stuck, turn to page 1097 in your Spark Bible for help.



I angel tomb
Know that open
you to empty
are looking Easter
the for Jesus
person who holy
has been light
please crucified. He
us with is
believe not here
has he for
been Raised! be

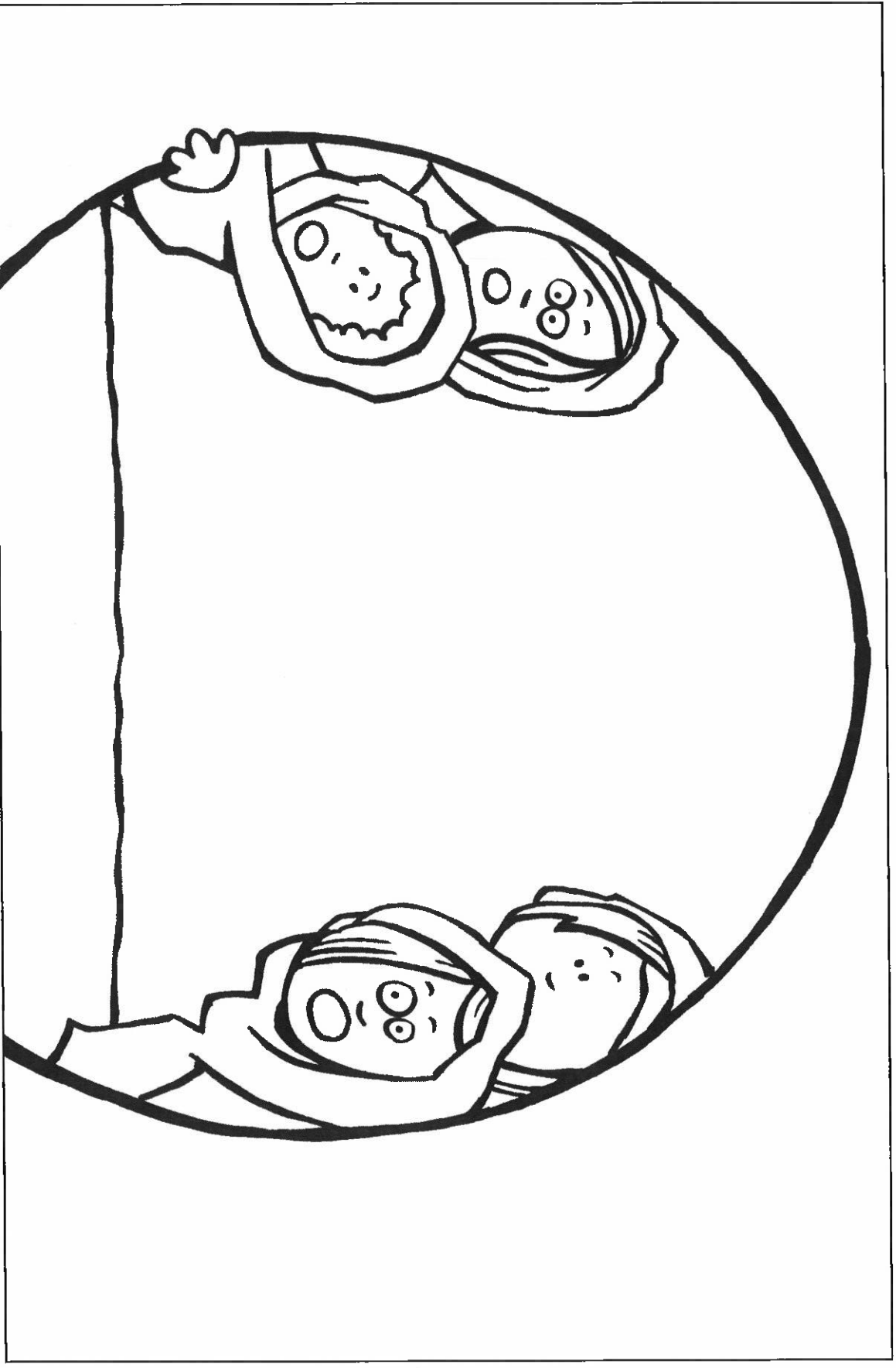
Follow Me! Solution

Follow the women to the empty tomb as you track the verse from Matthew. Starting with "I Know," follow the verse as the words go right, left, down, or diagonally. If you get stuck, turn to page 1097 in your Spark Bible for help.



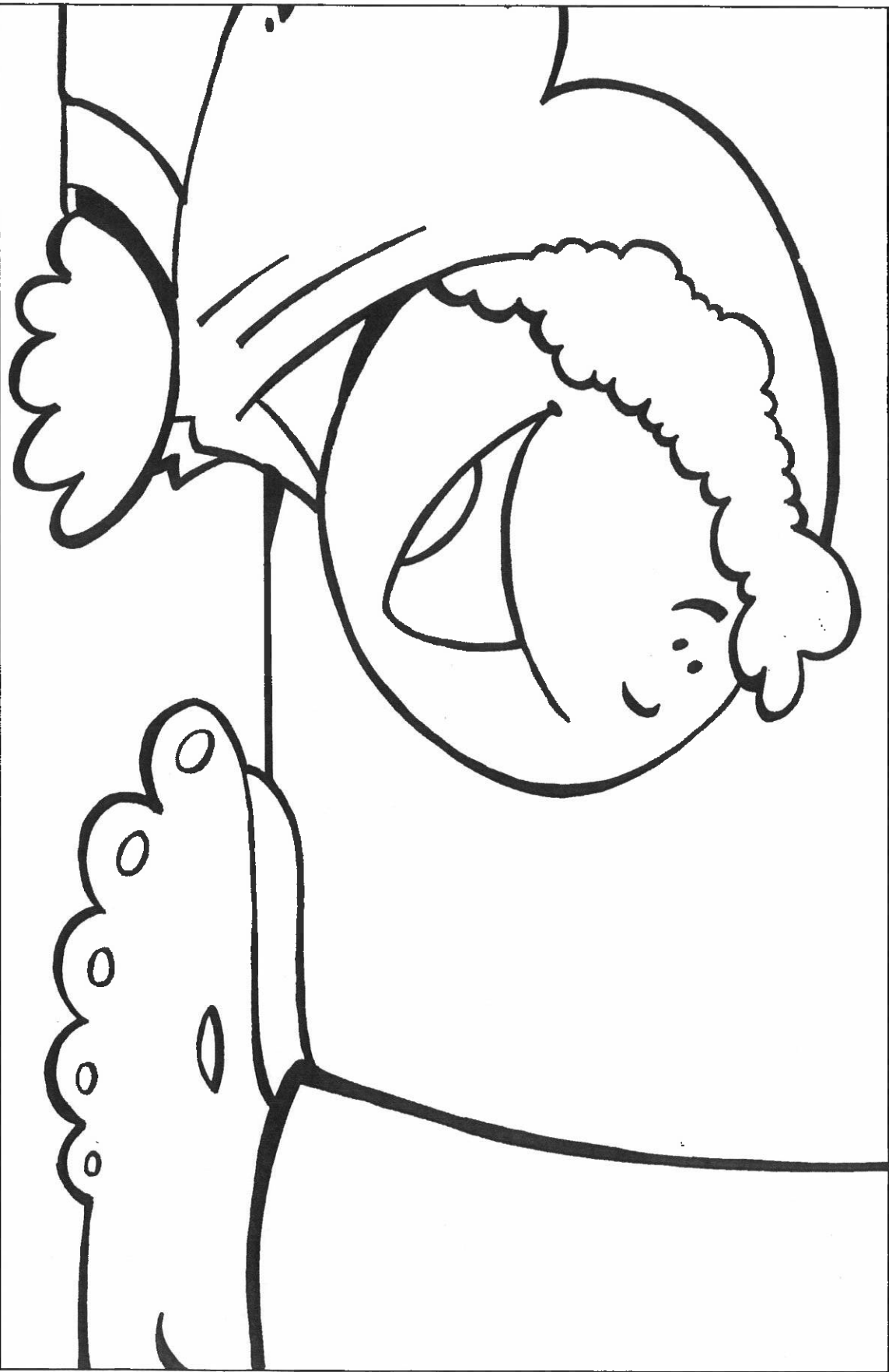
I Know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here for he has been Raised!

The Empty Tomb



“Don’t be afraid!” the angel said. “Jesus is alive!”

The Empty Tomb



It was Jesus! Jesus was really alive!