

Bible Story 44: JESUS' RESURRECTION AND FIRST APPEARANCES

SCRIPTURE:	Resurrection:	Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10
	Appears to Mary Magdalene:	John 20:11-18
	Appears to Men Going to Emmaus:	Luke 24:13-35
	Appears to Ten Disciples:	Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 6:14 or Acts 2:24

BIBLE STORY:

On Friday Jesus was crucified on the cross and buried in a tomb. Everyone rested on the Jewish Sabbath, which began around six on Friday evening. At sunrise on Sunday morning, there was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone at the entrance to Jesus' tomb.

Some women brought some spices to properly care for the body of Jesus. Upon their arrival, they saw that the tomb was empty. The angel told them, **"Don't be afraid. Jesus has risen from the grave! Tell His disciples that Jesus has risen. Jesus is alive!"**

Afraid, yet excited, the women ran and told the disciples what happened.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb crying. She could not understand why the tomb was empty. Where was Jesus? Two angels at the tomb asked her, **"Why are you crying?"** She replied, **"Someone has taken my Lord Jesus away."**

Then Mary saw a man, who she thought was a gardener. Mary pleaded, **"Oh, tell me where Jesus' body was taken."**

He was not the gardener. It was Jesus! He replied, **"Mary."**

Mary looked up and cried out, **"Teacher!"** She recognized that it was Jesus and He was alive!

Jesus said, **"Mary, go tell My disciples that I have risen! I am going to my Father, My God."** Mary went and told the disciples what happened.

After hearing the women say that Jesus was alive, the disciple Peter and the beloved disciple John ran to the tomb. They saw the burial cloth folded inside the tomb and wondered, **"Where was Jesus?"**

Meanwhile the soldiers, who were guarding the tomb, went and told the chief priests about everything that happened. The chief priests gave money to the soldiers, telling them to spread the news that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body.

On Sunday afternoon, Cleopas and another follower of Jesus were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. Jesus appeared to them as they were walking, but they did not recognize Him.

Jesus asked, **"What are you talking about to each other?"**

Cleopas replied, **"We were talking about what happened to Jesus, who was powerful in**

word and deed. We were hoping that He was the one who was going to set Israel free, but He was crucified. It's the third day since He died. Some women came and said the tomb was empty. No one knows where He is."

Jesus explained how it was necessary for Christ, the Messiah, to suffer these things and only then enter His glory.

As they arrived at the village, the men invited Jesus to stay with them. At the table, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, giving it to them. Suddenly the two men realized that it was Jesus! Then Jesus disappeared. The men quickly returned to Jerusalem.

They arrived back in Jerusalem that evening and found the disciples and some other followers of Jesus locked in a room in a house. The disciple Thomas was not there. The two men said, **"It is true! Jesus has risen from the grave! Jesus is alive!"**

At this time, even though the door was locked, Jesus suddenly appeared before them. Jesus said, **"Peace be with you."**

The disciples were afraid. They thought that Jesus was a ghost!

Jesus said, **"Why are you afraid? Why do you doubt? Look at My hands and My feet. It is really Me! Touch Me and see! I have flesh and bones, but a ghost does not."**

Then Jesus showed them His hands and feet, but they still could not believe that He was alive.

So Jesus asked, **"Do you have anything for Me to eat?"**

They gave Jesus a piece of broiled fish. Jesus ate it while they watched. Then they finally believed that Jesus was alive! They rejoiced!

Jesus said, **"Peace be with you! Just as the Father sent Me, so I send you."**

Jesus spoke some more words and then He disappeared.

Later when the disciples saw Thomas, they told him about Jesus appearing to them. Thomas said that he would not believe that Jesus had risen, unless he touched the nail scars on His hands and touched where the sword pierced His side.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and His disciples. Then they went out and shared with others that God had resurrected His Son, Jesus, from the grave. Jesus was alive! Believe that after Jesus died on the cross and was buried, God resurrected Jesus. Jesus is alive!
2. The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus, but Jesus took away their fears. Whenever you are afraid, pray and share your fears. God will help you through your fears and help you as you go through your difficult situation(s).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What happened at sunrise on Sunday morning after Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the tomb?
2. Why did the women go to the tomb Sunday morning? What happened?
3. What happened when Mary Magdalene was crying at the tomb? What did Jesus say? What happened?
4. What happened when Peter and John went to the tomb?
5. What happened when the guards were watching the tomb Sunday morning? Where did the guards go? What did the chief priests say after they heard what happened?
6. What happened as Cleopas and his friend were walking to Emmaus?
7. What happened when Jesus appeared to the disciples in a locked room in a house? What did Jesus do to show that He was alive?
8. What does it mean that Jesus was resurrected? Who resurrected Jesus, giving Him life after death? What does it mean to "believe?" Do you believe that Jesus arose and is alive? Why?
9. When Jesus appeared to the disciples, at first they were afraid. How did Jesus calm their fears?
10. What are some fears that people face today? (Examples: fear of losing a job, rejection, abuse, sickness, loss of a loved one, storms like tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, etc.)
11. How can God help people who face fears and crisis in their lives? How can you help?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– Ask, "What happened to Jesus in our last story? Where was Jesus buried? What was placed in front of His tomb?" Explain that around six on that Friday evening, everyone had gone home to observe the Jewish Sabbath. Only guards remained at the tomb. Now it was sunrise on Sunday morning. Tell the rest of the Bible story in your own words, using appropriate expressions.

when you were crying at the tomb?

(3) Ask **Peter**: "What happened when you and the beloved disciple John went to the tomb?"

(4) Ask **a guard**: "What happened at the tomb? What happened when you told the chief priests what happened?"

(5) Ask **Cleopas**: "What happened when you and your friend left Jerusalem and you were walking to Emmaus?"

(6) Ask **John**: "What happened when you and other disciples were in a locked room in a house in Jerusalem?"

(7) Ask **Thomas**: "What happened when the disciples told you that Jesus appeared to them and He was alive?"

TV OR RADIO INTERVIEW:

– Do an impromptu play of a TV/Radio interview. Choose ones in your group to act as though they are people in the story and select someone to do the interview. The interviewer asks questions and each person answers his question in his own words, relating it to the story. Examples:

(1) Ask **a woman**: "What happened when you and some other women went to Jesus' tomb early Sunday morning?"

(2) Ask **Mary Magdalene**: "What happened

WALK ALONG:

– Take a walk together around the neighborhood, a walking trail at a park or zoo, etc. If you want, have a picnic afterwards. Enjoy the fellowship together.

GUEST SPEAKER:

– Ask: "What are some things you or other people are afraid of today? What are some crisis people face?"

– Share encouraging ways to help them face their crisis.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-23

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 28:1-15	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-10	John 20:11-18	Luke 24:13-35	Luke 24:36-49	John 20:19-23