

## The Easter Story

Jesus is alive! Let's celebrate!



Matthew 27:57-66, 28:1-10

## The Cross

Jesus loved people. Many people loved Him, too. There were, however, some people who did not like Jesus. They did not believe that He was really God's son. They did not like it when all the people followed Jesus and believed in Him. They planned a way to get rid of Jesus, once and for all. They told lies about Jesus and soon took Him away to die. Jesus did die on the cross that day. His friends were very sad.

## The White Cloth

After Jesus died, His friends took His body and gently wrapped it in a long piece of white cloth. They placed his body in a tomb.

## The Stone

The tomb was a cave that was cut out of a huge rock wall. A large stone was rolled over it to cover the entrance. The people who had not liked Jesus went to the governor and said, "This tomb needs a guard. When he was alive, Jesus said that he would rise again in three days. We don't want his disciples coming to steal the body. They might pretend that Jesus is alive again." So the governor put several soldiers at the tomb to guard it.

## The Cinnamon

Early Sunday morning, Mary and Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. They brought sweet smelling spices with them to put on Jesus' body. They wondered how they were going to roll away the huge stone in front of the tomb. When they got there, a big surprise awaited them!

## The Angel

The earth shook! An angel came down from heaven, went to the tomb, rolled back the huge stone and sat on it. The soldiers that were guarding the tomb were so afraid that they started to shake all over and fell to the ground. But the angel said to the woman, "Don't be afraid! I know you're looking for Jesus. But He is not here! Jesus has risen, just as He said He would."

## The Empty Egg

The angel said to the women, "Come look in the tomb. You'll see that it is empty." The women could hardly believe their eyes and ears! Could it be true?

The angel continued, "Go quickly and tell Jesus' disciples that He is not dead. Tell them that Jesus is alive!" The women hurried away from the tomb. They were just a little scared. They had just seen an angel. They thought about what the angel said. Could Jesus really be alive? The thought filled them with joy!

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Hello," He lovingly said to them. Mary and Mary Magdalene knelt down and worshiped Him. "Don't be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell my disciples that I am alive, and I will see them soon."

The women hurried off with great joy and excitement.

"Jesus is alive!" they said.  
"Let's celebrate!"