



For the Week of April 8, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers:
why easter is such good news!

Life Notes for Families

Introductions

We hope you're having a great time learning about Jesus together as a family. Whether you have lots of family members or just a few spending time together, we pray you're having fun and noticing the difference that living with Jesus - *together* - can make. We all have our own relationships with God, but we also share a relationship with those we love. Thanks for helping grow this important relationship!

good news!

You may have already done this as a family, but maybe not! We thought a great way to keep Easter going this week would be to act out John 20 before discussing how Easter effects our lives today. The script appears on the following page.

We kept things pretty true to Scripture, but feel free to add some parts as you envision what it was like for others standing near the tomb when the stone was rolled away. You could even write several scripts from different people's points of view or provide mood music for your play. Make sure everyone has at least one part. In preparation, read John 20 together, gather or make all the props you need and create the scene.

(Play, see next page.)

At the end of your dramatic experience, talk together about the resurrection.

What was it like to be Mary, Peter, the other disciples? How must they have felt when they thought Jesus was dead and would not return?

Why was it so difficult for the disciples to know what had happened? Talk about how we can know something with our minds but not know it with our hearts or our experience.

What was the meaning of the resurrection for Mary, Peter, the other disciples?

What is the meaning of the resurrection for you and for me?

How did the resurrection change life for Mary, Peter and the other disciples?

How does the resurrection change things for our lives today?

Can you think of any ways that you, as a family, can encourage each other daily to remember that Jesus really is our Savior and Lord?

Narrator: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved.

Mary Magdalene: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Narrator: So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

Peter: "I see everything that should be here...but our Lord is gone."

Narrator: Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside.

Other disciple: "I believe, but I don't understand."

(The disciples leave to go back to their homes. They look tired and confused.)

Peter: "Good night."

Other disciple: "Good night everyone."

Mary: "I'm staying here. I can't go home and not know where he is."

Narrator: Mary stayed and began to cry. As she was crying, she bent over to look into the tomb and she saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

Angels, in unison: "Woman, why are you crying?"

Mary: "They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him."

Narrator: Mary turned around and saw someone standing there, but she did not realize it was Jesus.

Jesus: "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Mary: "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus: "Mary."

Mary: "Rabboni!"

Narrator: Rabboni means teacher.

Jesus: "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Narrator: Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news.

(Mary goes to several different houses, sharing the news as she knocks on each door.)

Mary: "I have seen the Lord! And he wants you to know that he is returning to his father and our father, to his God and our God."