

## Victory Over Death



<sup>39</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

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<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

<sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earth-

quake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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**28**After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

get excited!

You  
Tube

### Verse to Remember

"Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!'  
And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and  
worshiped him." **Matthew 28:9**

### key verse exercise:

Match the photo with the  
appropriate season.



\_\_\_\_\_ **Spring**



\_\_\_\_\_ **Summer**



\_\_\_\_\_ **Winter**



\_\_\_\_\_ **Fall**

## LESSON 8

Matthew 27:39-40, 45-54;  
28:1-10

**read and learn!**

## JESUS LIVES AGAIN

WRITTEN BY: DR. MICHELLE SEARLES

Easter Sunday is a very big deal at Elevation A.M.E. Zion Church. It was Mr. Gantt's turn to teach Sunday School, and he could not wait to tell the **Resurrection** story with the object lesson he had been practicing the last three weeks.

**Mr. Gantt:** Good morning, everyone! The song I am playing is a song by the gospel group Mary Mary. The name of that group was inspired by two Marys in the bible – Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, who is one of the Marys in our story today.

Does anyone remember what happened to Jesus on Good Friday?

**Shania:** I do, Mr. Gantt. On Good Friday, Jesus was badly beaten and nailed to a cross. That is the day Jesus died.

**Mr. Gantt:** That's right Shania, I am going to use these pieces of paper to illustrate what happened in today's Sunday School lesson.

After Jesus died, a rich man named Joseph, who had become a follower of Jesus, asked for the body so he could bury it. The governor, Pontius Pilate, granted the request and gave



the order for the body of Jesus to be released to Joseph. Joseph wrapped the body in a clean linen cloth. I am using this little cross to represent the sacrifice of Jesus and wrapping it in the small piece of paper like the rich man Joseph wrapped the body.

After Joseph wrapped the body, he put it in a tomb he carved out of a rock like a cave. I am folding the medium piece of paper around the small piece of paper covering the cross to represent Jesus in the tomb.

After the body was placed in the tomb, Joseph rolled a big stone in front of the entrance. I am folding the large piece of paper around the medium piece of paper to symbolize the stone that covered the entrance of the tomb.

The chief priests and Pharisees were the ones who wanted Jesus to be crucified. They remembered what Jesus said would happen after three days, so they asked Pilate to have the tomb secured. They thought the disciples would try to steal the body and spread false news about Jesus being raised. Pilate gave the chief priests and Pharisees guards to watch the tomb. The stone was also sealed to the tomb so no one could open it. That tomb was secure! I am folding the extra-large piece of paper around the large piece of paper to show all this security.

One early morning, Mary Magdalene and another Mary (not the mother of Jesus), went to visit Jesus' tomb. Suddenly, BOOM! The earth shook. Can you make a ground-shaking noise by stomping your feet as fast as you can?

An angel came down from heaven, went to the tomb, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The security guards were so scared they couldn't move! I am unfolding the extra-large paper to show the fear of the security guards, and the large piece of paper to represent how the angel rolled the stone away.



## Questions

1. How do you think Mary felt when she saw Jesus alive?
2. What does it mean for us that Jesus is alive today?
3. How can we share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others?

The angel looked at the women and said, "Don't be afraid! Jesus has risen from the dead, just like he said he would! Come and see for yourself." The women saw the empty tomb. They were amazed and super happy. The angel told the women to leave quickly to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive, and he will meet them in Galilee. And that is exactly what they did. I am unfolding the medium piece of paper to show the empty tomb and the small piece of paper to illustrate how the women felt.

**Reyniah:** What! There's nothing in the small paper. The little cross is gone!

**Mr. Gantt:** That's the kind of amazement we should have every day because Jesus is alive.

**Dakari:** Mr. Gantt, I have a question. How do we know Jesus is alive if we did not see the Resurrection ourselves?

**Mr. Gantt:** What a great question, Dakari! We know Jesus is alive because of our faith. It is what we believe to be true and feel in our heart. Our job as disciples is to share the Good News that Jesus is alive so we can make more disciples. Who is ready to share the Good News?



rise up!

(30 minutes)

# superhero challenge:

**THE GOOD NEWS MEET UP.** Zion and Zaya have invited their friends to meet up with them to learn a dance that shares the good news about Jesus.



craft time



**Crafts  
& More**

time to pray



Dear God, help me to be thankful for nature and all living things. Amen.