

EASTER

John 20: 1- 18

April 1, 2018



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INTRO

Ask the children if they know what day it is today, and then ask if they know what we celebrate on Easter.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Today we remember and celebrate the day Jesus came back to life after dying on the cross. I wonder what it would have been like to find out that Jesus had died if you were one of his close friends.
- In our story today, one of Jesus' close friends named Mary goes to the place where he was buried, and she can't find him. How might Mary have felt when she couldn't find Jesus' body?
- Mary ran to tell Jesus' close friends that his body was gone and they came back to see for themselves. What might Jesus' friends have done once they heard the news?

WRAP-UP

Tell the children that Mary and Jesus' friends all ran back together to go see it for themselves and that after they had seen that Jesus was gone, they left to go back to their homes. Explain that Mary stayed behind and cried at the tomb where Jesus was buried. Tell them that as Mary was crying Jesus came to her. Show the children this morning's illustration and tell them that Mary greeted Jesus by saying, "Rabbouni!" or "Teacher!" Explain to the children that Mary realized that Jesus had come back to life! Tell the kids that Mary was full of joy. Wonder with them about how it would feel to have a friend you thought you'd lost right back by your side. Explain that today we remember and celebrate the day Jesus came back to life and that we get to experience the joy that Mary Magdalene did every Easter. Invite them to pray with you as you close.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for Easter! Thank you for the story of Mary Magdalene today and for bringing Jesus back to life after all seemed hopeless and lost. Help us celebrate today and know we can always have hope and joy because of Easter. **Amen.**