

7. Easter (Luke 24:1-12)

“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9)



PLAN

Supplies

Deep Blue Resources: One Room Sunday School® Kit: CD-ROM | Leader Guide | Reproducible Kids' Book | Resource Pak

Additional Deep Blue Resources:

CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure DVD | Deep Blue Bible Dictionary

Basic Supplies: DVD player | CD player | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Tape | Paper plates | Glue | Plastic knives | Small paper | Watercolor paints | Paintbrushes | Small plastic cups for water

Gather: Brads | Sweet buns | White icing

Explore: No additional supplies

Respond: Plastic eggs | Wooden clothespins with round heads | Coffee filters | String

Bless: Thumbtacks

Before You Teach

First thing Sunday morning, one week after Jesus rode into Jerusalem as king, several women went to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body with burial spices they had prepared. They didn't go to the tomb anticipating the Resurrection. They had watched as Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the tomb. They probably thought it was over.

The women may have wondered how they would move the large stone that had been used to seal the tomb, but the stone had been rolled away. When they entered the tomb, they didn't find Jesus' body, only the cloth they had wrapped around his body lying on the slab. Their first thought at this scene wasn't about resurrection but fear that someone had stolen Jesus' body.

While the women were agonizing over the empty tomb, two men suddenly appeared beside them in gleaming bright clothes. The women recognized them as angels and bowed their faces to the ground in fear. The angels said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

The angels' words helped them remember Jesus' words, and they were convinced Jesus was alive. They ran quickly back to tell the disciples, who thought the women were hysterical or dreaming. But Peter, after hearing the women's report, ran to the tomb to see for himself. Peter walked away from the tomb wondering about what had come to pass. Even Jesus' disciples had to be convinced of his resurrection.

God's power had been shown through Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' words, the angels' message, and the testimony of the many witnesses who saw Jesus after his resurrection, all these made an impressive case of evidence of this event. God's power stands behind the Resurrection, but the followers of Jesus had to be convinced that it had truly happened.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the "Attendance Chart" (Resource Pak—pp. 2 and 23 or p. 3). Two different options for an attendance chart are given in the Resource Pak. Decide which is best for your class.

- Play the theme song, "All Are Welcome" (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark an attendance chart. For the "Community Attendance Chart," the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #7.

PRAY: Dear God, we praise you on this Easter day. Show us your awesome power in the Resurrection; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASK: What traditions do you have for celebrating Easter? Why is Easter a special day for you?

Color by Number (Puzzle – Preschool)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7b for each preschool child.

SAY: Early on Sunday morning, several women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. But the tomb was empty! Use the color code to color the picture of the women when they found the tomb empty.

- Go over the color code with the children.
 - Allow the children time to color their pictures.
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Grid Picture (Puzzle – Younger Elementary)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7c for each younger elementary child.

SAY: Early Sunday morning the women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They wanted to prepare his body for burial with spices they had made. Color the squares in the grid by using the code at the bottom. You will discover a picture of what the women found early that Sunday morning.

- Allow the children time to color their grid pictures.
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Easter Sudoku (Puzzle – Older Elementary)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7d for each older elementary child.

SAY: Fill in the Sudoku puzzle by drawing one of the four pictures (crosses, tomb, angel, or cup and bread) in each square. Each section of squares, diagonals, lines across, and lines down should have four different pictures. Start with the section with two pictures and work from there.

- Go over the answers to the puzzle.

ASK: Can you share the story of Jesus from the cross to the empty tomb?

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Paper Plate Tomb (Craft)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7e for each child. You will need paper plates and brads.

- Give each child a copy of “Paper Plate Tomb.” Have the children color and cut out the figures on the reproducible. Give each child two paper plates. Have them cut one of the plates in half. On the whole plate, place the empty tomb in the middle of the plate with the angel. Write above it, “He is not here. He is risen!” Place the stone on one of the half plates and Mary on the other half plate. Color the backgrounds. Attach the three pieces together with a brad. You should be able to push the two pieces together to see a picture and slide them apart to see the empty tomb.

Hot Cross Buns (Snack)

Before class: Make a copy of “Resurrection Rolls” (Reproducible 6e) for each child to take home to make with their family. For the snack for class, bring some sweet buns. If you prefer to make them, you can find several good recipes online.

SAY: Resurrection Rolls and Hot Cross Buns have become traditional Easter treats. Each of you will receive a recipe for Resurrection Rolls that you can take home and make with your family. For our snack today, we are going to have hot cross buns. These may have been introduced as early as the 12th century. Monks would bake the buns and mark them with a cross in honor of Good Friday. Over time they have become a symbol of Easter.

- Give each child a bun (or two) that you bring to class. Allow them to make a cross on top of their bun by spreading icing with a plastic knife. Then allow the children to eat their hot cross buns.
- Give each child a copy of “Resurrection Rolls” to take home.

Transition to Explore – Sacred Conversations

SAY: The past few weeks we have talked about what happened on Thursday of Holy Week.

ASK: Do you know what events happened on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Holy Week?

EXPLORE

Read the Bible Story

- Ask the children to find Luke 24:1-12 in their Bibles. Encourage them to bring their own Bibles and learn how to use them. Read the story from the *Deep Blue Bible Storybook* (pp. 388–91).

ASK: What did the women find when they reached the tomb where Jesus had been buried? (*The stone was rolled away.*) What did the angel tell the women? (*Jesus isn’t here. He is risen!*)

Dictionary Search

- Allow the children to look up *Angel* and *Tomb* in the *Deep Blue Kids Bible Dictionary*.

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See the Bible Story

SAY: The kids are helping Abuela in the garden. They're picking lilies to hand out and decorate with on Easter. Abuela tells them how lilies remind us of Easter.

- Watch today's episode from the Adventure DVD.

ASK: What reminds you of Jesus' resurrection?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7a for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the Bible story.

SAY: Holy Week began with great excitement over a new king. But on Thursday, when Jesus was arrested, the people became confused and fearful. Jesus was put on trial, and many of the same people who had shouted "Hosanna!" were in the crowd shouting, "Crucify him!" Jesus died on the cross on Friday and was buried in a tomb carved out of rock. Saturday was traditionally the sabbath day for the Jews, and they had to observe certain rules. They couldn't go to the tomb on the sabbath to prepare Jesus' body for burial, so the women went to the tomb early Sunday morning. Their great sorrow turned into joy when the angels told them Jesus had risen from the grave.

- Read the Easter story aloud to the children.

ASK: Why do you think we call the day Jesus died Good Friday? (*We celebrate it as a holy day because Christ showed his love for us, and we know that he was resurrected from the dead.*) How do you think the women felt when they saw the stone rolled away and found the tomb empty? What emotion do you think they felt when they saw the angels?

Bible Verse (Activity)

- Our verse for Unit 1 is Mark 11:9.
- Say the verse without looking at the Bible verse poster.
- Go over the Sign Language for the Bible verse. Encourage all the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

TIP: Look on the Deep Blue Kids website, the Free Stuff tab, to see a video demonstrating the signs.

- Pair the children and have them say and sign the Bible verse to each other.
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Transition to Respond

- Have someone find Luke 24:5-6 in the Bible and read it for the group.

ASK: Why do you think the disciples didn't understand what Jesus had told them about his death and resurrection? What does the phrase, "Seeing is believing," mean to you?

- Say together, "Hallelujah! Jesus is risen! Jesus is alive!"

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Bring enough plastic eggs for the children to have 2–3 each.

SAY: Easter is a good time for thinking about others. We should remember what Jesus did for us, and we should take time to think about our neighbors at church and in the community. Think about the needs your neighbors have that you can pray for. Take 2–3 small pieces of paper and write the prayer requests you thought of for your neighbors. Fold up the papers so the words can't be seen.

- Have another adult stuff the plastic eggs with the prayer requests, one paper per egg. Then have that adult hide the eggs in a room where the kids can hunt for them.

SAY: We are going to hunt for Easter eggs. Each of you is allowed to find and keep 2–3 eggs. Open the eggs and take out the papers with the pray requests. Pray for the requests you found in your eggs every day this week.

Butterfly Cross (Group Activity)

Before class: You will need wooden clothespins with round heads (sometimes called doll pins) and coffee filters. Make a cross frame using two long dowel rods. Tie them together with string. Make a copy of Reproducible 4e for each child.

ASK: Is a butterfly born a butterfly? (*No, it is born a caterpillar, and goes through a life cycle.*)

SAY: All butterflies go through an unusual life cycle. A butterfly starts as a tiny egg. When the egg hatches, a caterpillar comes out, and its job is to eat a lot so it can grow quickly. When the caterpillar has finished growing, it forms itself into a chrysalis and begins a remarkable transformation called metamorphosis. Finally, when the caterpillar has done all its changing, a beautiful butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. The butterfly rests a short time then begins to fly. The butterfly has become a symbol of resurrection.

ASK: How does the butterfly remind you of the Resurrection? (*Jesus was born and grew to be an adult. When he was buried in a tomb, they wrapped him tightly in cloth. But he didn't stay in the tomb. He changed and left the tomb.*)

SAY: Let's make a butterfly cross.

- Follow these directions:
 - Use watercolor paints to color a coffee filter. Cover all of the white with bright colors. It's OK if the colors overlap. You may also paint your clothespin if you like. Set them aside to dry.
 - When dry, carefully slide the middle of the coffee filter into the opening of the clothespin. Keep pushing until the middle is scrunched up into the clothespin. Then form the two sides of the filter into wings.
 - Take a piece of string, wrap it around the head of the clothespin, and tie it. Then you can tie the ends of the string around the cross frame. Cover as much of the wooden cross frame as possible with butterflies.
- Display your Butterfly Cross with your Lent and Palm Sunday Banner.

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Transition to Bless

Before class: Take pp. 12, 13, and 15 out of the Resource Pak. If it hasn't been done yet, cut out the banners for the Crucifixion and burial, the sabbath day, and the Resurrection.

SAY: We have talked about three days of Holy Week. Let's add them to our timeline.

BLESS

Inviting

- Invite children to place the three banners on the board with thumbtacks.

ASK: What day of Holy Week did the Crucifixion and burial happen? (*Friday*) What day was the sabbath? (*Saturday*) When did the Resurrection happen? (*Sunday*)

- Ask one of the children to write the days on cards and tack them on the board under the banners.
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Praising

SAY: Our song this month is “Part of the Story.”

- Hand out the songbooks and have the children find the song.
 - Play this month's song and encourage the children to sing and dance to the song.
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Blessing

SAY: Each week before you leave, you will receive a blessing. These blessings will show how special you are to God.

- Gather the children in a circle. Go around the circle and touch each child on the shoulder as you offer a blessing.

SAY: (Child's name), praise our living Savior.

PRAY: Dear God, we are in awe of your mighty power. Thank you for raising Jesus from the dead. Help us serve a living Savior; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Loving God/Loving Neighbor at Home

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 7f for each child.

SAY: “Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional” is for you and your family to use at home.

ASK: Can you share the story of Jesus' resurrection with your family?

- Send home a copy of Reproducible 7f with each child.

Easter – Bible Story

A week that began with Jesus riding into Jerusalem as a king on Sunday, ended with Jesus dying and being buried in a tomb on Friday.

Saturday was the Sabbath and the Jews weren't allowed to do any work.

But early Sunday morning, a few women hurried to the tomb. They brought with them some fragrant spices to prepare Jesus' body for burial.

When the women reached the tomb, the stone was rolled away. They went in and didn't find Jesus' body.

Suddenly, two men were standing beside the women. They were wearing gleaming bright clothing. The women looked down at the ground because they were frightened.

The men said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee? He would be tried and crucified, but on the third day, he would rise again."

The women remembered Jesus' words, and they ran back to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.

The disciples thought the women were talking nonsense. They didn't believe what the women said.

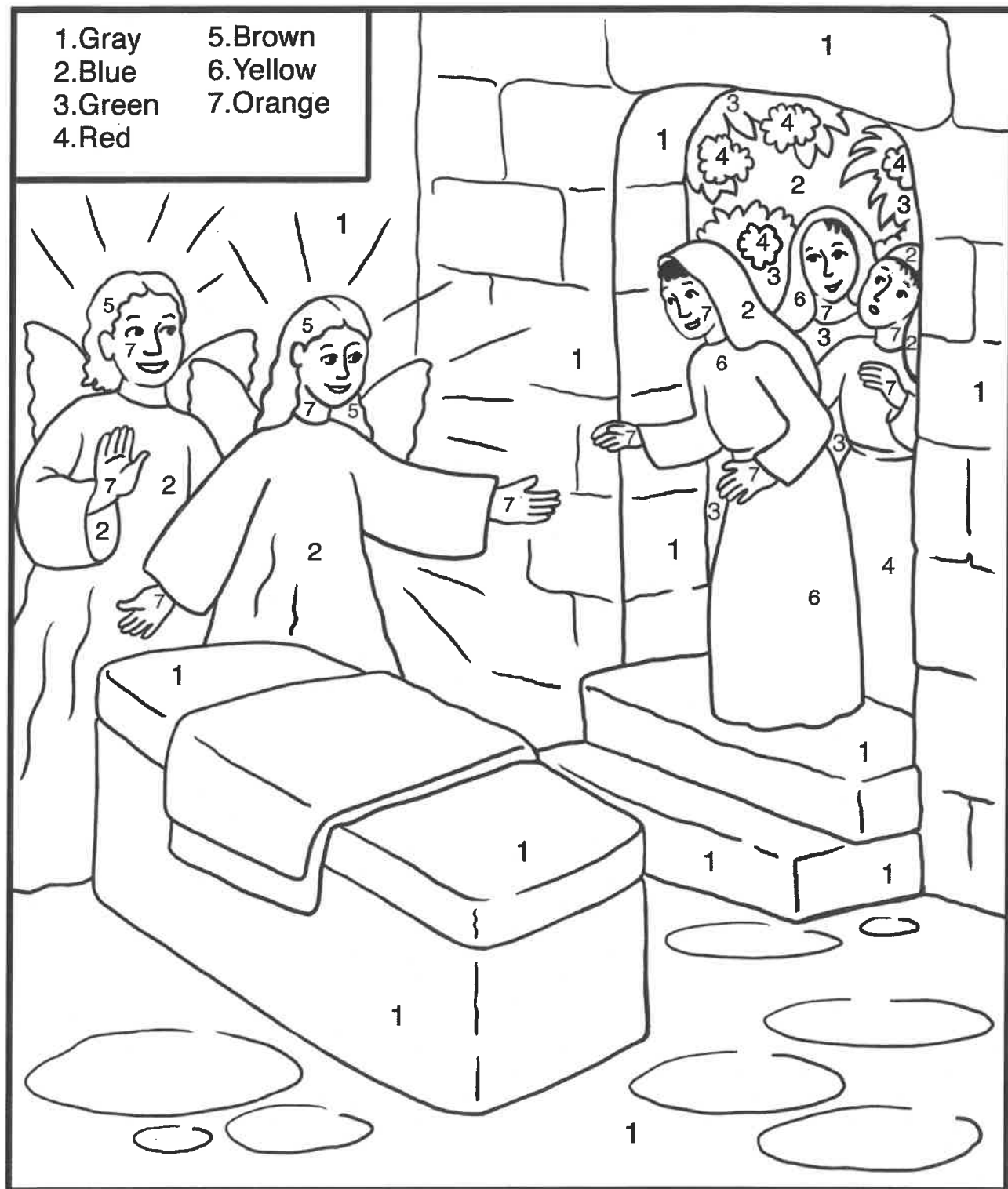
But Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. When he went inside the tomb, all he saw was the linen cloth, not Jesus' body. He returned home wondering—did someone move Jesus' body or had Jesus truly been resurrected from the dead?

(Based on Luke 24:1-12)







7b Color by Number - Puzzle (Preschool)

Use the color code to color the picture of the women when they found the tomb empty. Where was Jesus?



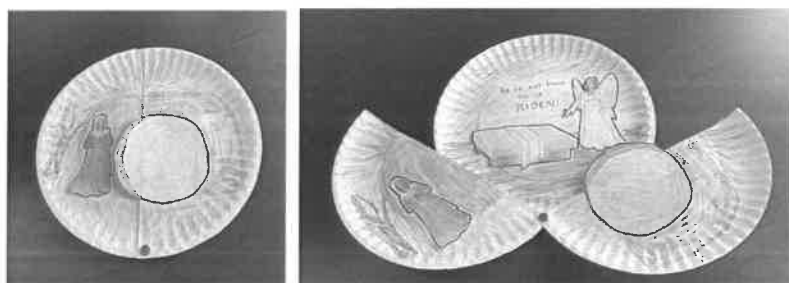
7d Easter Sudoku - Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Each section of squares, lines across, and lines down should have four different pictures. Start with the section with two pictures and work from there.

Paper Plate Empty Tomb - Craft

7e



7f Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

Easter

Luke 24:1-12

The events of Holy Week caused a lot of confusion. The followers of Jesus didn't expect Jesus would die. He was supposed to be their king. When they buried Jesus in a tomb, even his closest friends thought it was over. One week after he rode into Jerusalem like a king, the women came to the tomb to prepare his body for burial. But the tomb was empty. Two angels appeared and asked them why they looked for the living among the dead. Jesus had risen just as he had told them he would. Slowly their mourning turned to praise, and they began to understand Jesus' words.

Verse of the Month

"Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9

What Do You Think?

What would you have thought if you had found the tomb empty?

How do you celebrate the Resurrection?

Family Activity

Talk about Jesus' resurrection as a family. Why is it important to you today?

Which character in this story would you have wanted to be? Why?

Who do you share good news with?

Prayer

Dear God, help us feel the same excitement the women felt at the empty tomb. Show us how to share with others that Jesus is alive; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.