

# Growing. Together

**Bible Story**  
Jesus rises from the dead.  
Matthew 28:1-7

**Jesus' Crucifixion  
and Resurrection 8:**  
Jesus died and  
came back to life.

**Bible Verse**  
"For the wages of sin is death, but the  
free gift of God is eternal life through Christ  
Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

## In Touch

Today your child learned that Jesus is the way to God. Even though life takes many twists and turns and has storms, by believing in Jesus, we'll have an everlasting relationship with God. Use these lessons to celebrate the empty tomb, because in Jesus' triumph over death, our path to God is clear and straight.

### Love Light

Use an inflated balloon as a base for this Easter lantern. Cut a slit in a piece of cardboard, and slide the knot of the balloon into the slit to keep the balloon from falling over. Make a mixture of one part white glue and one part water. Dip colorful yarn into the mixture, and wrap the yarn around the balloon at least 15 to 20 times. Let the balloon sit until it dries. Pop the balloon, and pull it out. Put Christmas lights inside your Easter lantern, and use it as a centerpiece for your table. Because Jesus came out of the tomb, the light of his love will shine forever.

### Beeline Trip

Have fun with this activity in a park or an open field. With your child, choose a direction, and walk in that direction until you reach the boundary of the park or field. You must go straight through, over, or under everything you encounter; you may not go around. Don't let yourselves be distracted by the playground to the left or the squirrel to the right. Afterward talk about how important it is to stay on God's straight and narrow path.

### Empty Tombs

Buy puff pastry shells (in the freezer section), or make cream puffs from your favorite recipe. Cut the shells in half, and scoop out any pastry that's in the middle cavity. Close the shells, and place them on individual serving plates. With your child, prepare instant pudding by pouring the ingredients in a jar, tightening the lid, and shaking the jar. This is to remind you of the earthquake the women felt as they approached the tomb. When it's time for dessert, read Matthew 28:1-7. Serve the pastries, and have everyone look inside. Thank God for the empty tomb. Let each person fill his or her own shell with pudding to represent how our hearts are filled by the joy brought by the empty tomb.

### Joy to the World!

Sing the first verse of "Joy to the World!" with your child. Begin the song at the top of a flight of stairs. Walk down the stairs as you sing, "Joy to the world! The Lord is come." Then turn around and walk back up the stairs as you sing, "Let earth receive her King." Talk about the joy we have at Christmas and the joy we have at Easter. Thank God for sending Jesus, and ask for God's help in following Jesus along the pathway to God.