

Children and family talk for Easter Sunday 17th April 2022

Good morning, everyone and happy Easter!

Yes, it's Easter Sunday, I hope you haven't eaten too much chocolate already! Last Sunday we read about Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey, to a big crowd of happy people. But only days later those people would turn against Jesus and on the Friday, Jesus was put to death on a cross, and died, and was buried. Today we are finding out what happened on Easter Sunday, and we're reading from

Luke 24 verses 1 to 12.

Jesus Rises from Death

24 Very early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. They brought the spices they had prepared. ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. ³ They went in, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them. ⁵ The women were very afraid; they bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to the women, "Why are you looking for a living person here? This is a place for the dead. ⁶ Jesus is not here. He has risen from death! Do you remember what he said in Galilee? ⁷ He said that the Son of Man must be given to evil men, be killed on a cross, and rise from death on the third day." ⁸ Then the women remembered what Jesus had said.

⁹ The women left the tomb and told all these things to the 11 apostles and the other followers. ¹⁰ These women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women. The women told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women. It sounded like nonsense. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He looked in, but he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. Peter went away to be alone, wondering about what had happened.

Let's try to imagine that we are one of Jesus' friends on that first Easter Sunday. How do you feel? Sad and lost after Jesus had died? The women were going through with the rituals associated with death, and had brought spices with them to prepare Jesus' body in the grave. It was not like a grave we might have today, at that time they buried people by placing them in a tomb, like a cave, and placing a large boulder in front.

Then the women arrive to find the boulder has been rolled away. What did they feel then? Confusion, shock? The body of Jesus had gone, the bible says they were puzzled. Then two men appeared in shining clothes. They were terrified!

Once the shining men had reminded them of what Jesus had said, they rushed back to tell the others. They must have felt excited and full of joy.

But the eleven disciples didn't believe them – it sounded like nonsense. The women must have been upset and frustrated when they weren't believed. Peter needed proof for himself and ran to the tomb, but only found the cloth Jesus' body had been wrapped in. He needed to see for himself.

Do you find it hard to believe in something if you haven't seen it for yourself?

Jesus was later to say to Thomas, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me". John 20 verse 29.

Let's talk to God now;

God of hope, on this day of resurrection,
there is hope in you.

Thank you for the cross and the empty tomb.
Help us to share the good news that
the empty tomb means for us.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song: Resurrection Day by Ed Cash, Rend Collective, with actions.

<https://youtu.be/tK9-T4X4LnM>

And here is the link for the activity page: [activity-sheet-17-april-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-17-april-2022.pdf)