

Popcorn Memory Verse Game

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” (ESV)

Have students squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle, have each student take turns “popping” up to say the next word then squatting back down. Repeat.

You may want to divide the class into two groups. Have the first group pop up together and say the first word then squat back down. Then the second group pops up together saying the next word and squats back down and so on until the verse is completed. Repeat—going faster and faster!

Easter Clues

Materials

- Clue Strips (following page)
- Plastic Easter eggs
- Easter basket
- Tape or poster putty
- Optional: one or two sheets of paper
- Optional: small candies

Instructions

Print and cut out the Clue Strips. Roll each strip and put it into a plastic egg (add a candy if desired). Hide the eggs around the room. You may want to use some eggs just for candy so there are plenty for the students to find.

As students arrive, have them search for the eggs and put them into the basket. When all the eggs have been found, allow students to help you open the eggs and tape the clues to a sheet of paper or up on the board. Read the clues to the students as they share the candies.

Suggested Discussion

In our last lesson, we talked about how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people welcomed him as a king. But then he was crucified, and he died. Today we'll learn what happened after Jesus died. Listen carefully to the lesson and see how many of these words you hear.

Savior

Angel

Empty tomb

He is risen!

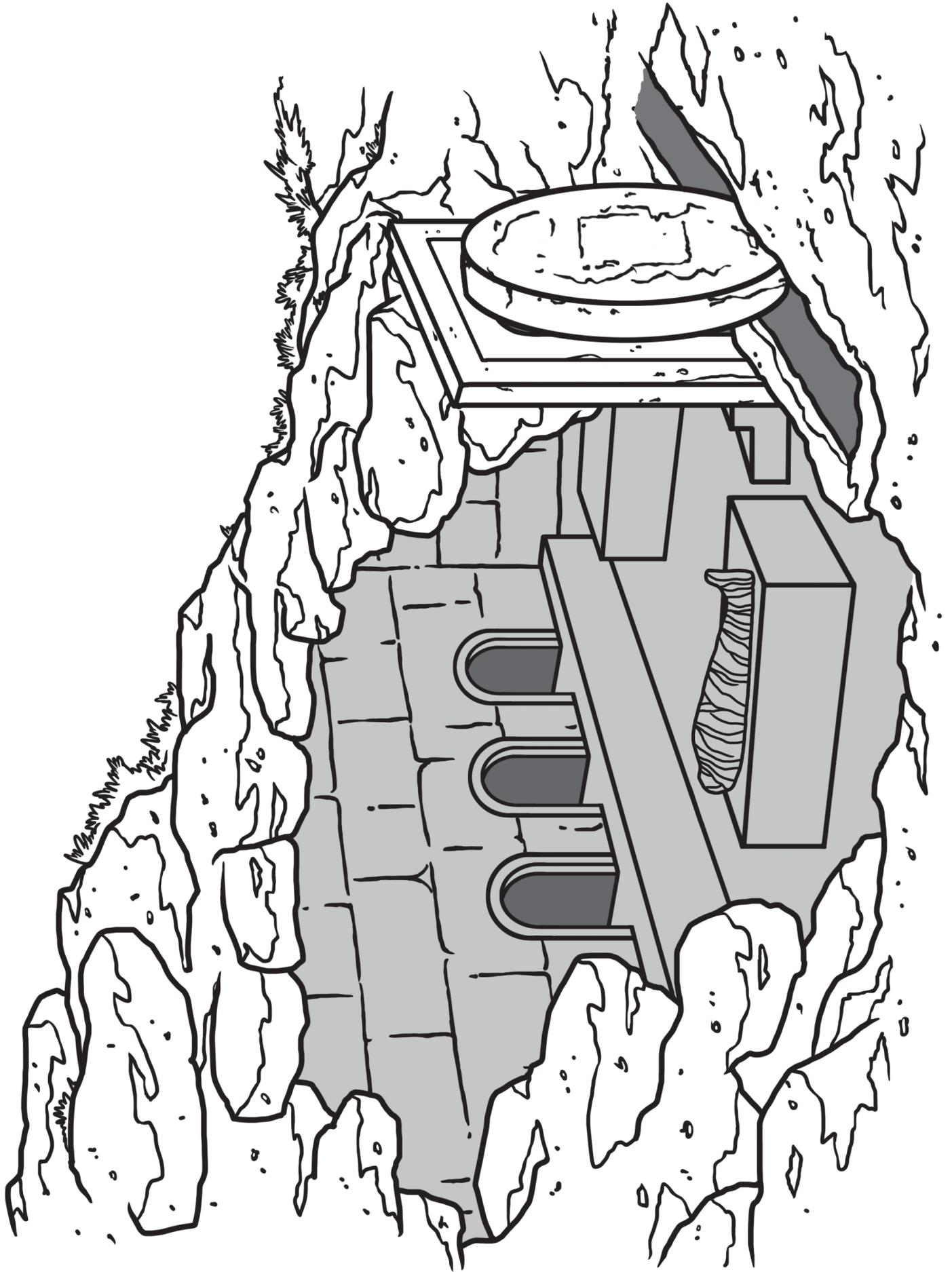
Rolled the stone away

Guards

Women

Disciples

Resurrection



Resurrection Role Play Script

NOTE: This script is to be used as part of the lesson but may also be used again as an optional Hands-On Activity, allowing other students to take turns acting out the roles.

Reference: Matthew 28, Mark 16

Roles: The Angel, Guards, Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary. (Since Scripture mentions several women, you may add more girls for a larger class.)

Costumes: robes, belts, scarves for girls' heads, toy swords for guards, etc.

Props: one large, open box laid on its side for the tomb, large cushion or beanbag chair for the stone, containers for sweet spices carried by women, etc.

Have an assistant help the students with costumes and props. Direct students to act out and repeat lines as you read the following script.

Begin with guards standing at attention near the tomb area and the women at the opposite side of the room. Have the Angel and Jesus stand to the side.

Teacher: On the morning after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene and another woman, also named Mary, walked to the tomb. *Have the women begin walking toward the tomb (about halfway across the room).* On the way to the tomb, the women were wondering how they would roll the huge stone out of the way so they could go in and put their sweet spices on Jesus' body.

Mary Magdalene: Who will roll the stone away for us?

Mary: I don't know, it's so big.

Teacher: Meanwhile at the tomb, there was a great earthquake. *Guards move back and forth as if in an earthquake.* Then an angel came down from heaven. He rolled the large stone out of the doorway of the tomb and sat on it. *Enter Angel, move stone prop and sit on it (or on a chair).* The angel's clothes were white like snow, and he looked as bright as a flash of lightning.

Guards: *(shout)* Who's that?! What's going on? Who are you?!

Teacher: The guards were so frightened when the angel came, they began to tremble and became like dead men, which means they fainted or just couldn't move because they were so scared. *Guards tremble then fall down.*

When the women got to the tomb, they saw that the stone was already moved out of the way. And there on top of the stone sat an angel looking down at them. This frightened the women, but the angel spoke to them. *The women come to the tomb and look around, acting frightened.*

Angel: Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen!

Teacher: The tomb was wide open so the women could see that Jesus wasn't in there anymore. He really had risen from the dead! *Women look into the tomb.* Then the angel told the women to go and tell the disciples all about what they had seen that morning. So off they ran with great joy and fear. *Women start to run, acting joyful.* Suddenly, a man met them along the way and spoke to them. It was Jesus!

Jesus: *Steps into the path.* Greetings!

Teacher: The women fell down and worshipped Jesus. *Have the women kneel down.* Jesus gave them instructions.

Jesus: Go tell the others to meet me in Galilee.

Teacher: The women ran off to give Jesus' message to the disciples. They were so afraid, but excited at the same time! It was true; Jesus was alive again!

Have class applaud and actors take their seats then continue with the lesson.

Review Questions

K-1st Review Questions

1. Who took Jesus' body off the cross and placed it in his tomb? *Joseph.*
2. Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linens. What are linens? *Strips of cloth.*
3. Was the tomb a hole in the ground or more like a cave? *Like a cave.*
4. Was this a new tomb, or were there other bodies buried there? *It was new.*
5. Who went with Joseph so they could see where Jesus was buried and come back later? *Jesus' mother, other women.*
6. What was rolled in front of the doorway of the tomb where Jesus was laid? *A huge stone.*
7. What did the leaders and Pilate do to keep anyone from stealing Jesus' body? *Sealed the stone and put guards on watch.*
8. Who came to the tomb early in the morning? *Women. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.*
9. Who rolled the stone away from the tomb? *An angel.*
10. Why did the angel roll the stone away? *So people could see that Jesus had risen.*
11. What did the guards do when the earthquake happened and the angel came down from heaven? *They fell down with fear or fainted.*
12. What great news did the angel tell the women? *Jesus was risen. He was alive!*
13. When the women ran to tell the disciples, who appeared to them and spoke to them? *Jesus.*
14. What does the word "resurrection" mean: to die or to come back to life? *To come back to life.*
15. Why did the disciples have the doors locked? *They were afraid of being arrested for following Jesus.*
16. How did Jesus get in when he went to see the disciples while they had the doors locked? *Jesus just appeared.*
17. How many people saw Jesus after he rose from the dead: only 3 or 4, over 500, or just the two Marys? *Over 500.*
18. Did the disciples stay afraid, or did they tell everyone the good news of Jesus' resurrection? *They told everyone the good news of Jesus' resurrection.*
19. Because Jesus died and rose again, what promise do we have if we put our trust in him? *Forgiveness of sins and life with him in heaven.*
20. What two things did Jesus say he is in the memory verse? *The resurrection and the life.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. Who took Jesus' body off the cross and placed it in his tomb: Joseph, Pilate, or Judas? *Joseph.*
2. Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linens. What are linens? *Strips of cloth.*
3. Was the tomb a hole in the ground or more like a cave? *Like a cave.*
4. Who went with Joseph so they could see where Jesus was buried and come back later? *Jesus' mother, other women.*
5. What was rolled in front of the doorway of the tomb where Jesus was laid? *A huge stone.*
6. What did the leaders and the Roman governor do to keep anyone from stealing Jesus' body? *Sealed the stone and put guards on watch.*
7. Who came to the tomb early in the morning? *Women. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.*
8. Who rolled the stone away from the tomb? *An angel.*
9. Why did the angel roll the stone away? To let Jesus out or to let people see that Jesus had already risen? *To let people see that Jesus had risen.*
10. What did the guards do when the earthquake happened and the angel came down from heaven? *They fell down with fear or fainted.*

11. What great news did the angel tell the women?
Jesus was risen. He was alive!
12. What does the word “resurrection” mean: to die or to come back to life? *To come back to life.*
13. How did Jesus get in when he went to see the disciples while they had the doors locked? Did he knock on the door? *No. Jesus just appeared.*
14. Because Jesus died and rose again, what promise do we have if we put our trust in him? *Forgiveness of sins and eternal life with him in heaven.*

Musical Bears & Beautiful Balloons

“What’s wrong, Jessie?” asked Justin as he opened the back door to let Jessie in. He stared at her in alarm.

Jessie sniffled and wiped tears off her cheeks. “Did you hear that Mrs. Smith died today?”

“She did? Oh, no. She was the nicest lady in the whole church!” Justin replied.

“I know. I’m sure gonna miss her.”

“Who are you kids talking about?” asked Justin’s mom walking into the kitchen. The kids explained the news. “Oh, yes, I did hear about that. It’s sad to see her go, but she was 95 years old, and her health was pretty bad.”

“My mom and dad said we’re going to go to her funeral on Saturday. Are you guys going?” Jessie asked.

“Yes, I think we should all go to her memorial. We’ve known Mrs. Smith for a long time. I met her for the first time when she came to cook dinner for me and Dad right after you were born, Justin.”

“Hey, isn’t she the one who gave me the musical teddy bear? It plays ‘Jesus Loves Me.’” Justin thought for a minute. “Hmm. I don’t think I ever got to tell her thank you, since I was so little.”

“I’ve got one of those bears, too!” Jessie remembered.

“Yes, Mrs. Smith absolutely loved all the kids in the whole church. I wouldn’t be surprised if every one of them has a bear like yours. Come to think of it, even Ellie has one.”

“Well, I guess we’ll see you at church on Saturday. Bye!” Jessie headed home. She felt better after talking about the nice things

Mrs. Smith had done and remembering her own special bear.

Saturday was a beautiful, sunny day. Everyone came to the church—it was packed with people who had loved Mrs. Smith and had been loved by her in some way. Justin’s and Jessie’s families sat together near the back. Justin looked around the room. Colorful flowers were everywhere. Justin knew people always brought flowers to a funeral, but he was puzzled when he saw balloons scattered here and there among the flowers.

“Jessie,” he whispered, “what are the balloons for?”

Jessie shrugged. “I don’t know. Maybe Mrs. Smith liked them?” she guessed.

Soon Pastor Jenkins walked up front and everyone grew quiet. He talked about Mrs. Smith’s life and all the ways she had helped at church. A young woman sang one of Mrs. Smith’s favorite songs called, “Jesus Is Risen!”

Then Pastor Jenkins spoke again. “Edith Smith brought the joy and love of Jesus to many people. She gave me this note to read to everyone, especially all you kids.”

Pastor Jenkins unfolded the note and read, “Dear precious children, you don’t need to feel sad when I am gone because I will be in heaven with Jesus, rejoicing and celebrating! You know that Jesus died to pay for our sins, but I want you to understand that Jesus also conquered death and rose again. Remember, all who believe and put their trust in Jesus will have eternal life with him, and we will see each other again in heaven someday!”

“So, kids,” the pastor said as he folded up the note, “today Mrs. Smith wanted each of you to take a balloon outside and let it go up into the sky as a reminder of what Jesus has done. Are you ready?”

“Yes!” all the kids replied. They each grabbed a balloon on their way outside to the front lawn of the church.

“Ready? Three, two, one!” Pastor Jenkins counted down, and all the children let go of their balloons and watched as they rose—up, up, up!

“Beautiful!” “Wow!” “Lovely!” people exclaimed as they gazed at the balloons rising into the sky.

“Ellie,” said Justin, looking down at his little sister, “you’re supposed to let go of the balloon.” Justin reached for Ellie’s balloon string, but Ellie whipped it away.

“No, my bawoon!” she cried as she clutched the string with all her might.

“Oh dear,” said Justin’s mom. “Ellie, Honey, Mrs. Smith wanted you to let the balloon go so it will fly way up high in the sky.”

“Missus Smiff? She’s in heavun?” Ellie looked up at her parents with a sad little face, still holding tight to the balloon.

“Yes, she is. She’s in heaven with Jesus now,” Mom explained.

Ellie looked up at the clouds in the sky then slowly lifted up her balloon and let go. “Here ya go, Missus Smiff. You can have you bawoon back. Bye bye, bawoon!” Ellie waved goodbye to the balloon as it floated through the air. Everyone clapped, and Ellie grinned from ear to ear.

“That was kinda fun,” said Justin. “I thought funerals were supposed to be sad.”

“Well, when someone dies, we are sad because we miss them,” Justin’s dad explained. “But if that person knows Jesus as Savior, they go to be with him in heaven. And there’s nothing sad about that!”

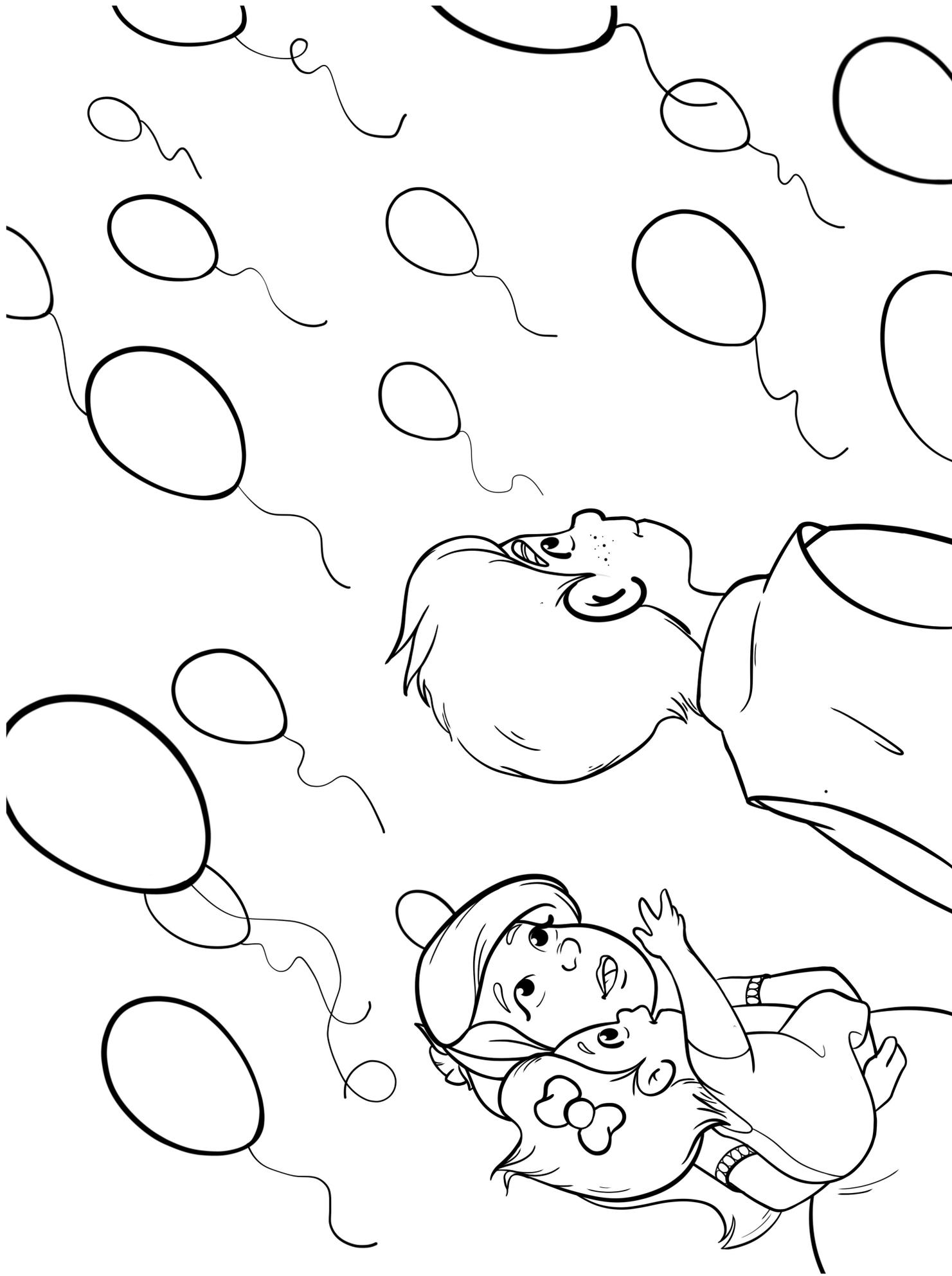
“So, Mrs. Smith’s soul went up to heaven?” asked Jessie.

“Yes, that’s right. That’s what these balloons are supposed to remind us of, how Jesus rose from the dead and how we can go to be with him,” said Jessie’s mom.

“Wow!” Justin exclaimed. “That means Mrs. Smith is in heaven right now!”

“Hey! I just thought of something,” said Jessie with a smile, “when we get to heaven someday, we can tell her ‘thank you’ for our teddy bears.”

“And,” Ellie chimed in, “tank oo for da bawoons!”



Edible Empty Tomb

Materials

One of the following for each student:

- Small paper/plastic plates
- Graham cracker squares
- Mini chocolate donuts
- Mini round cookies
- Toothpicks
- Risen Labels (following page)

Enough to share:

- Vanilla frosting
- Green food coloring
- Plastic knives
- Tape
- Optional: cookie crumbles, sprinkles, decorative candies



Instructions

Before class: Print and cut out one Risen Label for each student. Prepare bowls of frosting (stir in green food coloring) and supply knives at each table. Cut off one edge of each donut just under the hole. Break graham crackers into squares.

During class: Pass out one plate and one graham cracker square to each student. Have students form a small circle of frosting in the center of their plate and gently press their cracker onto the frosting to hold it still. Then have students frost the top of the graham cracker.

Pass out one pre-cut donut and one cookie to each student. Have students press their donut, hole side down, onto the top of the frosted graham cracker to form the empty tomb. Then place one cookie next to the hole in the donut to represent the stone rolled away from the entrance. If desired, use cookie crumbles, sprinkles, or other candies to decorate the frosting around the tomb.

Have students color one Risen Label and tape it onto one end of a toothpick. Poke the opposite end into the donut as a flag.

Suggested Discussion

When the women came to the tomb where Jesus was laid, an angel had rolled away the stone that was in front of the entrance so they could see it was empty. The angel told them Jesus had risen just as he said. The women were so happy! They ran to tell the disciples the good news. We should be excited to share the good news of the resurrection with others, too!

Take this resurrection snack home with you and tell someone what it's all about before you eat it up!

Jesus is risen!



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Jesus is risen!



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