

John 20:10-18

Introduction

Draw a gravestone. Discuss a time when you have had to go to a cemetery. Ask how people might feel when they visit the grave of a loved one. [*Sad, lonely.*]

Mary Magdalene visited the grave of a loved one— Jesus. Mary was very sad when she went there. **Listen to our lesson today to find out when Mary Magdalene’s sadness turned to joy.**

Lesson

As you share the details of Mary’s visit to Jesus’ grave, give your child a paper plate or a piece of paper, and instruct him/her to draw a happy face on one side of their plates and a sad face on the other side. Have your child show the appropriate face to show the emotions of Mary at various parts of the account.

Mary Magdalene was a faithful follower of Jesus. She, along with other women, had traveled with the disciples and with Jesus to hear his teaching and to take care of their needs.

When Jesus died, Mary was very sad. That was Friday. On Sunday she went to Jesus’ grave. But when she got there she saw the stone had been rolled away. She was very sad and upset, and went running to find help. She told Peter and John the news: “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him.” Peter and John ran off to the tomb. Then Mary went back to Jesus’ grave. **Mary stood at the door of the grave and cried.**

While she was crying, she looked into the grave. There she saw **two angels dressed in white robes!** They were sitting where the body of Jesus had been. The angels asked her, “**Woman, why are you crying?**”

Mary answered, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have put his body.”

Just then she turned around and **saw a man standing** nearby. **It was Jesus, but Mary didn’t know** it. Jesus asked her, “Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Mary thought he was the man who took care of the garden. So she said to him, “**Sir, if you have taken Jesus’ body away, tell me where you have put it. Then I will go get his body and bury it.**”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

As soon as **Mary heard Jesus call her name, she knew he was her risen Lord.** How happy she felt! Mary turned to Jesus and cried out, "**Master!**"

Jesus said to Mary, "**Go and tell my disciples that I am alive again.** Also tell them that I will soon go back up to heaven to be with God, my Father. He is also your God and your heavenly Father."

Mary went back to Jerusalem **full of joy.** She now knew that Jesus was alive! She ran to the disciples and told them, "**I have seen the Lord. He is alive!**" Then Mary also told the disciples all the other things that Jesus had said to her.

Questions

Why was Mary Magdalene sad when she went to Jesus' grave? [**Mary was sad Jesus had died. She then saw that his body was gone and thought someone had taken it.**]

You and I cry when someone we love dies. Mary cried too. She didn't remember or maybe she didn't understand that Jesus would not stay dead.

What surprises did she see at Jesus' grave? [**She saw two angels.**] Then she saw the best surprise of all, but she did not recognize the surprise at first. (**Jesus**) For some reason, Mary didn't know who Jesus was. He may have changed how he looked or kept Mary from knowing.

What did Jesus do to help Mary know who he was? [**He called out her name.**]

That's when Mary's sadness turned to joy. What did Mary call Jesus that showed she knew who he really was? [**Master.**]

Jesus is alive! Eternal joy awaits all those who believe in him!

Pray: "Lord, you live!" we now can say
Because of that first Easter Day.
Lord, you live! And so will we
With you in heaven eternally. Amen.

Day Two: Application of the Bible Account

Show a pair of eyeglasses and the Bible. Which of these do we use to see that Jesus is really alive? [**We use the Bible.**]

Some people say, "Seeing is believing." Mary did see Jesus with her own eyes and believed. **We can't see Jesus with our eyes. We "see" Jesus when we read about him in the Bible.** The Bible

tells us how Mary and the disciples and many other people saw Jesus after he rose from the dead. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe this is true.

What does the Bible tell us will happen to believers in Jesus after they die? (**Those who trust in Jesus will rise from the dead to live in heaven.**)

Mary was happy to see Jesus alive. We are happy to know that Jesus will make us and all other believers come alive and then take us to heaven.

You need a Bible with John 14:19b marked. Read the Bible passage to the children. **Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.** Who spoke those words? [Jesus.]

Only Jesus can change the sadness of death into the joy of resurrection (This big word means - coming back to life after dying). Because Jesus lives, we and all other believers will live in heaven. Isn't that joyous news?!

Let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"

Discussion For Day 3

Have the children show you the side of the paper plate that tells how they would feel if someone they love dies. [*Sad face.*] The Bible tells us the sad truth: **because all people sin, all people will die.** We are sad when someone dies because that person will not be with us on earth any longer. We miss them.

Ask the children to show the side of the paper plate that tells how they would feel knowing that the person who died believed that Jesus was the Savior. [*Happy side.*]

Only Jesus can change tears of sadness into happiness that will last forever and ever. Death doesn't have to **only** be sad. It can be happy too **because he lives, we - and all those who believe in him - will live, even though we die.**

We are happy that Jesus takes the souls of those who trust in him to heaven and will someday raise their dead bodies to eternal life in heaven. We will see them again!

For the advanced learner:

The following situations are ones that you can really encounter in life. Let's think of how we can help turn other people's sadness to joy with the truth we learned about Jesus' resurrection.

– **Your aunt is dying of cancer.** [Truths we can share: If your aunt believes in the Savior, remind her that Jesus will help her through her sickness and take her to heaven. If she does not, tell her that Jesus lived a perfect life completely without sin (the only one who could ever do that) in her place, died on a cross to forgive her sins, and rose from the dead to give her life in heaven. Ask the Holy Spirit to put saving faith in her heart. Through faith in Jesus, she will go to heaven when she dies and have no more sin or sickness.]

– **A teacher told a friend of yours that there is no proof of life after death.** Your friend is beginning to think that death is the end, and that's it. [Truths we can share: Tell your friend that Jesus rose from the dead and promises to raise our dead bodies to life. He made sure that many people saw him after he came back to life. Jesus lived, died, and rose to forgive your friend and give him or her a home in heaven.]

Art Connection

Make a greeting card that tells the good news of Easter.

OR make chalk art on your sidewalk with a Bible passage that shares the good news of Easter for neighbors and those who pass by.