

JESUS IS ALIVE

Mark 16:1-8

Prepare to hear the Word:

- The Jewish Sabbath or Holy Day is Saturday, the last day of the week. On the Sabbath Jews did no work or move freely around the city, so the women knew they had to wait until the Sunday morning to prepare the body of Jesus.
- In each of the three Synoptic Gospel accounts of the Resurrection there is a messenger, young men or angels, who ask the women when they arrive at the tomb, to go and tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee.

You will need:

- Bone felt background
- Felt road
- Rocks representing the empty tomb
- Four figures, one dressed in white if possible
- White cloth

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Place the three figures of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome on the road

Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go to the tomb and anoint Jesus' body.

Place rocks on the space to represent the empty tomb, place women closer to the tomb

It was very early, when the sun had just risen when they went to the tomb. They were worried about who would roll the stone away from the entrance.

Place figure of women next to the tomb, move stones

When they got there the large stone had already been rolled back.

Move women into the tomb area, move figure in white next to the women

They went into the tomb saw a young man, dressed in white, and they were alarmed. He said to them, "Don't be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus, he is not here, he has been raised.

Place white cloth on the space

Look, there is the place they laid him. Go and tell his disciples that he is in Galilee and he will see you there.

Move the women down the road

So they hurried from the tomb, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

I Wonder:

- *I wonder if the three women were afraid when they came to the tomb and found that the stone had already been rolled back?*
- *I wonder how the women felt when they saw the young man dressed in white?*
- *I wonder how the women felt as they left the tomb running down the road?*
- *I wonder how you might have felt if you were there that day?*

Mark 16

Jesus Is Alive

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James bought some spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just as the sun was coming up, they went to the tomb. On their way, they were asking one another, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" But when they looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. And it was a huge stone!

The women went into the tomb, and on the right side they saw a young man in a white robe sitting there. They were alarmed.

The man said, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body. Now go and tell his disciples, and especially Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you."

Prepare to hear the Word. Teachers

It was the custom in Jesus' time for the Romans to leave the bodies of those who had been crucified on the cross to rot, as a deterrent to others. In contrast Jewish tradition taught that it was an act of love to bury the dead properly. If a dead person had no family or friends then it was seen as a responsibility by Jews to bury them properly. Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body for burial as was the Jewish tradition.

First Century Palestine did not have cemeteries as we know them so bodies were usually buried on private land. For those who could afford it, caves or tombs were cut into quarries; criminals were usually buried outside the city walls in pits.

Throughout this text we see the reverse of what might have been expected to happen. Jesus' body should have been left on the cross, but it was taken down by Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus would normally have been buried with the other criminals but he was not. The women come to the tomb worrying about moving a stone which had already been removed. The women expected to prepare Jesus' body for burial but his body is not there, the unnamed woman in Mark 14:3-9, has already anointed Jesus with expensive perfume.

Teaching the Scripture – The Gospel of Mark. *Margaret Carswell*, 2001.