

The Easter Story (Part 1)

THE BAD NEWS

OVERVIEW

Children will explore the first part of the Easter story: Jesus eats and prays with His disciples, is betrayed by Judas, taken to Caiaphas' house and Pilate, and crucified on Golgotha.

YOUNGER KIDS

OLDER KIDS

PREP WORK/ SUPPLIES	You will need: a large gift bag, prepared story puppets for each child (attached at the end of this document; they need to be cut out and taped onto craft sticks), Easter picture storybooks (opt), printed colouring pages, markers/crayons	You will need: a large gift bag, story images (included, p.7-11), paper and pens/pencils, markers, white copy paper
START WITH SOME FUN	Display a gift bag (inside will be some stick puppets, but do not indicate this now). Look through some Easter storybooks together and discuss what kids already know about the Easter story.	Display a gift bag (inside will be images for use during the story, but do not indicate this now).
LET'S BEGIN	Using your gift bag, ask children to talk about times they have had to wait for a gift. Is it hard to wait for your birthday? Jesus was a gift to the whole world – He came to save us! But people had to wait YEARS between his birth in Bethlehem and his resurrection in Jerusalem. It was so long that some could not wait that long – they gave up even believing in Jesus. (In our Easter story, we will use stick puppets during the various parts of the story for an interactive re-telling. Now we are going to bring them out. See note at the end for where to find these puppets.) Bring out the stick puppets now (either pre-prepared, or to colour). You may choose to distribute them all at once, or	Have children write down or draw what they know about the order of events of the Easter story. Some may know a lot, and for these kids, encourage them to put events in chronological order. Others may know very little in terms of specifics. Encourage them to write out all they <i>do</i> know.

YOUNGER KIDS

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	one-by-one as they appear in the story.	
STORY	A version of the story with notes on where to include various puppets has been included below, or you may read it from any kids picture Bible.	<p>Tell the story by reading the text from scripture (the story is described in all four gospels – for your convenience, a streamlined summary version is included below). At appropriate spots, show the six images of places mentioned in the story (the images in your gift bag).</p> <p>You may also read this story from your favourite children’s picture Bible (two of our favourites are the Action Bible or The Jesus Storybook Bible).</p>
REVIEW AND DISCUSS	Once you have told the story to your child, have them teach <i>you</i> and retell the story in their own words.	<p>Discuss with your kids how they would feel if they were one of the disciples at this point. Encourage them to “modernize” the story in order to make it more real. Would they have really believed that Jesus would rise from the dead? So far, our story has been all BAD NEWS!</p>
WRAP UP ACTIVITIES	A colouring page with the cross, Easter lilies and “Jesus Loves Me” is included below. Allow your kids time to colour their page and decorate it with stickers. You may also wish to write their name directly onto the cross, as a reminder that Jesus loves them individually!	<p>Have your kids draw the following visual explanation of the importance of Easter.</p> <p>Distribute papers and pens/markers. Orient your paper horizontally and begin by writing a portion of Romans 5:8 across the top: “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”</p> <p>Now draw two cliffs, one on each side, with a gulf in between.</p> <p>Explain that we (humanity) were on one side, sinful and unable to get to God, who was holy, perfect - and on the other side. Draw figures to represent a person on the left cliff, and a larger figure</p>

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		<p>to represent God on the right cliff.</p> <p>Write DEATH at the bottom of the gulf.</p> <p>Because sin cannot coexist with a holy God, we were doomed to die, because the price that must be paid for sin is death.</p> <p>God in His mercy came in a body of flesh and died in my place. He had <i>no sin</i>, but He took <i>mine</i> and paid the price for it.</p> <p>Draw a CROSS spanning the gulf, resting on the edge of each cliff.</p> <p>Because of Jesus, because of the cross, because of His death, I have FREE, PAID access to God (and heaven and eternal life)!</p> <p>Allow kids time to colour in their page.</p>
STICK PUPPETS LINK	The stick puppets included at the very end of this document were designed by Courtney at Paperelli.com. You can download the originals here: https://www.thedatingdivas.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Easter-Story-for-Kids-Puppets-Printables.pdf	

Easter Story Text (Younger Kids, Part 1)

Jesus came to the city of Jerusalem to have a meal with his friends. Hold up Jesus and his friends eating their meal (LAST SUPPER PUPPET). What do you like to eat? (Allow time for responses)

Jesus and his disciples ate bread (BREAD PUPPET) and drank juice (WINE CUP PUPPET). Jesus told the disciples during dinner that one of them at the table was going to do something terrible and help to have him arrested. All of the disciples said, “No! It couldn’t possibly be me!”

Jesus prayed and thanked God for the meal. He shared bread (BREAD PUPPET) and juice (WINE CUP PUPPET) with his disciples and explained that just like the bread was broken, he was going to be broken and would be put on a cross. Just like the red juice, his red blood was going to be spilled to cover the sins of all people.

After they finished eating, Jesus led the disciples to a garden called Gethsemane (can you say that big word?) to pray. Hold up Jesus kneeling at a big rock and praying in the garden (JESUS PRAYING PUPPET AND ROCK PUPPET). He prayed that he would have strength to complete his task.

While they are praying, the disciples fall asleep. Can you fall asleep while sitting up? Some of the disciples were so tired they couldn’t even stay awake to pray with Jesus.

During the night, Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus (ROMAN SOLDIER PUPPET). Do you know how the soldiers found out where he was? One of the disciples, named Judas, had gone to the soldiers and told them where Jesus was, just like Jesus had said! What a horrible thing to do!

The soldiers took Jesus to a judge named Pilate, and they were very mean to him, even though Pilate didn’t think Jesus was even guilty of anything at all! The mean men put a ring of prickly thorns on Jesus’ head (CROWN OF THORNS PUPPET). Then they gave him a heavy wooden cross and made him carry it to a big hill (CROSS PUPPET). There they nailed Jesus to the cross (NAIL PUPPET).

Jesus died on the cross that day. When he died there was a great earthquake. Can you shake like it’s an earthquake? Hold up your thunderstorm puppet (LIGHTNING CLOUD PUPPET).

Jesus was taken off the cross (CROSS PUPPET) and put in a small cave. This was the way to bury his body. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the door (TOMB AND STONE PUPPET). Everyone thought Jesus was gone forever. It was a sad day with lots of bad news.

But we are not finished with this story! Next week we will talk all about the GOOD NEWS that came after all this BAD NEWS!

Easter Story Text (Older Kids, Part 1)

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-25, Luke 22:7-23

(Pass around image of the Upper Room)

The last supper took place on the first day of Passover, or the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Jesus sent his disciples ahead into the city to prepare a meal to celebrate Passover. Passover is the remembrance of Israel being freed from slavery to Egypt and specifically when the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites that had lambs blood over the doors.

As the disciples reclined and ate dinner with Jesus, he explained to them that one of the twelve of them would soon betray him. One by one the disciplines denied that it would be them, including Judas who would be the betrayer. Jesus responded that the person who betrays him will have a terrible fate and that indeed, it was Judas.

Jesus prayed and thanked God for the meal. He then broke the bread and shared the wine with the disciples and explained to them how the bread was a symbol of his body, broken for them, and the wine a symbol of his blood which would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven.

After the meal, Jesus became like a servant and washed the feet of the disciples. Peter did not feel right having Jesus wash his feet but Jesus said that He was doing it to be an example to them. Now the disciples would be able to wash each other's feet, meaning they could be servants to all.

Judas Betrays Jesus

John 18:1-13, Luke 22:1-6, Luke 22:47-54, Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-50

(Pass around image of the trees in the Garden of Gethsemane)

During the meal of the Last Supper Jesus predicts that "one of you will betray me" referring to Judas. Judas leaves the supper and goes to the Roman authorities who are looking to arrest Jesus. He accepts a bribe of 30 silver and agrees to take them to Jesus. Judas knew that Jesus and the disciples would go to a garden near Jerusalem and led the soldiers there, stating "Whoever it is I kiss, he is the one; take him into custody, and lead him away under guard." Leading the group into the garden, Judas sees Jesus with his disciples and approaches him. "Greetings, Rabbi!" Judas says, and he kisses Jesus very lightly. "Fellow, for what purpose are you present?" Jesus responds. (Matthew 26:49, 50) Answering his own question, Jesus says: "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

As the soldiers move toward Jesus, the apostles recognize what is happening. "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" they ask. (Luke 22:49) Before Jesus can respond, Peter uses one of the two swords that the apostles have and attacks Malchus, a servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Jesus picks up the ear of Malchus, healing the wound. He then teaches an important lesson, telling Peter: "Return your sword to its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword." Jesus is willing

to be captured, for he explains: "How would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must take place this way?" (Matthew 26:52) This then leads to the trial and Crucifixion of Christ.

(Pass around the image of the prison cell and the steps leading to Caiaphas' house)

Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:1-54, Mark 15:1-40, Luke 23:1-48, John 19:1-30

At the height of his ministry and miracles, many Jews came to believe in Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God. Jewish leaders feared Jesus because of his growing followers. With the help of Judas Iscariot, Roman soldiers arrested Jesus and he was put on trial for claiming to be the king of the Jews. According to Roman law, the punishment for rebellion against the king was death by crucifixion.

The Roman governor Pontius Pilate was reluctant when it came to the punishment for Jesus. Pilate could find no wrong in Jesus, yet he wanted to give the people what they wanted, and that was the death of Jesus. Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd to symbolize that he was not taking responsibility for the bloodshed of Jesus and then handed Jesus over to be beaten and lashed. Jesus had a crown of thorns thrust on his head and made to carry his cross along the pathway to the hill where he would be crucified. The location of Jesus' crucifixion is known as Calvary, which is translated from "a place of skull".

(Pass around the image of Golgotha)

Crowds had gathered to mourn and watch Jesus' death. Jesus was nailed to the cross between two criminals and his sides pierced by a sword. While Jesus was mocked, one of the criminals asked Jesus to remember him and Jesus responded: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus then looked to heaven and asked God to "forgive them, for they do not know what they do." When taking his last breath, Jesus spoke: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...it is finished."

Extraordinary events marked the death of Jesus. The sky was completely dark for three hours as Jesus hung on the cross. At the moment of his last breath, the earth shook, the temple curtain split from top to bottom, and the tombs of saints opened and their bodies raised from the dead.

The crucifixion of Jesus was a part of God's plan from the very beginning of the birth of Jesus. The sin of mankind would require a sacrifice. The sinless life of Jesus was lived and given so that man could receive salvation and eternal life in heaven.



The Upper Room today, where Jesus ate His last meal with His disciples.



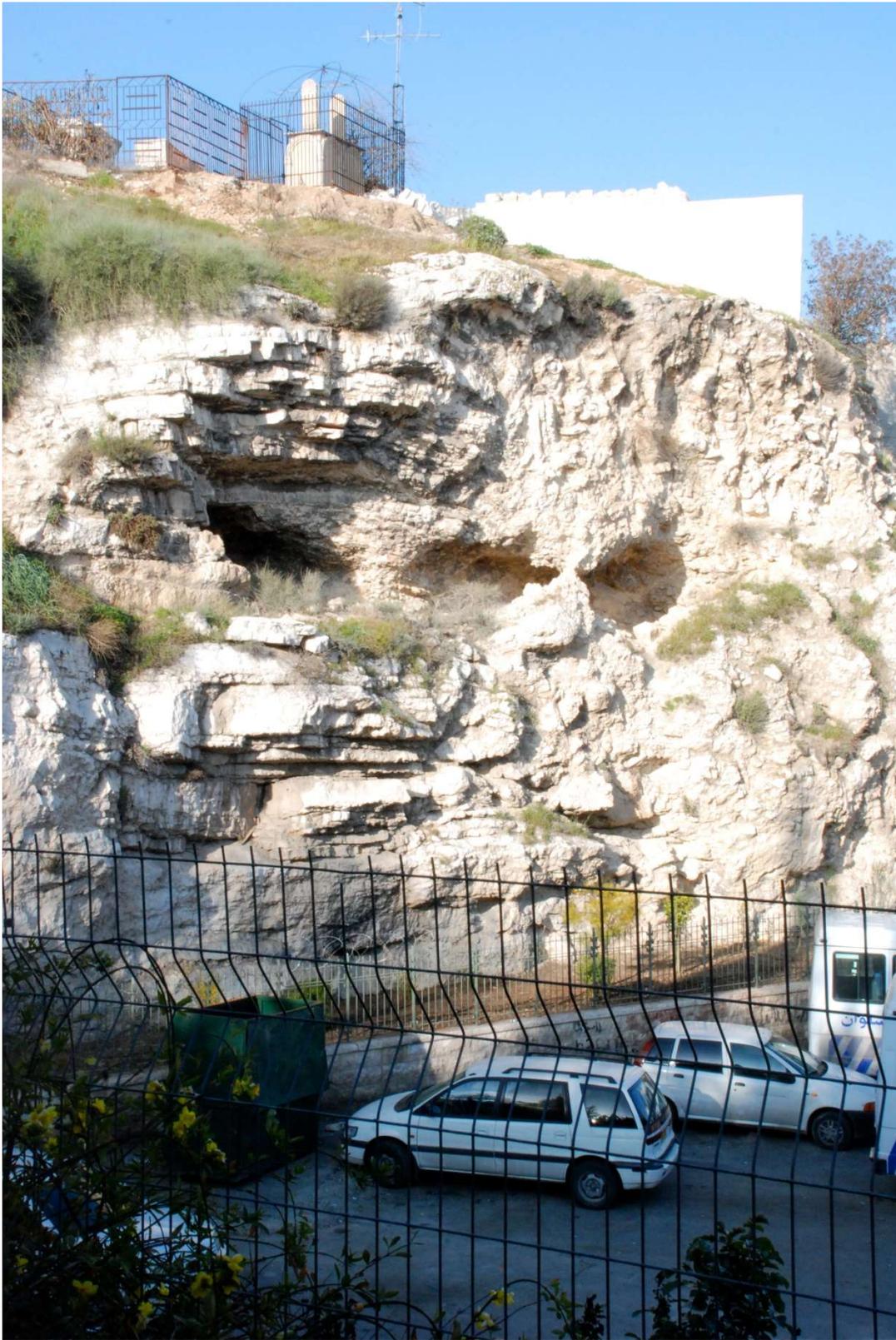
Trees in the Garden of Gethsemane (some are 2000+ years old!).



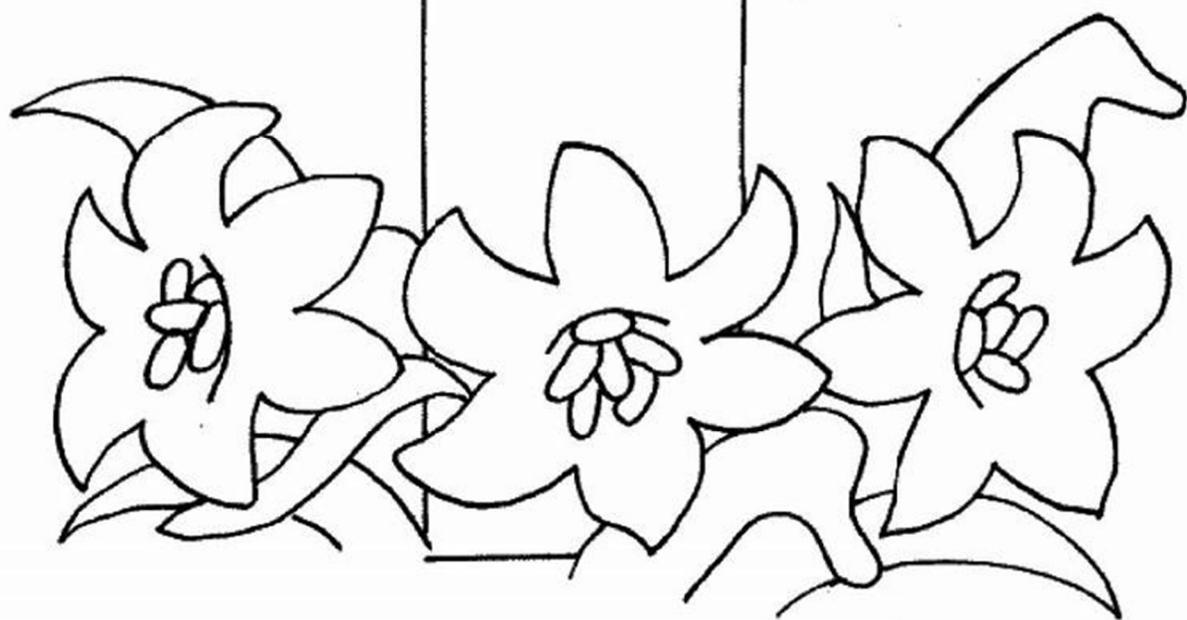
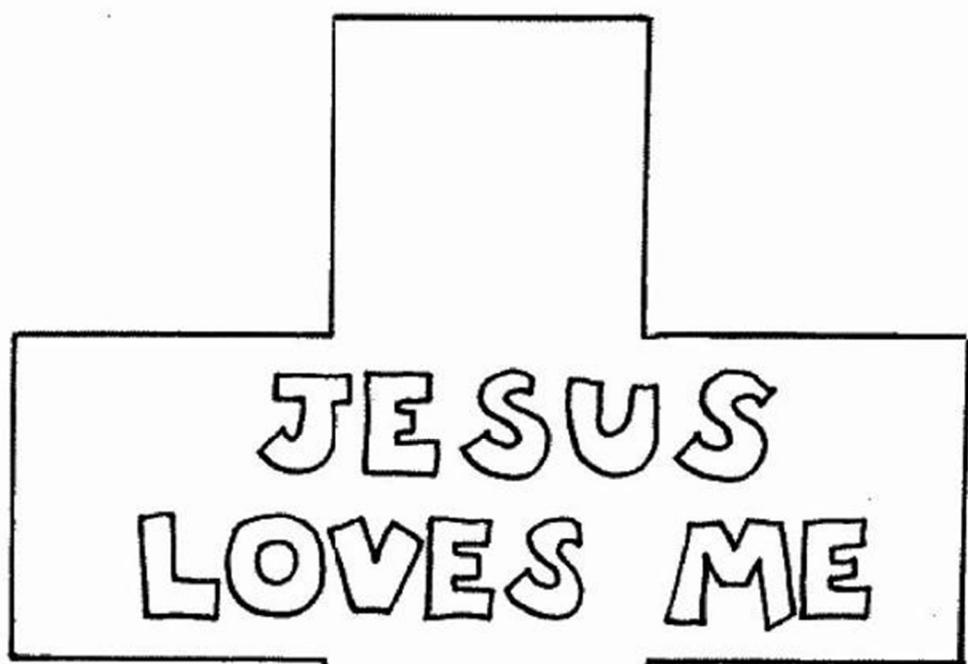
A look down into the kind of prison cell Jesus would have been held in.



Steps leading up to Caiaphas' House, the first place Jesus went to be tried.



Golgotha (the hill where Jesus was crucified) today.



The Easter Story (Part 2)

THE GOOD NEWS

OVERVIEW

Children will explore the second part of the Easter story: Jesus defeats Satan and takes the keys to death, hell and the grave forever, Jesus rises from the dead, appears to His followers and rises into heaven, promising to return one day and take those who follow Him to heaven forever!

YOUNGER KIDS

OLDER KIDS

	YOUNGER KIDS	OLDER KIDS
PREP WORK/ SUPPLIES	You will need: paper and crayons/markers, story puppets from last week, Little People figures or small figures (opt), "What Is Easter?" book (opt), colouring page for each student (incl., p. 20)	You will need: order of events cut into strips (incl. on p. 15), small piece of cloth for each child, printed story images (p.18-19), printed copies of "The Roman Times" newspaper template (incl., p. 21) for each child, Snakes & Ladders game (opt)
START WITH SOME FUN	Prior to beginning, have your child draw images of what they remember from last time and review the story with their images.	Review the story from last week. You may use a similar activity to the one for younger kids, or you may print the page following this lesson, slice apart the events and scramble them, having your kids put the events in the correct order.
LET'S BEGIN	<p>Ask your kids to remember a time when they or your family received exciting GOOD NEWS! (i.e. a party invitation, vacation/trip, special visitor coming to see them, something tasty for supper or dessert) Share a time when YOU received good news that your child may not have heard.</p> <p>Today's story is ALL ABOUT GOOD NEWS! It was not just good news that lasts for a day or two or even a year or two. The good news we'll hear about today is still good news after 2000 years!</p> <p>Get out the stick puppets to use in the story.</p>	<p>Give each child a piece of cloth that will tear fairly easily). When Jesus died, the veil in the Temple literally tore in half. This showed everyone that the place where God had previously been hidden, in the Holy of Holies, was now accessible to <i>everyone</i>.</p> <p>Tear the cloth in half as you complete your review of "The Bad News" from last week.</p>

YOUNGER KIDS

OLDER KIDS

STORY	Read the story text included below and use your puppets as noted.	Read the story text included below and show the images as noted.
REVIEW AND DISCUSS	Allow your kids time to re-enact the story with their puppets or "Little People" figures.	Included below you will find a newspaper story template from the "Roman Times," which includes the text describing the Resurrection (from John), and two spaces where children can add images. Allow them to draw images to add to this newspaper version. Sometimes with a story so well-known and so ancient, it can be easy to begin to see it as a fable or fairy tale. But this really happened! Encourage your kids to imagine what it would be like if the Resurrection had taken place in modern times. What would they see on the news? Social media? Imagine the kind of "news" the Resurrection was! <i>(This resource is from SojournKids.com)</i>
WRAP UP ACTIVITIES	You may also read the "What is Easter?" book by Phil Vischer, which provides a reminder to kids that amid all the eggs and bunnies, Jesus is the real reason for Easter. (A colouring page that goes along with this book is also included below.) If you don't have this book, use the review activity for "older kids" next door, but be sure to make your questions simple.	Review the entire story using the images, or with a game like Snakes and Ladders where your kids must correctly answer a review question before they can roll and move.

Review Last Week's Story (Older Kids) (here are the correct order of events):

Jesus and his disciples meet to celebrate the Passover meal.

Jesus and the disciples enter the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Temple police arrest Jesus and the disciples run away.

Jesus is tried and is sentenced to death.

Jesus carries the cross to the place of crucifixion.

Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies after a few hours.

Jesus' body is taken down and laid in a tomb.

Easter Story Text (Younger Kids, Part 2)

Last week, we learned that Jesus was taken by Roman soldiers and put on a cross. He died that day, and he was buried in a tomb. Can you show me the tomb? This is where Jesus was on Friday. This is where Jesus was on Saturday. But today is Sunday, isn't it? It was a Sunday when this part of our story happened. Hold up the sunshine (SUN PUPPET). It was a beautiful Sunday morning, and it was about to get even better!

Get your Mary puppet ready (MARY PUPPET). This is Mary. She was a friend of Jesus (not his mother Mary). On this Sunday morning, some women were coming to Jesus' tomb to pay their respects and show how much they loved Jesus and missed him. He had been dead for several days.

Do you know what they saw? Put your other puppets down so you can hold up your tomb with the heavy stone in front of the door (TOMB AND STONE PUPPET). Now move the stone away from the door. This is what Mary saw! Not only was the stone gone, but the tomb was empty. Hold up Mary and show me the face you think she made (MARY PUPPET).

The women saw an angel, who told them, Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just like he told you he would! Go tell everyone that Jesus is alive!

The women began to run down the path to go find the other disciples! Show Mary running away from the empty tomb (MARY PUPPET AND EMPTY TOMB PUPPET). As they were running, someone suddenly appeared in the road! Who do you think it was?

It was Jesus! (JESUS PUPPET)

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! Go and tell everyone that I am alive!"

They were confused for a moment. They still had a hard time believing this could possibly be true. They had seen Jesus die on the cross. Was it possible he was now alive?

Jesus held out his hands and show them where he had been nailed to the cross. Hold up Jesus' hand (JESUS HAND PUPPET).

The women were finally convinced. They ran and began to shout the good news! The people they told all began telling others! What was the good news they were shouting? HE IS RISEN! (HE IS RISEN PUPPET) They were telling everyone that Jesus had come back to life! He was God and he had power over life and death, just like he said! Jesus appeared to his disciples and showed them the nail scars in his hands and feet. They believed and celebrated! Jesus was alive! What wonderful GOOD NEWS!

Easter Story Text (Older Kids, Part 2)

Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection, the belief in God's saving grace through Jesus is destroyed. When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation. The resurrection was a real, literal, physical raising of Jesus' body from the dead.

Jesus was arrested, tried and found guilty of claiming to be a king. His body was hung on a cross between two thieves. After his death, Jesus' body was wrapped in linen clothes and placed in a tomb with a large stone rolled across the opening.

(Pass around the image of the Garden Tomb)

On the third day, an early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and another Mary came to the tomb and found it empty. An angel of the Lord had come and rolled away the stone covering Jesus' tomb, causing a violent earthquake. The guards had been so afraid that they shook with fear. Now the angel was sitting on the rolled away stone. He said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, as he said. Come and see the place where he laid. Then go and tell his disciples what you have seen, and tell them they will see him in Galilee."

This was such an unbelievable turn of events that the government sought to cover it up. They gave money to the guards who had been standing by the tomb, and told them, "If anyone says he has risen from the dead, you are to tell them instead that his disciples came during the night and stole his body to make it look that way." The guards took their money and did as they were told.

As the women left to tell the disciples, Jesus Christ met them and showed them his nail pierced hands. They bowed down and worshipped him.

Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell the disciples to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The women did go and tell people. Many didn't believe them! But Peter went to the tomb; he saw the strips of linen that Jesus had been buried in and wondered what had happened.

Jesus also appeared to two others while they were walking along a road, but they were so saddened by events that they didn't recognize him. Jesus accompanied them to the place they were going, and sat down to eat with them. It was then that they realized who he was. Then Jesus disappeared from their sight. These men ran to Jerusalem and told the other disciples, but they didn't believe them either. Then Jesus appeared before their eyes! They thought they saw a ghost, and were frightened. Jesus showed them his hands and feet and told them not to doubt. Jesus remained on earth for 40 days after he rose from the grave. He appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem and Galilee, showing them his hands and feet and telling them to be witnesses to others of his resurrection and power.



The tomb where Jesus' body would have laid.



The outside of the Garden Tomb (where Jesus was placed).



"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)

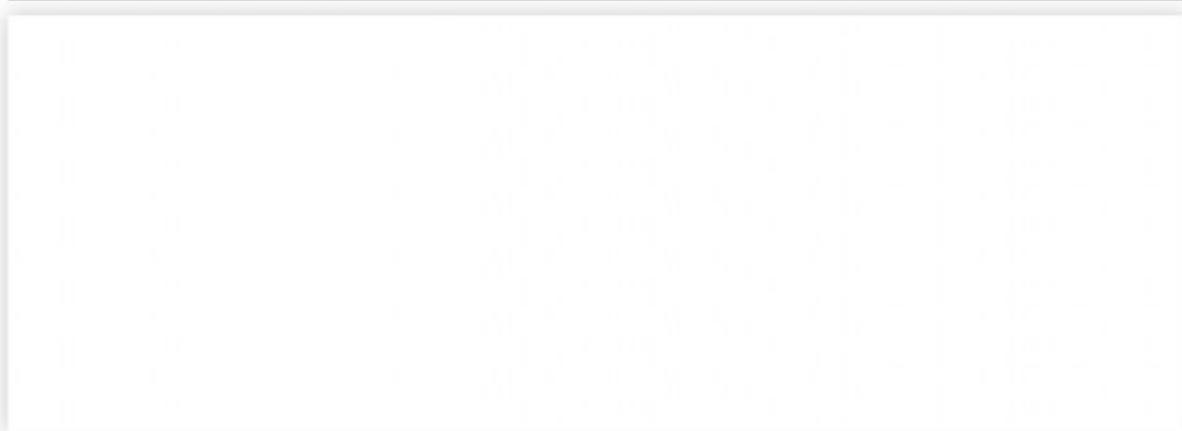
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Roman Times

Sunday, April 24th, 33 AD

5 DENARI

JESUS IS ALIVE! THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS!



RISEN FROM THE DEAD | The scene outside the tomb where Jesus body was buried three days ago following his crucifixion, now empty.

TOMB FOUND EMPTY!

By THE APOSTLE JOHN

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together,

with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

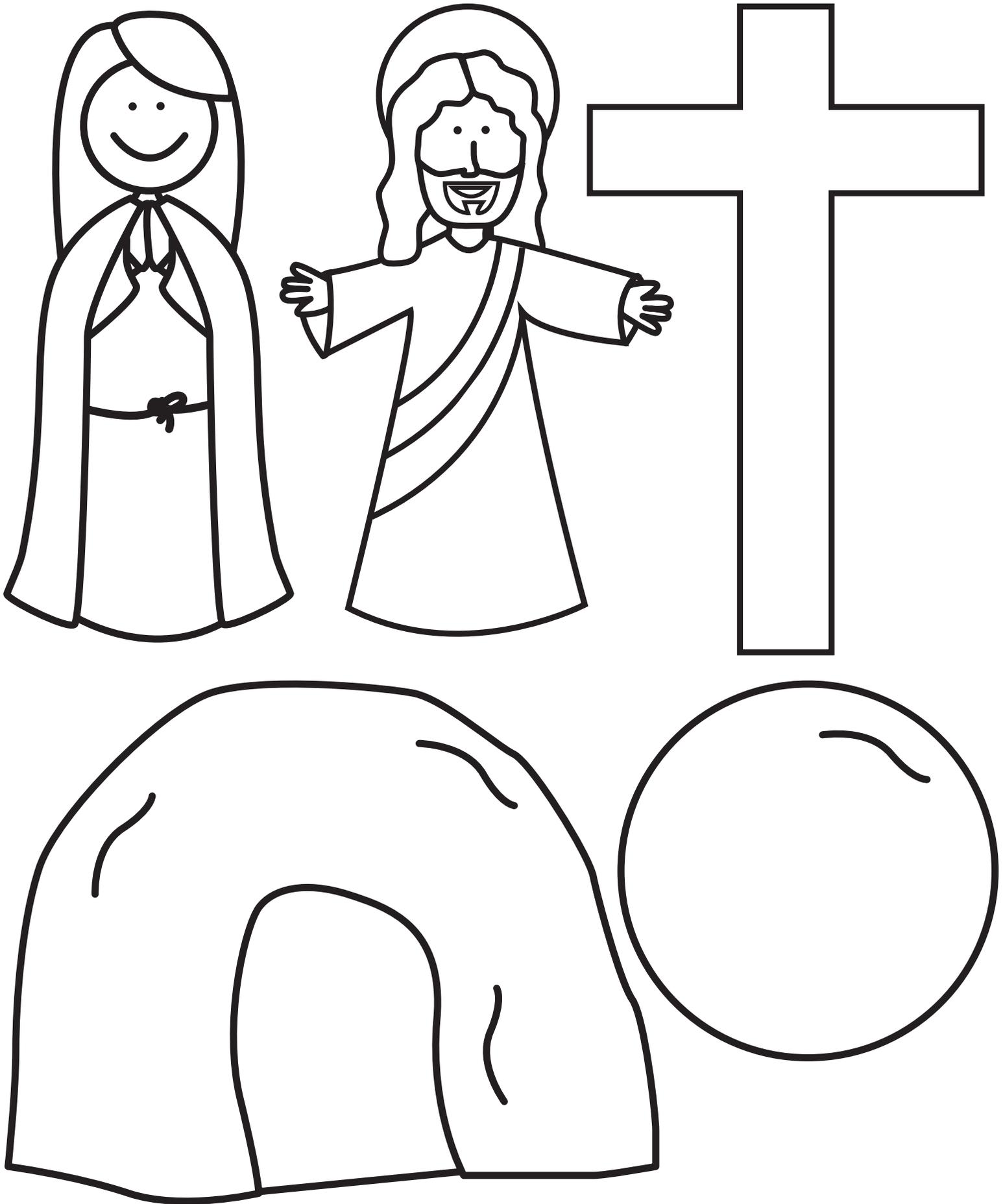
EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS all confirm that Jesus was *dead*, and is now *ALIVE*.

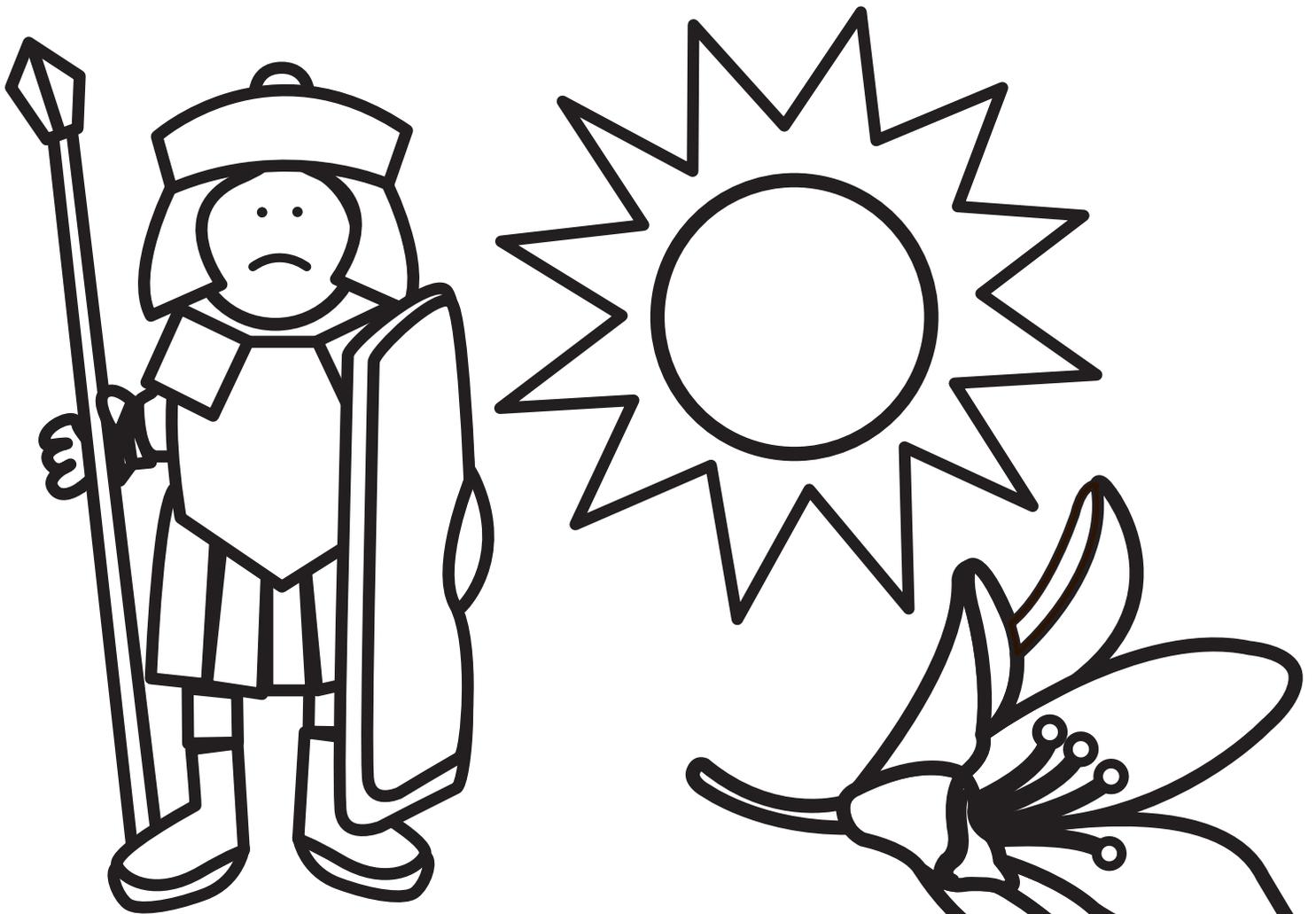
Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

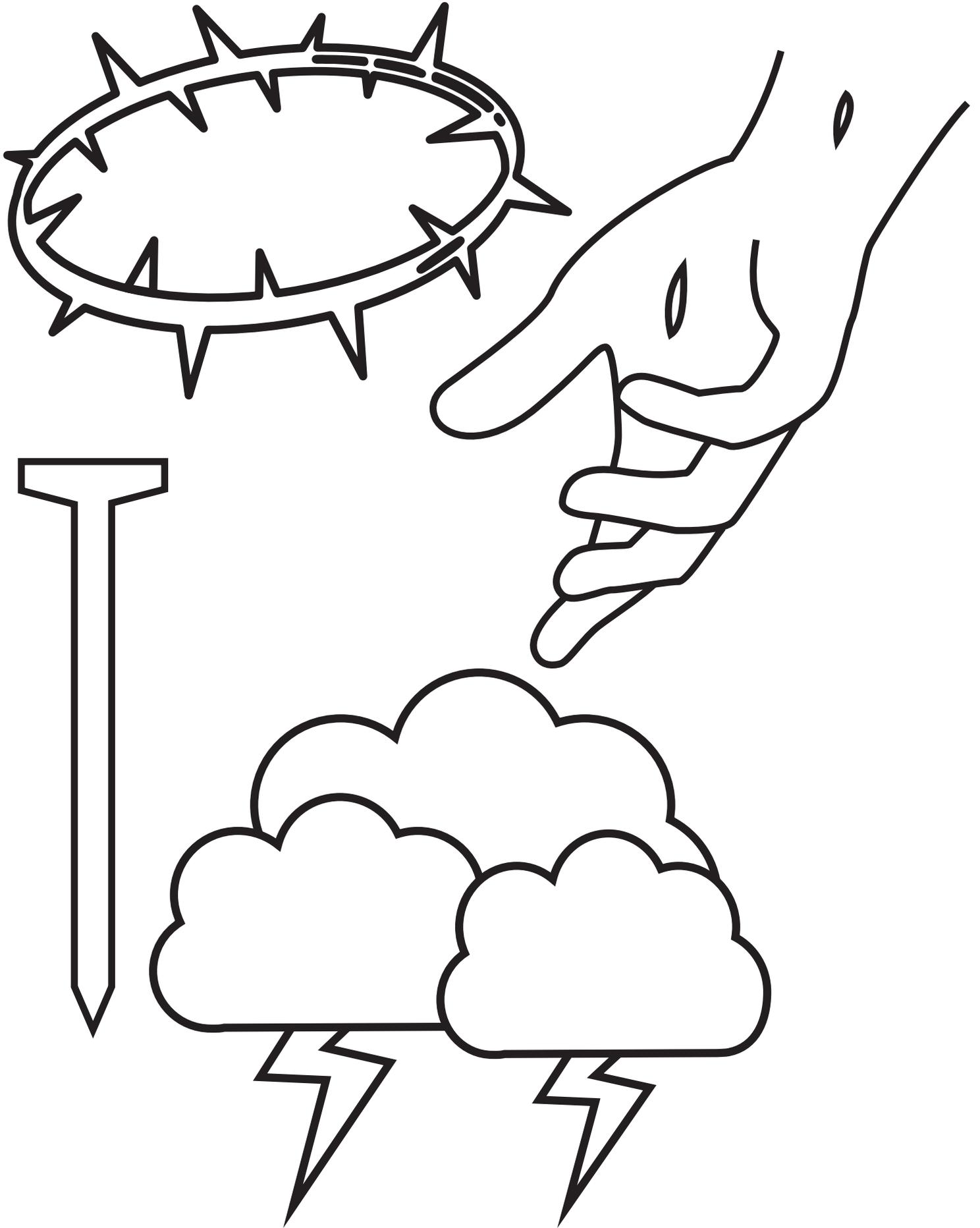


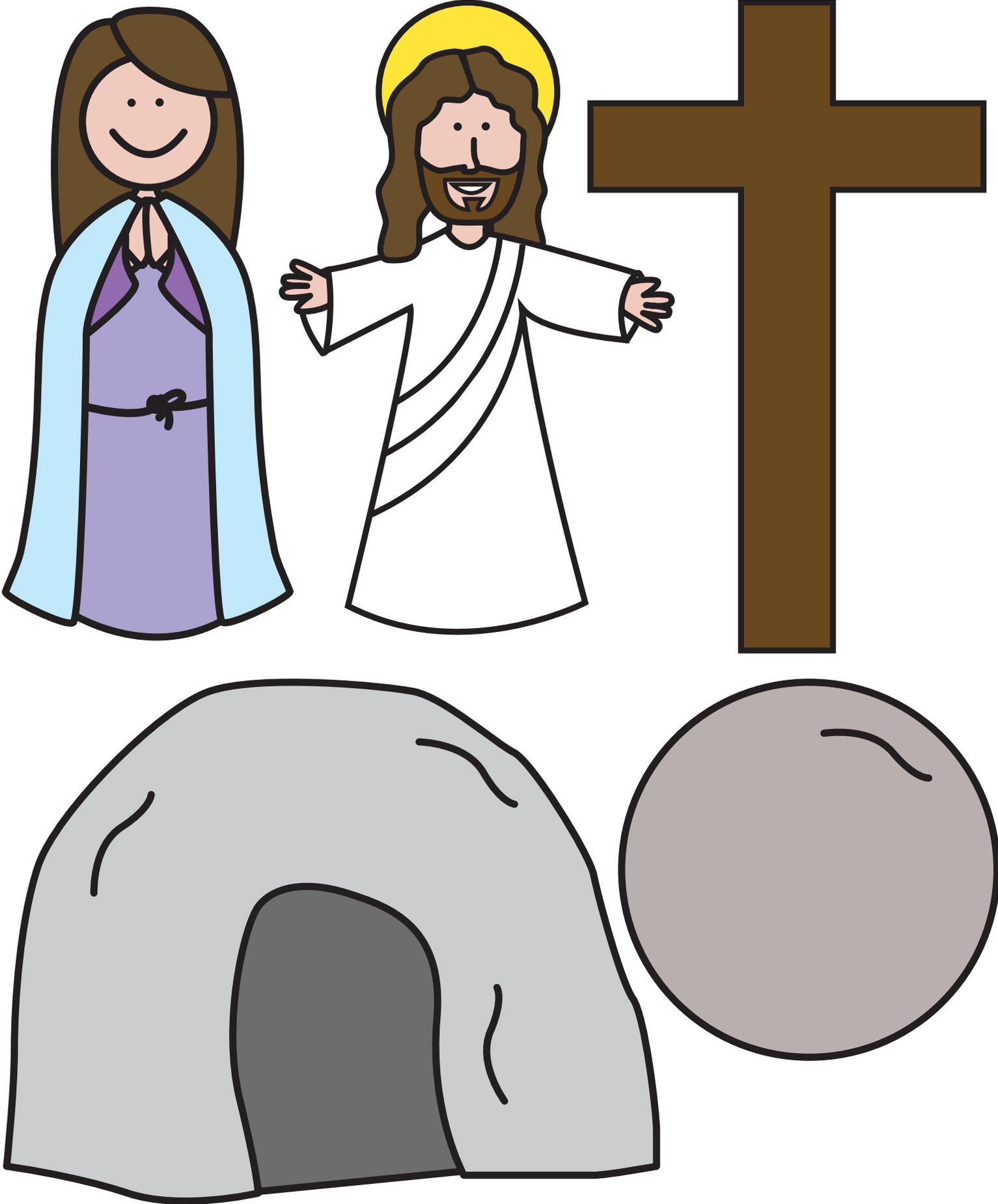


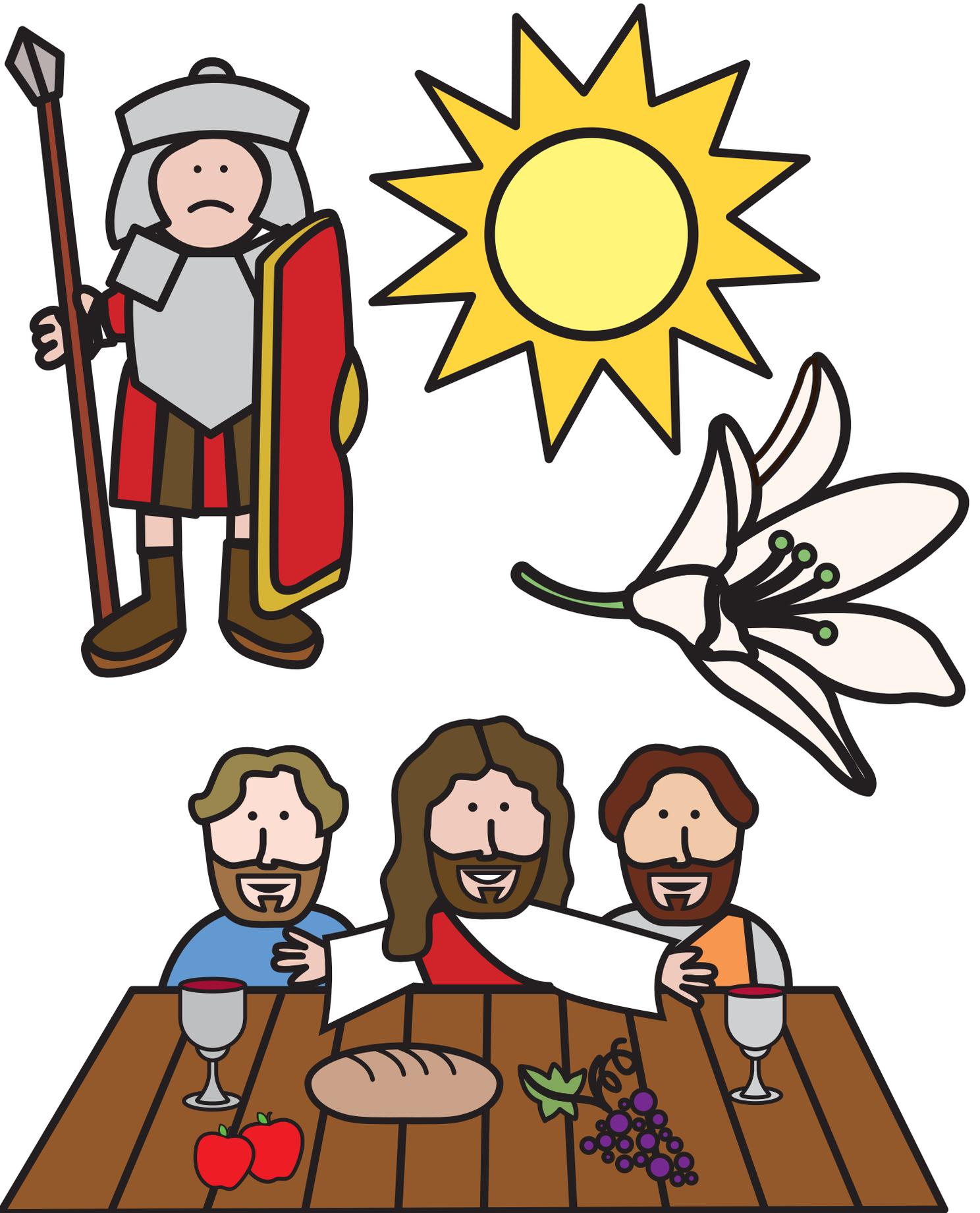


HE IS

RISEN









HE IS
RISEN

