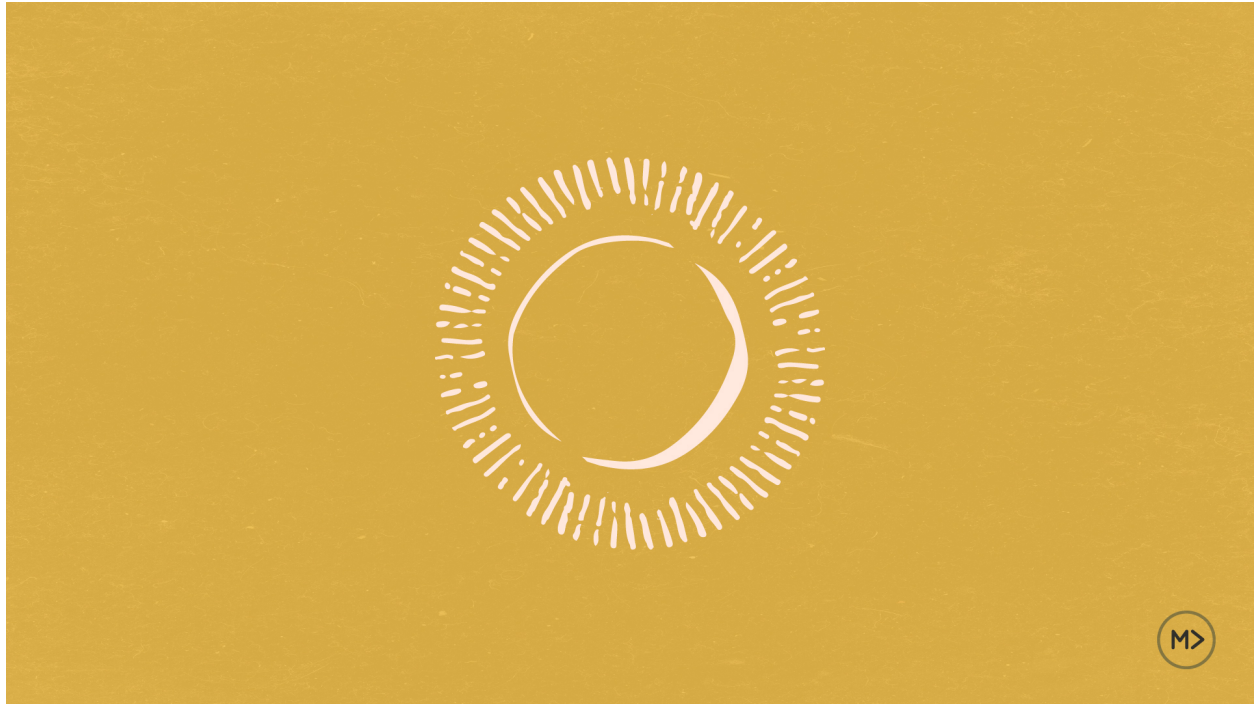


EASTER SUNDAY 2021



Celebrating the Resurrection

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, but Easter Sunday comes with a heightened focus on this good news. Pray that this news not only fills the kids with information about Jesus and the Bible, but fills them with a living hope as they grow in this world!

- **Big Idea:** The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus gives us a living hope!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Question**

*Ask the kids, 'What kinds of things do you hope for? Do you hope to get a lot of candy today on Easter? Hope to get a good present on your birthday? Hope to grow up happy and healthy? Are any of these things that you can be sure of? Can you count on them without a doubt?'
The Bible talks about a hope that we can count on - that never fails.*

Sing Together

Story - from 1 Peter 1:1-9

Peter was one of the 12 disciples who followed Jesus and lived with him for three years before Jesus was killed. Peter also got to see Jesus walking around alive after his death! Peter was also one of the first followers of Jesus to be filled with God's own Spirit to help him spread the Good News of life to everyone. He, like many others, was sent on a mission by Jesus.

As part of that mission, he wrote letters to other followers of Jesus who were scattered throughout the nations and suffering because of their faith.

In one letter he wrote:

'Not one of you is missing, not one forgotten! God the Father has His eye on each of you, and has determined by the work of the Spirit to keep you obedient through the sacrifice of Jesus. May everything good from God be yours! What a God we have!

And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.'

Peter knew that Jesus was God Himself who came down to us. He lived a hard life, suffered, and was killed. But the power of God brought him back to life! Because of this, now all who trust in Jesus will follow him into new life too. That means you and I can have a living hope because Jesus has power over our sin, suffering, and even death.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Peter wrote to people who were suffering. Why did he think they should have hope?
- How could people count on this hope of something to come in the future? — *(by looking back on what Jesus accomplished in the past)*
- Why did Peter call it a 'living hope'? — *(Jesus rose and lives forever!)*
- How are you struggling? How can you find hope in those troubles?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank You for giving us hope in Jesus. Help us to focus on him when things are difficult or sad. Thank You for giving us new life that will last forever in Jesus! Amen.
- **Craft:**
Using the sheet attached, have the kids color in the tomb and the stone for sealing the entrance. Then they will cut them out and use a brass pin to connect them together. They will be able to 'roll' the stone away and see an empty tomb inside.
You could also just use a paper plate for this and cut out the middle for the stone and entrance.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. As we go out and celebrate baptisms and eat together, thank God for how He has blessed us and provides for us. As you eat meals throughout this week, thank God for providing food to keep your body alive and Jesus to keep your soul alive.

