

Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion

## Leaving? Where Are You Going?

**Luke 22:1–23**

Object: A suitcase

Have you ever taken a trip for a vacation or to visit family? After you were all packed and ready to go, what was the last thing you wanted to do before you left? Maybe you wanted to watch television one last time, play a game, have a meal with your family, or say goodbye to your friends. Allow the students to share their responses.

In Luke 22:14–16, we see Jesus sitting at the dinner table sharing the Passover meal with His closest friends. Jesus told His disciples that they had no idea how much He had looked forward to eating this Passover meal with them before He entered His time of suffering. The Passover was a meal practiced to remind the Israelites that God rescued them from the hands of the Egyptians. We also know from Scripture that Jesus was about to leave His disciples and enter into a time of suffering. For what suffering was Jesus going to leave His disciples?

We know that Jesus' suffering would kill Him. He would take our sins to the cross and die in our place so our sins could be forgiven. What joy we have that He would go to the cross for us. We do not get the punishment for our sins that we deserve. We can have hope of being in heaven with Jesus because of His love for us.

But before we end this lesson, let us consider why Jesus would want to be with His friends on His last night. Why didn't He just run away so He would not have to die? Allow students a chance to share their thoughts. In verse 21, Jesus said, "Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying Me is at this moment at this table?" Jesus already knew what was going to happen—that He must be crucified to save us. Therefore, instead of running, He chose to spend His night with His closest friends. In the coming days, we will learn how His closest friends ran away and pretended to not even know Jesus. But thanks be to God that Jesus never ran away from us. He never pretended not to know us. He allowed Himself to get arrested, beaten, and crucified so that we may have eternal life with Him in heaven.

### Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank You for sharing a meal with Your friends and not running away. We thank You for dying on the cross and rising on Easter so that we can live with You someday in heaven. Amen.

# The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

## The Sweet Truth of Easter

### Luke 24:1–12

Objects: Individual packages of M&M's

Have each student open their bag of M&M's after reading the Bible reading. **Do you think these candies could retell the Easter story? Let's take a closer look. The shape of the candy reminds us of the stone that was rolled away. The angels revealed to the women that Christ was no longer there in the tomb. He had risen from the dead and was with them in Galilee.**

**Now, there is something written on these candies. As you can see, a special group of letters can be found that can help us tell the rest of our story. The M reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed as He died in our place and the miracle of resurrection so we can one day see Him in heaven face to face. So M stands for mercy and miracle.**

**Now, turn your candy to the right, and the M becomes an E. The E stands for Easter! It reminds us of God's everlasting love and His eternal plan. It also reminds us of the cross and the way God rescued sinful man. So the E stands for Easter, everlasting, and eternal.**

**Next, turn your candy to the left. You now see the number 3. The 3 represents the three days Jesus spent in the grave. By His death, we, His children, have been saved.**

**Finally, turn your candy upside down. The W you see now reminds us that He alone is worthy of our worship and our praise. He calls us to be His witnesses around the world for all of our days. W stands for worthy, worship, witnesses, and world.**

**As you go to school or sports practices and games, be the one to show God's love to others through your words and actions. We need to follow God's Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).**

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the sins of the world. We know that we don't always do the right things, but through our faith in Jesus, You forgive us. Please help us to walk faithfully and continue to read Your Word so that our faith can grow. Thank You for this beautiful Easter day and for always being the reason to celebrate each and every day of our lives. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

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## JESUS RISES FROM THE GRAVE

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# Easter Morning

### Matthew 28:1-8

Long ago when Jesus died,  
His friends were very sad.  
They missed Him, oh, so much,  
you know.

The world seemed cold and bad.

*Hug self as if shivering; look sad.*

On Easter morning, off they went  
To visit Jesus' grave.  
Slowly, very slowly walked  
The women to the cave.

*Walk in place.*

When they came close,  
then they could see  
The big rock now was gone.  
The friends of Jesus peeked inside.  
An angel sat alone.

*Put hand over eyes to look.*

"He is not here," the angel said.

"For Jesus Christ is risen!"

The friends were very happy now  
And told everyone who'd listen.

*Cup hands around mouth.*

The day that seemed so dark and sad  
Now shone with glory bright.  
Jesus' love made all things new.  
It was a happy sight.

*Point to corners of mouth in smile.*

Jesus makes our days so bright.  
His love shines round us too.  
Thank You, Jesus, for Your great love  
And for the things You do. Amen.

*Clap.*

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#### FIVE SENSES

Have children describe Easter morning using as many of their senses as they can. For example, what sounds might they hear? What might they touch or smell? What would they see?

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# The Empty Tomb

## John 20:1-10

Mary Magdalene walked early to the tomb  
On a Sunday morning, still dark and filled with gloom.

*Walk in place.*

The stone was rolled away! The Savior's body gone!  
She thought, They've taken Him! I'll tell Peter and John.

*Look surprised, hands on side of face.*

John and Peter raced. John ran on ahead,  
Peeked inside, and saw the cloth that gently wrapped the dead.

*Run in place.*

Peter walked inside. Could this really be?  
Linen cloths, a facecloth too, was all that he could see.

*Look around.*

The disciples would remember the words that Jesus said.  
How He'd die in place of all and rise up from the dead.

*Point to head; make cross with fingers; raise arms, palms up.*

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### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Open an empty Easter egg. Tell how the empty grave was an Easter gift. It shows how Jesus' resurrection beats death.

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