

Children's Message for Easter

Objects: Plant bulb, seeds, flower, plant

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Message

Good morning! Today is Easter Sunday. It's the day we celebrate the miracle of Jesus being raised from the dead. He was dead in the tomb but then on the third day he came back to life. Do you see this old dried up bulb/plant/seed? It looks like its pretty dead. Many people might think that if you put this in the ground nothing would happen at all. It would seem like it would just stay in the ground dead for ever and that would be the end of the story. However, that's not what happens. What takes place if we put this in the ground? (Let the children respond) That's right it can grow into a beautiful flower or plant full of life. (Show them the new flower/plant.) When they put Jesus to death on the cross most of the people thought that he was dead and gone forever. He really died and they knew that dead people don't normally come back to life! But Jesus is different. He is God's own son. He is the resurrection and the life. After they buried Jesus in the tomb they all went away very sad but then on the third day they discovered that he had come back to life! It was a miracle – He came back to life. He rose from the dead. The good news is that although we can't see him now we know he is alive in heaven. He loves us and he can give us that same resurrection life that brought him back from the dead. So when you look around outside and see flowers coming up through the ground I want you to remember what a miracle it is. Also, remember what a miracle it is that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive!

Prayer

Thank you God that an old looking bulb/seed/plant can miraculously turn into a living flower/plant. Thank you also God for the miracle of Jesus being raised from the dead. Thank you that he is alive and with us today.

Optional Activity

Easter is the season of rebirth. Although it is still too cold outside to plant flowers, have a pot or two with planting soil ready and use the time to plant seeds or bulbs that can be replanted outside in a few weeks.

Source: sundaychildrensfocus.com