

8 Downloadable Easter Sunday Activities

MINISTRY
spark

The logo for Ministry Spark features the word "MINISTRY" in a small, white, sans-serif font above the word "spark" in a larger, white, serif font. To the right of "spark" is a stylized sunburst icon composed of several short, white, radiating lines.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

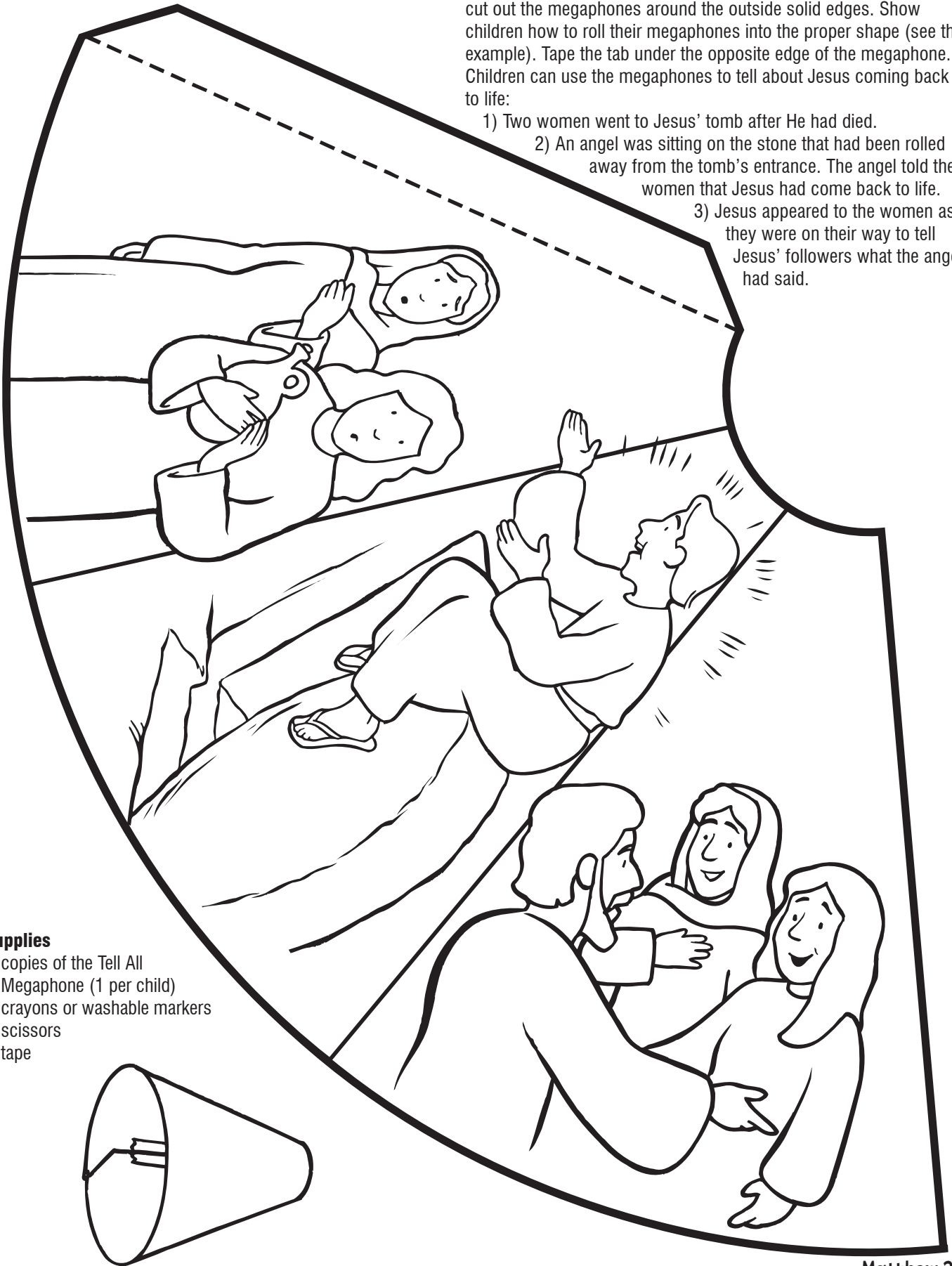
- Pg.1** **Tell All Megaphone**
Coloring Craft
Ages: Preschool and early elementary
The three pictured scenes help children remember details of the story of Jesus' resurrection. They'll use the megaphone to shout the good news.
- Pg.2** **Jesus Lives Story Wheel**
Coloring Craft
Ages: Preschool and elementary
So few supplies are needed to create this craft! Kids will be eager to use it to show and tell the Easter story to others.
- Pg.4** **Jesus Is Alive "Smush Book"**
Coloring Craft
Ages: Elementary
Just say "smush book" and your students will be on board to make one! A fun way for them to be able to retell the Easter story.
- Pg.6** **The Empty Tomb**
Color by number and puzzle
Ages: Early elementary
Kids will color by number and use their ABCs for this Easter activity.
- Pg.7** **New Life Butterfly**
Craft
Ages: Elementary
You need some supplies for this craft, but it's worth it. The cute "new life butterfly" will help kids remember and celebrate that Jesus is alive!
- Pg.9** **"He Is Risen" Message Plate**
Craft
Ages: Elementary
Though younger kids will need help assembling the craft, the movable stone to Jesus' tomb makes this an Easter take-home they'll love showing to others.
- Pg.11** **Joyful Relay**
Game/discussion
Ages: Elementary
Music makes this relay extra fun. And the "joyful" actions will help trigger answers to the discussion questions.
- Pg.12** **Peace and Carrots**
Science experiment/discussion
Ages: Elementary and preteen
Just a few items from home will give your students an Easter Sunday visual of resurrection power!

Tell All Megaphone

Directions

Help children color the three scenes on their megaphones and cut out the megaphones around the outside solid edges. Show children how to roll their megaphones into the proper shape (see the example). Tape the tab under the opposite edge of the megaphone. Children can use the megaphones to tell about Jesus coming back to life:

- 1) Two women went to Jesus' tomb after He had died.
- 2) An angel was sitting on the stone that had been rolled away from the tomb's entrance. The angel told the women that Jesus had come back to life.
- 3) Jesus appeared to the women as they were on their way to tell Jesus' followers what the angel had said.



Supplies

- copies of the Tell All Megaphone (1 per child)
- crayons or washable markers
- scissors
- tape

Matthew 28

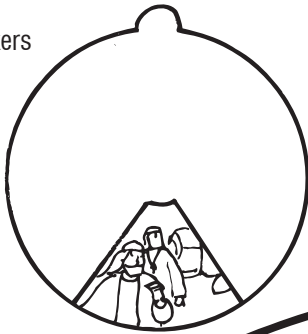
Jesus Is Alive!

John 18–20: Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Jesus Lives Story Wheel

Supplies

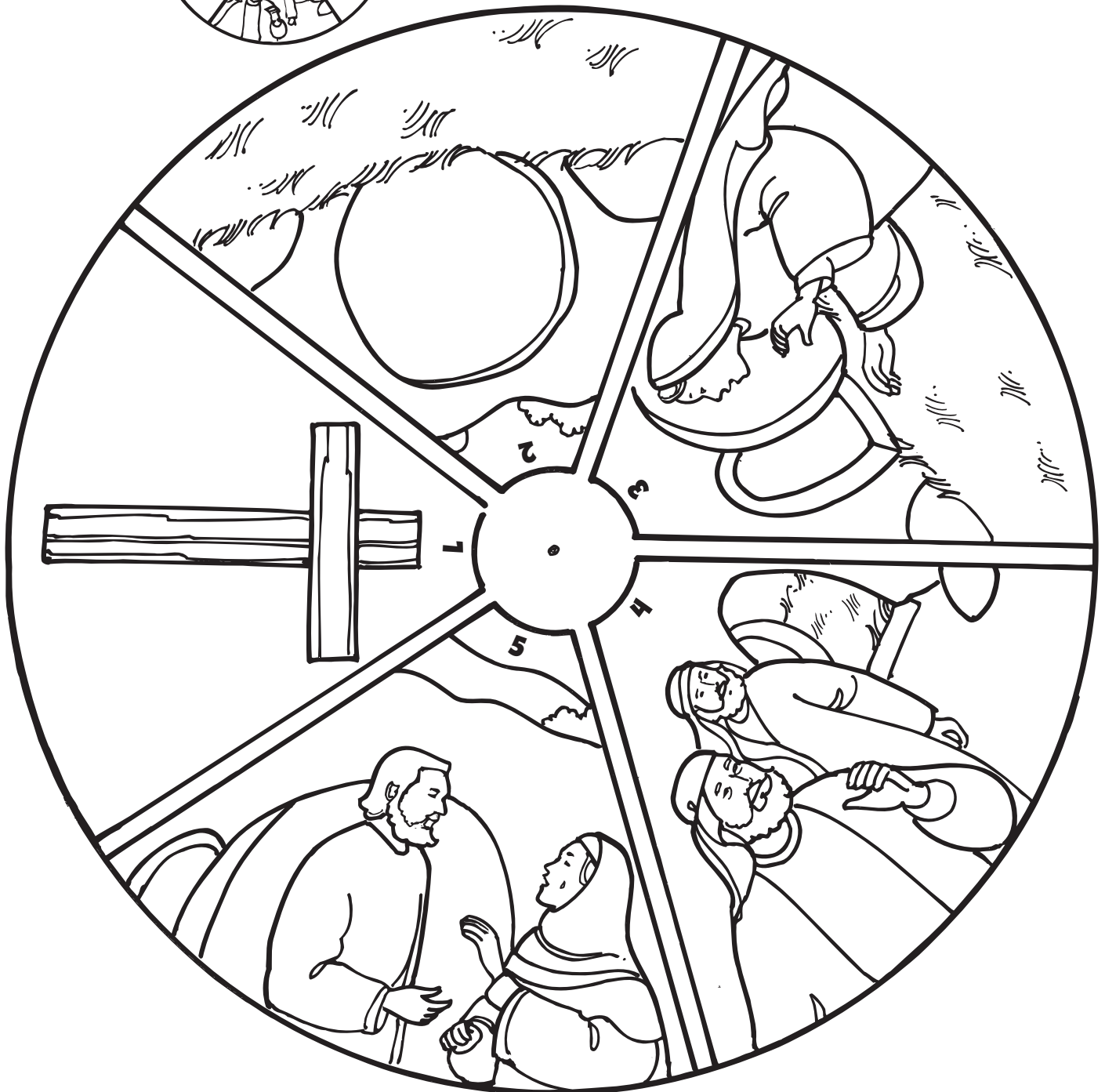
- copy of the Jesus Lives Story Wheel for each child
- copy of the Story Wheel Cover (p. 243) for each child
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- hole punch
- paper fasteners (1 per child)



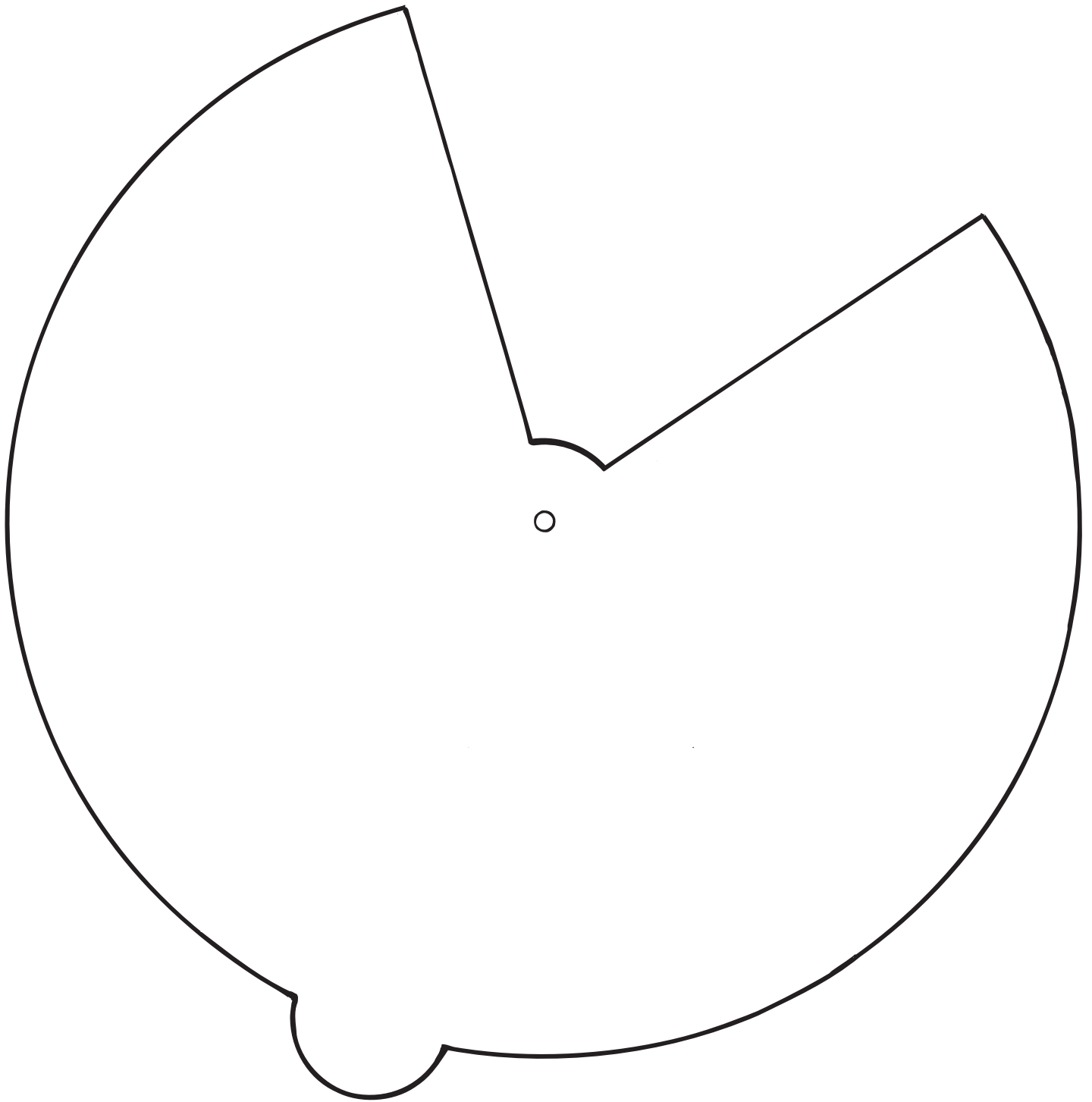
Directions

Color the scenes on the story wheel. Cut out the wheel around the outside edge. On the Story Wheel Cover, write: "Jesus Dies and Lives Again." Then color the rest of the cover gray to look like a stone. Place the wheel cover on top of the story wheel and punch a hole through the center of both the cover and the wheel. Use a paper fastener to loosely attach the cover to the wheel. Rotate the cover to reveal each section as you retell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection:

- 1) Jesus died on a cross.
- 2) Jesus' body was placed in a tomb and a stone was rolled over the entrance.
- 3) Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and when she saw that it was open, she ran to tell the disciples.
- 4) Peter and John ran to the tomb to see if what Mary said was true. They saw the tomb was empty.
- 5) Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb and told her not to cry. He was going to return to His Father.

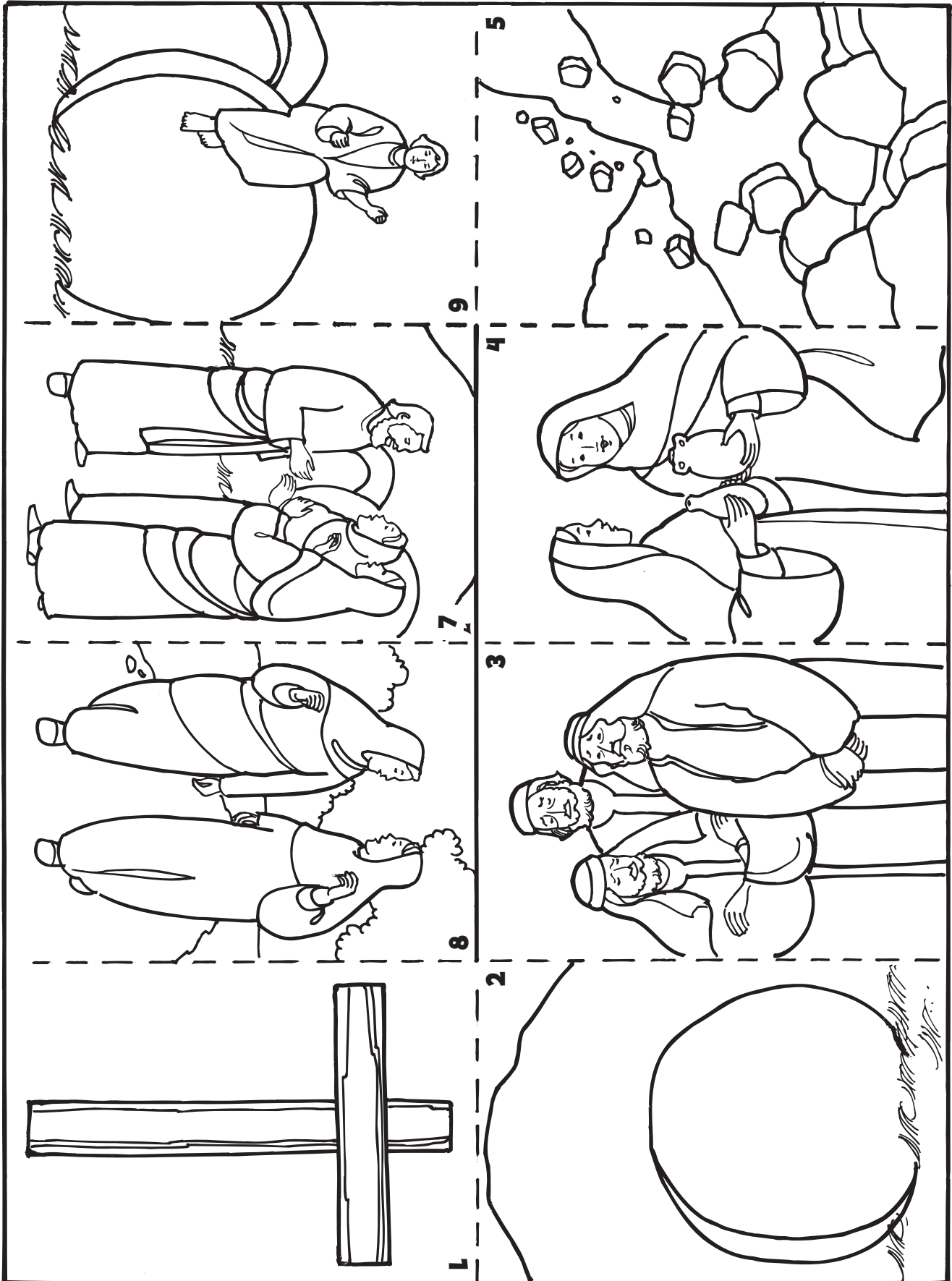


Story Wheel Cover



Jesus Is Alive Smush Book

See page 7 for supplies and directions for this activity.
Use the book to tell how Jesus showed His power over death.



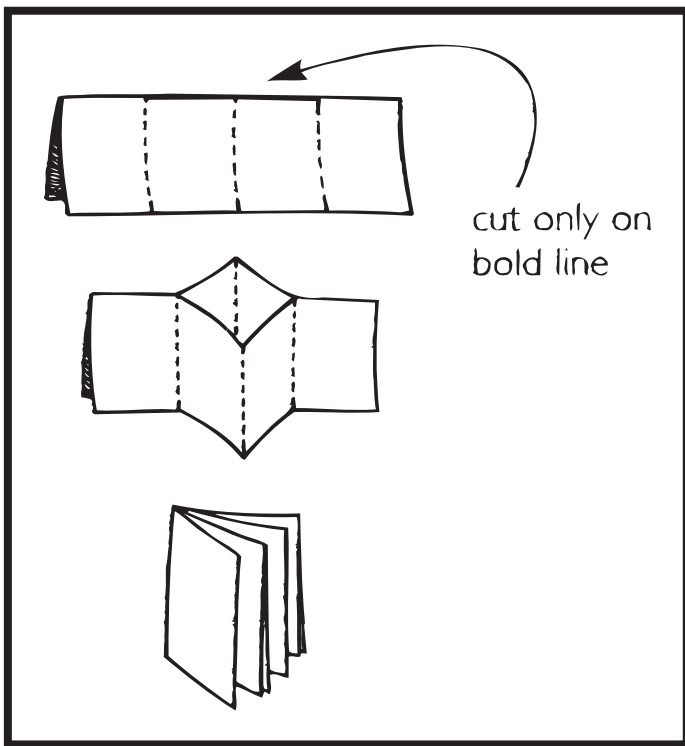
Special Activity Instructions

For some activities you will be directed to this page for assembly directions.

Smush Book Instructions

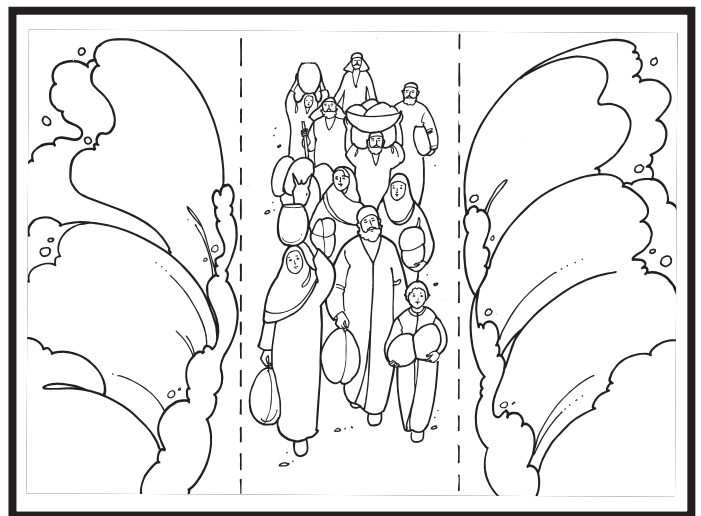
(pp. 40, 95, 170, 212)

Make a copy of the activity for each child. Provide crayons and scissors. Color and cut out the smush book around the outside edge. Fold the pages to make a book, as illustrated. The numbers on each page of the book will help you determine the order of each fold.



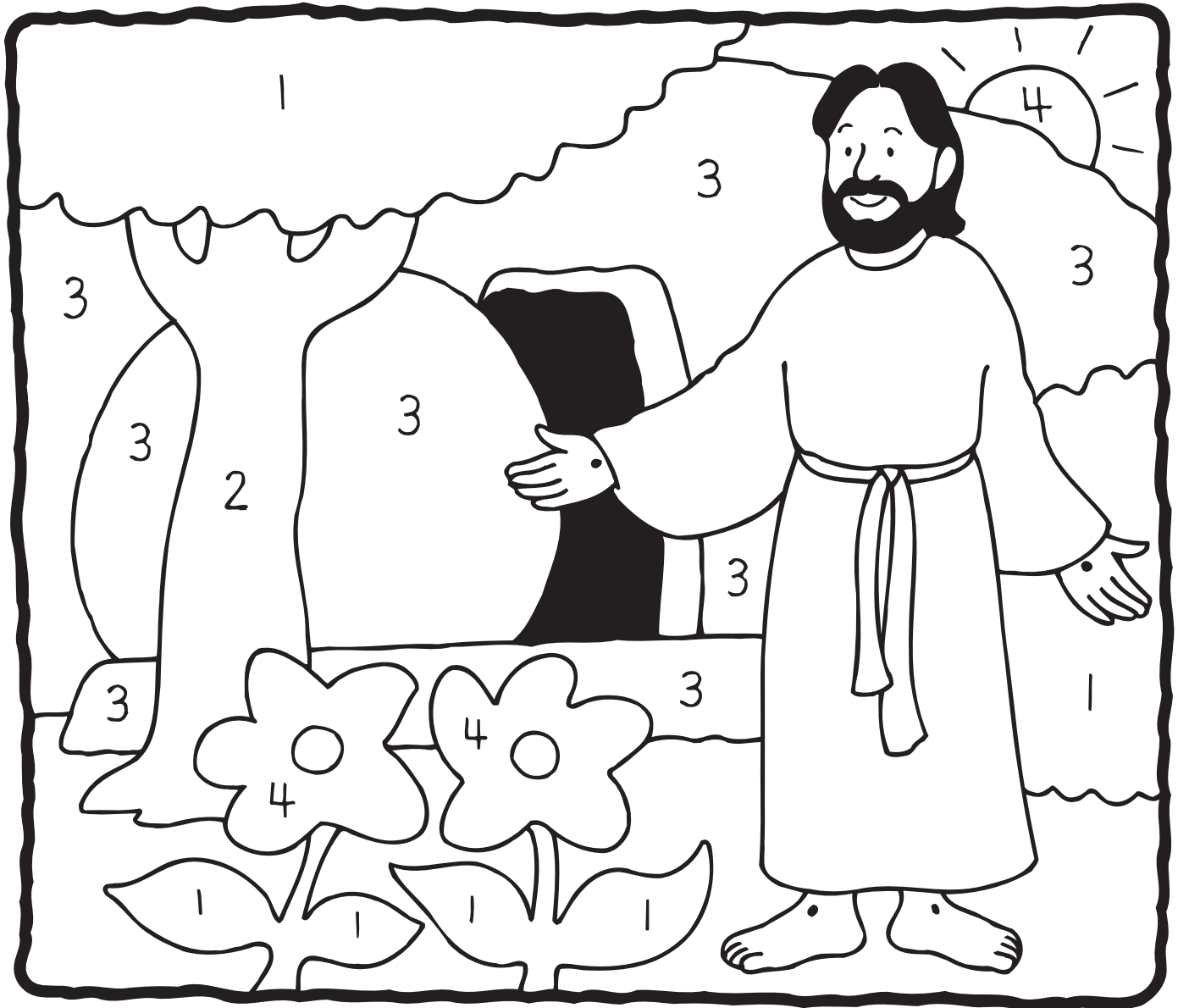
Red Sea Pamphlet Instructions (p. 44)

Make a copy of the activity for each child. Provide crayons and scissors. Color and cut out the pamphlet around the outside edges (do not cut along the dotted lines). Color the back of the pamphlet blue to look like water. Lay the pamphlet in front of you with the picture facing up. Fold the right panel in on the dotted line so that it covers the center panel. Fold the left panel in on the dotted line so that it covers both the right and center panels. Open the left panel and then the right panel as you retell the story of God's people crossing the Red Sea.



Matthew 28; Luke 22-24; John 19: The Empty Tomb

Color the picture by using the colors listed for each numbered space.



The tomb is empty. God made Jesus alive again! The Bible says, "Jesus is risen from the dead" (see Matthew 28:7). We can thank God that Jesus is alive.

BONUS IDEA!

Draw a ○ around the name of JESUS every place you find it in this puzzle.

J	E	S	U	S	R	J
E	J	E	S	U	S	E
S	K	J	E	S	U	S
U	B	V	U	E	P	U
S	U	S	E	J	C	S

New Life Butterfly

Materials

- butterfly wings pattern (p. 115)
- craft foam (or felt) in various colors
- scissors
- ruler
- black chenille wires
- fine-tip permanent marker
- plastic spoons (1 per child)
- pen
- craft glue
- acrylic jewels
- sequins
- tape
- double-sided mounting tape or a hot-glue gun and hot-glue sticks (*optional*)

Before Class

With a marker, trace the butterfly wings pattern onto craft foam and cut out, one for each child. With a permanent marker, draw a face on the indentation of a spoon and print “Jesus Is Alive!” on the spoon handle. Prepare a spoon for each child. Cut chenille wires in half, one half for each child. Cut craft foam scraps into 1”-size triangles, circles, and squares (see sketch).

Simplification Idea

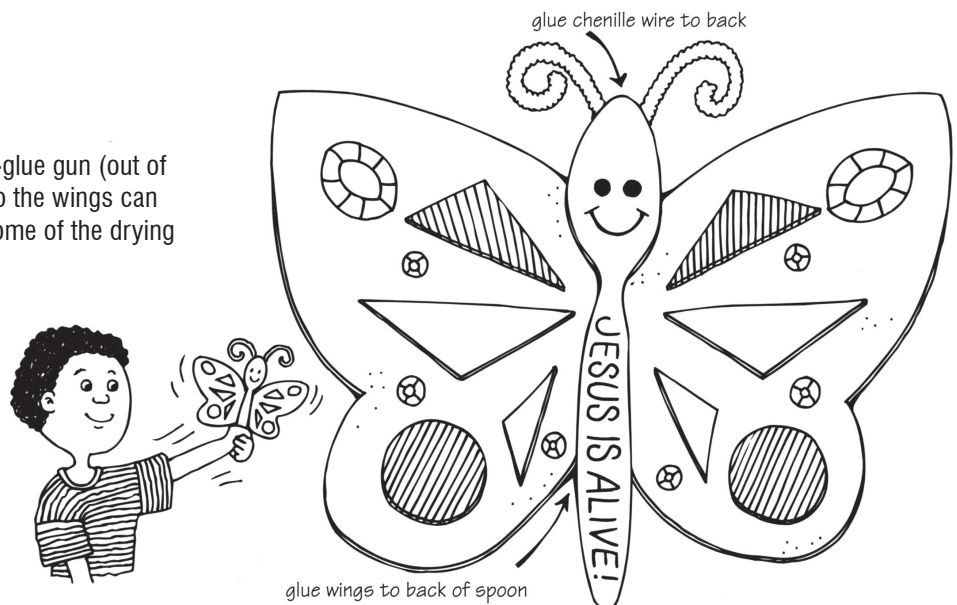
Using double-sided mounting tape or a hot-glue gun (out of the reach of children) to attach the spoon to the wings can make this project go faster and eliminate some of the drying time.

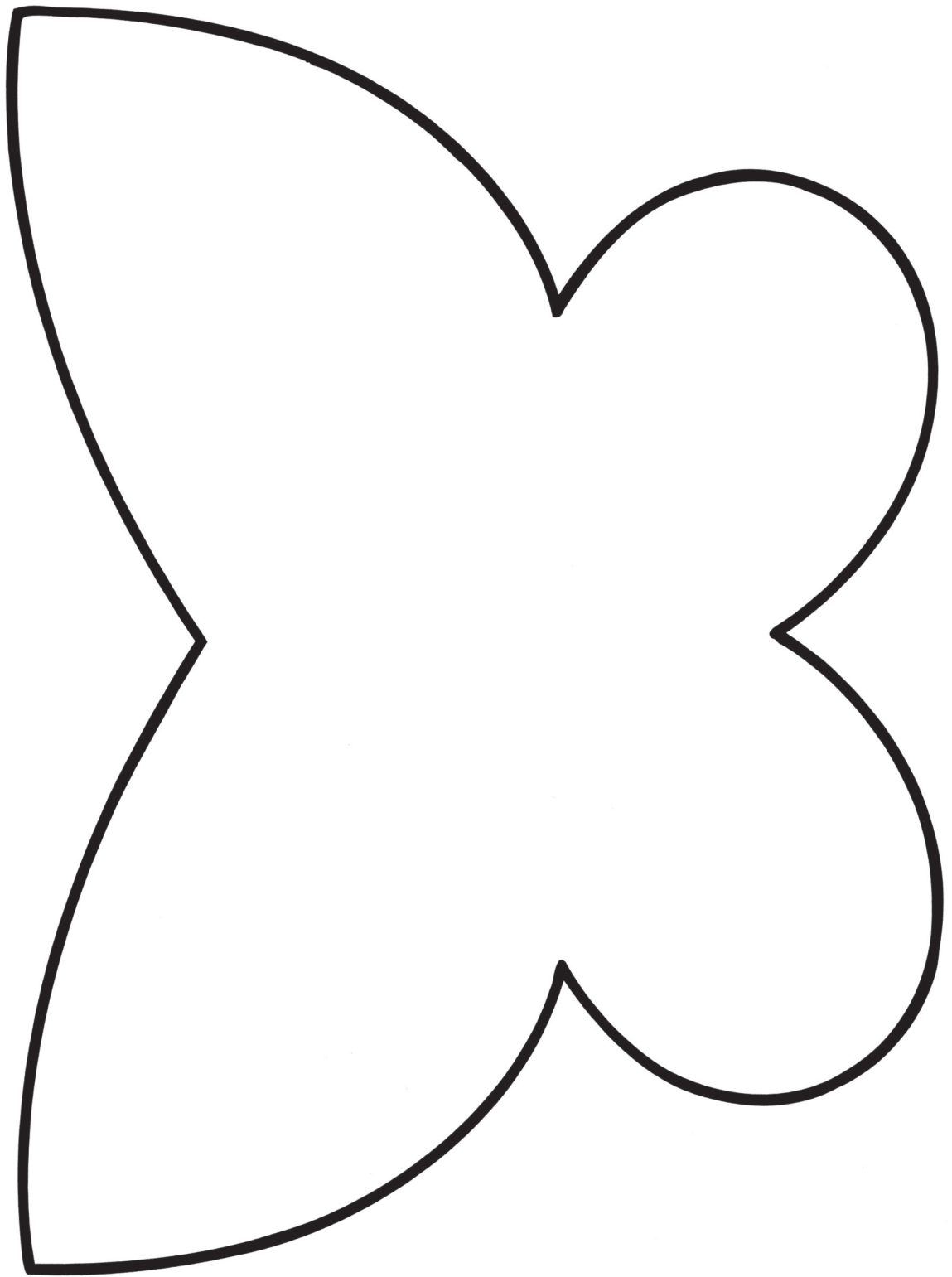
Instructions for Children

- Bend a piece of chenille wire in half and curl each end to make antennae. Glue (or tape) the antennae to the back of a spoon.
- Glue craft foam wings to the back of a prepared spoon (see sketch). Then glue some jewels, sequins, and craft foam shapes onto the wings.
- Allow the glue to dry.

Talk About

What happens when a caterpillar spins a cocoon? (No one sees it for a long time. When it finally comes out of the cocoon, it has become a butterfly.) **Because Jesus died, came back to life, and returned to heaven, we can have new life too and live with Him in heaven some day. Your butterfly will help you remember that Jesus is alive!** Have the children hold their butterflies by the spoon handles and wave the spoons back and forth to make the butterflies “fly.”





“He Is Risen” Message Plate

Materials

- angel picture (p. 111)
- large paper plates (1 per child)
- brown and green tempera paint
- paintbrushes
- fine-grit sandpaper (or brown construction paper)
- scissors
- compass
- ruler
- yarn
- copy paper
- glue
- crayons
- hole punch
- pencil
- shallow containers
- newspaper
- paper fasteners (1 per child)
- green crinkle paper (*optional*)

Before Class

Make copies of the angel picture, one for each child. Draw a line across each paper plate, two-thirds down. Using a compass, draw and cut 5” circles from sheets of sandpaper, one for each child. With a hole punch, punch one hole close to the edge of each sandpaper circle. Cut yarn into 6” lengths, one length for each child. Cover the work area with newspaper. Pour brown and green paint into shallow containers.



Simplification Idea

Children can color the cave brown and the grass green, rather than using paint.

Instructions for Children

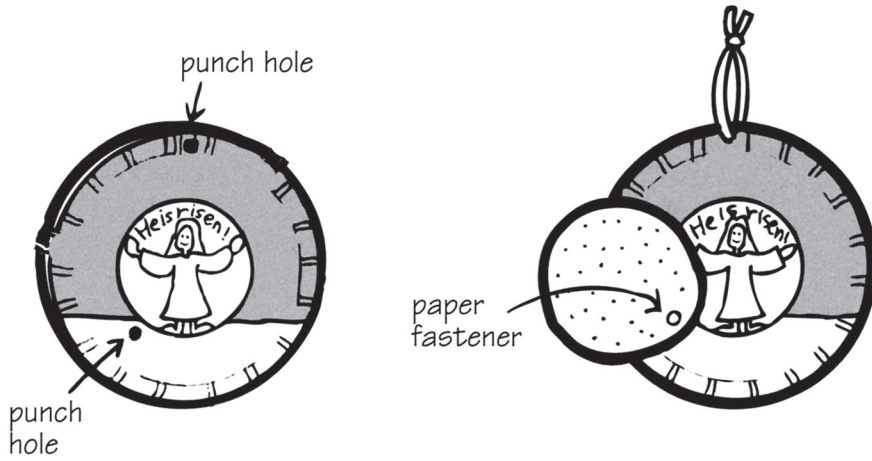
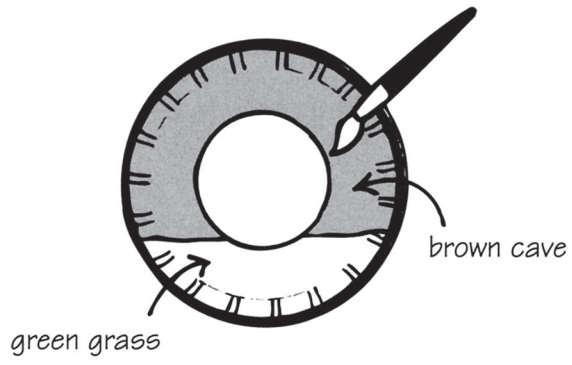
- With a paper plate face up, paint the top two-thirds brown for a cave. Paint the bottom third green for grass (sketch a). Allow the paint to dry.
- Use crayons to color an angel picture. Cut out the picture and glue it to the front center of the painted plate.
- With brown and gray crayons, add color to a sandpaper “stone.”
- With a teacher’s help, punch two holes in the paper plate as shown on sketch b.
- With a paper fastener, attach the stone to the paper plate near the angel picture (sketch c).
- Thread a piece of yarn through the hole at the top of the plate and tie the ends together for a hanger.

Enrichment Idea

Children can glue green crinkle paper onto the grass portion of the paper plate.

Talk About

Have you ever told good news to someone? What was the news? Allow children to share. **When some women came and found the empty tomb, an angel told the women the best news ever! The angel said, “He is not here, he has risen, just as he said.” Then the women got to share that news with Jesus’ disciples. We can share this good news too.** Have the children cover the opening of their caves with the stone, and then “roll away” the stone to see the angel. **We can tell others that Jesus is alive!**



Joyful Relay

Bible Focus ▶ Psalm 95:1; John 20

Materials

Bibles, index cards, marker, 2 paper bags, children's music from your collection, music player

Lead the Game

1. Have a volunteer read Psalm 95:1. **Knowing Jesus is alive gives us great joy! Let's play a game using some joyful actions to remind us to celebrate.**
2. **What are some actions people do to show they are full of joy?** (smile, sing, jump, clap, cheer, high-five, skip) List the students' ideas on two separate index cards to create two identical sets of cards. Put one set of cards into each bag.
3. Group students into two equal teams. Teams should line up single file on one side of the playing area. Place a bag of cards across the playing area from each team.
4. Play some upbeat music. When the music begins, the first kids on each team runs to the paper bag and takes out an index card. The students read the actions and return the cards to the bags. Kids are to perform the action the entire time it takes them to return to his or her team. The kids then tag the next students in line. Continue playing until each student has had a turn.

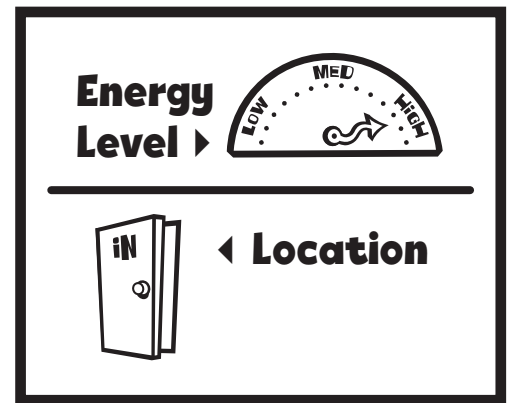
Option

If you have fewer than eight students, make one set of action cards and one set of directional cards (forward, backward, in a circle, sideways, by the table, etc.). Place each set of cards in a separate bag.

Tell kids to spread out around the playing area. While you play music, each student takes a turn choosing a card from each bag. The students hold up the cards so all the kids can see what's written on the cards and perform the actions as a group (for example, smile while moving in a circle). Continue until all students have had a turn choosing cards.

Discussion Questions

1. **What can you do to celebrate the fact that Jesus died for your sins and rose again?** (be happy about it, sing songs about it, thank Jesus for what He did for me, tell others about it)
2. **What can you do to share with others the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus is alive?** (I can tell others why I'm glad that Jesus is alive. I can invite my friends to come with me to church services. I can ask God to help me show joy to others and explain why I'm so glad.)



Peace and Carrots

Topic: Hope

Time: 10 minutes

Group Size: Large or small groups

Mess Meter: 1 2 3

*Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
—1 Corinthians 15:55*

Formula for Success

- glass of water
- salt
- sliced carrot piece
- teaspoon

With some simple items from the kitchen, your kids will get a picture of the resurrection power of God. In it we find peace for life eternal with Him in heaven.

Truth Explosion: God's resurrection power is greater than anything!

When you watch old cartoons, you see characters get smashed over the head with huge boulders or run over by a freight train. They're flattened for a moment then they pop up and run off again. But we all know that's not what happens in real life.

We're careful about a lot of things we do because we know if we get hurt that badly, we could even die. And life is too precious to be careless.

Fill a glass with water. **What do you think will happen if we drop a piece of carrot in this water?** (It will sink.) Ask a volunteer to drop a piece of a carrot into the water and watch it sink.

Is there anything we can do to make that carrot come back up? Jiggle the glass? Blow on the water?

We might say that this carrot has had it. It's not coming back to life, so to speak, no matter how hard we wish it would. We have no power to change it. There's nothing we can do.

But God's power is greater than human power! In the Bible, God's power accomplished amazing things including raising people from the dead. Imagine! Let's say this salt represents God's power.

Ask a volunteer, or several, to add salt to the water a teaspoon at a time. The carrot will suddenly rise to the surface.

We can celebrate God's resurrection power in our lives. It gives us peace of mind to know God's will for our lives is eternal life with Him in heaven.

If God can raise the dead, then surely He can solve our problems. This same power is at work in our lives. God can do great things.

Lab Results

- **Tell me three words that describe God's power.** Answers will vary.
- **Why is it important to know God's power is greater than human power?** (Because we can know that, no matter what happens, God is in control.)
- **What does "resurrection power" mean to you?** Answers will vary.

Super Science Fact

The carrot is lighter than the denser or heavier salt water, causing it to rise and sit on the water's surface.



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