

## The Resurrection

*This is an interactive way of telling a story.*

*Ask the children to stand in one large circle. Divide the group into four groups (or into two if numbers are smaller then give each group 2 parts). A leader reads the story and group one listens and responds by doing the actions. Everyone else watches. Then group 2 take over and so on. Ensure that your leaders join in and do the actions so that they encourage the children to participate. They can mime the actions sensitively in a way which will help the children explore how the women and the disciples of Jesus must have been feeling.*

### Group 1

It was very early on Sunday morning and Mary was in bed asleep. A cock crowed outside with a loud "Cock -doodle-doo" and Mary woke up. She gave a big yawn and stretched her arms above her head. Suddenly she remembered what had happened to Jesus and she felt really sad. Jesus was dead; they had killed him by nailing him to a cross. A few tears trickled down Mary's face and she wiped them away with her hand.

She threw back the blankets and got out of bed. She wanted to go to Jesus' tomb this morning with the other women who were followers of Jesus.

She quickly put on her clothes, washed her face and combed her hair. She brushed her teeth and then bent down to put her on her sandals. She lifted up the jar of myrrh that she was going to put on Jesus body. It was a special spice that people put on dead bodies to help keep them smelling nice. She lifted the jar to her nose to smell the perfume. It was very expensive but nothing was too good for Jesus.

She opened her door and shut it behind her and set off walking very quickly down the road.

### Group 2

At the corner, she met the other women and they gave each other a big hug.

"How will we move the big stone in front of the tomb Mary?" asked Joanna. Joanna's face looked really worried. "Maybe if we all puusshhh really hard we can move it, let's practice, arms out everyone 1,2,3 ppuuuuuusshh".

"Oh dear, I'm not very strong" said the other Mary, I hope there is a strong man around. Maybe one of the Roman guards will help us."

Mary Magdalene made a face "They will never help us, they despise us."

The women kept walking until they reached the tomb, but when they got there, the huge big stone which was in front of the entrance had been rolled away.

The women were very surprised. They ran into the tomb but all they found were Jesus' grave clothes - his body wasn't there! They lifted up the grave clothes and looked at each other

feeling very shocked and surprised. "Oh no, someone must have stolen Jesus' body. The women began to cry.

### **Group 3**

Suddenly a bright light shone into the tomb. The women shielded their eyes from the light and tried to see where it was coming from. Two men in shining white clothes stood in front of them. The women were afraid and they bowed to the ground. The two angels said "Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? Jesus isn't here because he had risen!" Then the women remembered what Jesus had said before he was killed, that in 3 days he would rise again.

They went running back as fast as they could to tell the disciples the good news. When they got to the place where the disciples were staying they knocked loudly on the door. They were so excited that they jumped up and down for joy. "Jesus is alive, Jesus is alive." They told the disciples everything they had seen and heard, but the disciples didn't believe a word of it. They folded their arms and shook their heads. "No way, you're imagining it, or else you are making it up." they said.

### **Group 4**

Later on as the disciples were sitting talking about what had happened, Jesus appeared to them. The disciples were frightened and terrified because they thought they were seeing a ghost.

Jesus stretched out his hands and pointed at his feet and said, "Look at my hands and my feet and see it's me, Jesus! Touch me and find out for yourselves. Ghosts don't have flesh and bones like I have." The disciples were so glad and amazed that they could not believe it. They kept shaking their head and staring at Jesus. It was really Him!

Jesus was hungry so he asked the disciples for something to eat. They gave him a piece of fish. He took it and ate it as they watched.

All the disciples' sadness had turned to joy because Jesus was alive. He had beaten death and because of what he did to rescue us, we can have eternal life with Jesus. All we have to do is ask Him to save us.