

The Empty Tomb

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Luke 24:1-12

Lesson Focus
Jesus finds us!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Center Time Kids use clay to make caves, build caves with blocks, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	White play clay, wooden blocks, play people, basket, blank paper, markers or crayons
Circle Time Kids sing a welcome song and learn a new song about today's story.	None	Basket, plastic Easter eggs, fish crackers
Prayer Time Kids prepare and pray.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Empty Tomb Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
Cave Building Kids help build a cave.	None	Adult-sized table, blankets, flashlight
Easter Morning Kids count people and items at the tomb.	Leaflets	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Where Is Jesus? Kids find Jesus on the leaflet.	Leaflets	None
Wiggling Feet Kids wiggle their feet and remember how Mary hugged Jesus' feet.	Leaflets	None
Sticker Story Kids recreate today's story using stickers.	Lesson Stickers, Spark Story Bible	White construction paper, markers or crayons

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids remember one thing they did today.	Leaflets	Plastic Easter egg
Prayer Time Kids give thanks to Jesus.	Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, dim the lights and say, **"Follow me to Circle Time!"** Form a line behind you with kids holding hands, and wind your way around the room to the Circle Time area. Along the way, act as if you are looking for something.

Play Clay Cave

Roll the play clay into individual balls. Place one ball in front of every chair at the kid-sized table. As kids explore the play clay, model how to make a cave by sticking a finger into the ball and rotating the finger until the hole is big.

Cave Center

Place blocks on a low shelf or in a basket on a carpeted area. Place play people in a basket. Build a cave out of blocks. When kids explore this center, build with them. Introduce how to build a cave using the blocks.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

White play clay

Wooden blocks

Play people

Basket

Blank paper

Markers or crayons

Circle Time

Before the session, fill each Easter egg with three or four fish crackers. Put eggs in a basket, and give each kid a plastic egg when he or she comes to Circle Time. **Welcome friends! We are all here to learn about God. Shake your egg, and let's sing our welcome song. I wonder who is here today.** Sing this song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush."

**Now it's time for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Now it's time for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Our friends are here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**[Name]'s here for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
[Name]'s here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named. Allow kids to discover what's inside the egg. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

In today's story, some of Jesus' friends were looking for Jesus' body, but it was missing! They didn't know at first that Jesus is alive! Jesus has risen!

Jesus' friends might have sung a song like this. Sing this song to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?" Lift up your hands heavenward as if questioning while singing.

**Oh where, oh where has my Jesus gone,
Oh where, oh where can he be?
He was in the cave, but now he's gone.
Oh where, oh where can he be?**

Sing along with me this time!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Basket

Fish crackers

Plastic Easter eggs

Prayer Time

Let's get ready to pray! Please repeat after me.

Prayer time hearts. Place finger on lips.

Prayer time hands. Fold hands.

Prayer time eyes. Close eyes.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for finding us.

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

The Empty Tomb Storytelling

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to The Empty Tomb on pages 482-487. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer. **Was Jesus in the cave?** (no) **Who was happy to see Jesus alive?** (*Mary and the other women*)

Have you ever lost something? Did you find it? How does it feel to lose something and then find it?

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

Cave Building

Let's build a cave today. I have some blankets and a big table. We can make these things into a cave. Everyone help me carry the blankets over to the big table. Ask kids to sit down in front of the table. Arrange the blankets on top of the table so that the blankets hang over and touch the ground. While you are working, sing this song to the verse tune of "Polly Wolly Doodle All the Day."

Oh, I'm going to the cave,

Oh, I'm going to the cave,

Oh, I'm going to the cave today.

**My Jesus has died, My Jesus has died, and
I'm going to the cave today.**

Once the cave is finished, have everyone crawl slowly into the cave. (It's okay if a kid wants to stay on the outside; leave an opening so he or she can still see in.) Take a flashlight along for light. See what the cave looks like with the flashlight on and off. Sing the cave song again and remember the story. **Mary Magdalene, Mary, Salome, and Joanna went to the cave. Instead of finding Jesus, they found an angel. The angel said Jesus is alive!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Adult-sized table

Blankets

Flashlight

Easter Morning

Invite kids to gather at a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **Tell me what you see in this picture.** Pause to hear kids' thoughts. **Some women came to the cave on Easter morning. How many women came to the cave? Let's count. One. Two. Three. Four. Four women came to the cave. Some women are carrying jars. How many jars can we count? One. Two. There are two jars in the picture. The jars contained oil. Good counting! Is there someone missing? Pause. The women expected Jesus to be in the cave, but he was gone. Jesus couldn't stay in the tomb because he loved us so much. Jesus is alive!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Where Is Jesus?

Ask kids to turn over the leaflet. **The women could not find Jesus in the cave. They found an angel instead, and the angel said Jesus is alive! Let's pretend to be Mary and look for Jesus in this picture. I wonder where Jesus is.** Pause for looking. **Oh! We found Jesus on the leaflet!** Then, if you have pictures and other items around the room with Jesus on them, ask kids to find Jesus around the room. How many pictures of Jesus can you find? **We found Jesus in pictures today, but we don't have to look for Jesus in real life. Jesus is alive, and he finds us. Hurray!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Wiggling Feet

In our story today, the women hugged Jesus' feet and shouted with joy. Jesus is alive, just like the angel said!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Are there some feet on our leaflet? Let's count the feet. Gather the kids in a circle on the floor. **Let's stretch out our legs. Let's wiggle our feet. Let's wiggle our toes. How many feet do you have? I have two feet. How many feet does our circle have? Let's count.** Count the feet. **We have (number) feet in our circle.** If feeling adventurous, take off shoes. **Let's count our toes. I have ten toes! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten!**

Supplies

None

Sticker Story

While kids are counting their feet and toes, have another adult set up the table with one piece of construction paper and four stickers per chair. Place the markers or crayons where kids can share. **Let's do some stickers! Follow me to the table.** When everyone is seated, hold up the stickers. **I recognize these women. They are from our story today. Let me see if I can find the picture in our Spark Story Bible.** Hold up the picture. **Let's make a picture using our stickers and the markers. We can draw a cave on our picture. And we can draw jars like the women carried. We can draw an angel on our picture. What else will you draw on your picture? We can draw Jesus. Jesus is alive!**

Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers
Spark Story Bible

Supplies

White construction paper
Markers or crayons

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **What did we do today? When I give you the Easter egg to hold, tell me one thing we did today.** There are no right or wrong answers. If a kid is not interested in the activity, please honor his or her feelings.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. You can empty a toy box and fill it up again, and talk about the empty cave. Why was the cave empty? Jesus is alive!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies:

Plastic Easter egg

Prayer Time

Before we go today, let's say a little prayer. How do we get ready to pray?

Prayer time hearts. Place finger on lips.

Prayer time hands. Fold hands.

Prayer time eyes. Close eyes.

Now repeat after me.

Dear Jesus,

We learned about your empty cave today.

Thank you for living again.

Amen.

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None