

**HAPPY EASTER!**

### **A Happy Day!**

*The Story of Easter: Mathew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20  
from the Lion Storyteller Bible*

It was very early. The birds were still in bed. And the sun had yet to open its bright eye on the world. The sky was grey and grainy. The air was cold. And three women walked slowly towards the graveyard.

Jesus was buried there. And the women were coming to visit his grave. They talked in sad whispers. They cried. They held each other's hands.

Jesus had been dead for three days, and they missed him very much.

Just as they reached the graveyard, however, some surprising things happened. The ground began to shake. The air began to tremble. And, quick as lightning, an angel flashed down from heaven and rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb!

Everything went quiet. The ground stopped moving. But the women shook with fear.

‘Don’t be afraid,’ the angel said. ‘Come and see. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive!’

Arm in arm, the women crept past the angel into the tomb. The sheets were still there – the sheets they had wrapped round his dead body.

But Jesus himself was gone!

‘Where is he?’ asked the women. ‘What have you done with him?’

‘I told you,’ smiled the angel. ‘He’s not dead any more. He’s come back to life. And he wants you to tell all his friends.’

The women looked at each other. They didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. They could hardly believe it – that is, until they hurried out of the tomb and ran straight into Jesus.

‘Oh, Jesus!’ they cried. ‘It’s true. You are alive!’ And they fell at his feet, amazed!

‘There’s no need to be afraid any more,’ he said. ‘God has made everything all right. But I have a job for you. I want you to tell the rest of my friends that I am alive. Tell them I will meet them on the seashore, in Galilee, where all our adventures started.’

The women waved goodbye and hurried off to Jerusalem. The birds were singing now. The sun’s bright eye was wide open. And they had the most amazing story to tell.

## Talk about it

-What was the women’s first reaction when they realised Jesus was not in the tomb?

-How do you think the disciples would have felt when the women told them what had happened?

-What would you have said to Jesus if you were Mary?

-What does Jesus want the women to do? Do you think it’s important for us to tell our friends about Jesus too?

## Think it through

Jesus died because some people didn't like him, but he came back to life three days later! Why? Well, often people aren't very loving and don't do the right thing. We hurt each other and, Christians believe, we make God sad because we don't love him. God sent Jesus to do something about it. Jesus hadn't done anything wrong, but he was punished for all the wrong things other people have done. He let it happen because he wanted us to know how much he loves us. Christians believe that we can be friends with God again, because of what Jesus did.

## Activities

*Choose some of these activities or spread them out over the week.*

### Make a cake

Spend some time together as a family baking a cake. As the cake is baking it will rise. As it does so, spend some time thinking about how Jesus has risen from the dead. Spend some time praying and saying thank you to God for sending Jesus to be our saviour.

### Create a banner

Last week you were encouraged to make a cross for your window, this week you could add to it by making a banner that says Jesus is risen!

### Make a bookmark

Colour in or create a bookmark saying Jesus is alive! (printable ones are available at the end of this document) – you could keep it as a reminder of what Jesus has done for you or can you think of someone to share the good news of Jesus with and post it through their door?

## Dance

Easter is a celebration! Celebrate by listening to 'Oh Happy Day' by Tim Hughes and come up with some actions for it. You could film your routine and send it to church. The lyrics to the song and a link to the music will be attached to this document.

## Build a tomb den

Using materials from your house, create a den-like cave with a doorway that is blocked by something that represents the stone that was rolled over the tomb. If you can, darken the room and then slowly let the light in as you roll the stone away to 'discover' that it's empty inside except for the strips of cloth that had been around the body! Talk about how amazed the disciples were to discover that the body had gone. Consider all the explanations they might have come up with.

## Decorate hard-boiled eggs

Decorate some hard-boiled eggs as people using felt tip pens, paint, or by gluing bits to them. Place each egg into its egg cup holder and decorate the egg as a person in the Easter story (e.g. Mary, Peter, John, Jesus). Stick on fabric headgear as well as drawing eyes and faces on the eggs. Alternatively, the eggs could be painted with traditional Eastern European designs for Easter Day, such as triangles spirals, tripods dots and hearts (search online for European Easter Egg designs). Talk about which people were involved in the Easter Day story. Why do you think an egg has become a symbol for Christians of what happened at Easter?



# Happy Day

*Tim Hughes*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRSOLhFqWh0>

The greatest day in history  
Death is beaten, You have rescued me  
Sing it out, Jesus is alive

The empty cross, the empty grave  
Life eternal, You have won the day  
Shout it out, Jesus is alive  
He's alive

Oh, happy day, happy day  
You washed my sin away  
Oh, happy day, happy day  
I'll never be the same  
Forever I am changed

When I stand in that place  
Free at last, meeting face to face  
I am yours, Jesus, You are mine

Endless joy, perfect peace  
Earthly pain finally will cease  
Celebrate, Jesus is alive  
He's alive

And oh, happy day, happy day  
You washed my sin away  
Oh, happy day, happy day  
I'll never be the same  
Oh no, forever I am changed

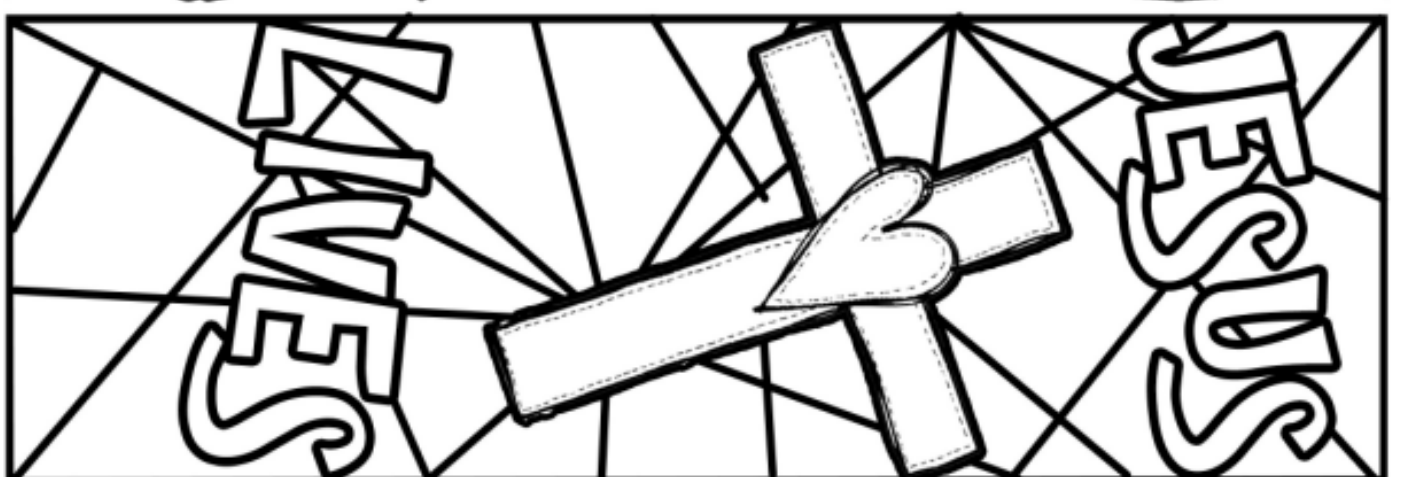
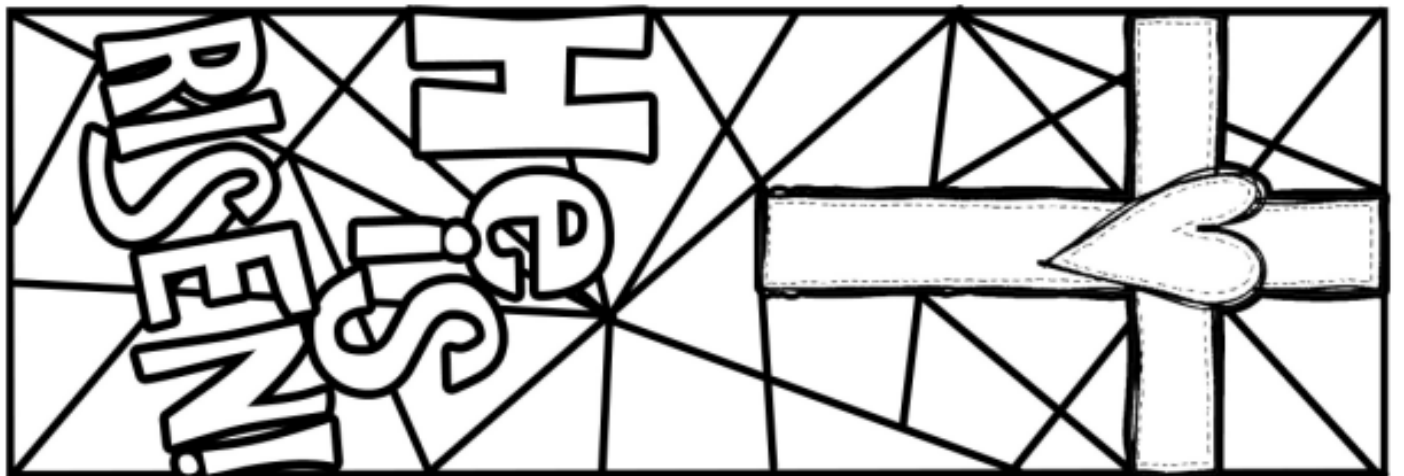
Oh, what a glorious day  
What a glorious way  
That You have saved me  
And oh, what a glorious day  
What a glorious name

Hey, and oh, happy day, happy day  
You washed my sin away  
Oh, happy day, happy day  
I'll never be the same  
Oh no, forever I am changed  
What a glorious, glorious day  
I'll never be the same

## Pray

Father God,  
we come to you  
because you turn doubt into hope,  
tears into laughter  
and fear into fearlessness.

We come to you  
because on Easter Sunday  
and on every other day,  
we can say, 'Jesus is alive!'  
**Amen.**



## Wordsearch

W L M X C Z F Y P E B E N V F  
R N E R K C L A P L C N G L J  
Y K O G U X V S O E V I L A Y  
B S G U N L H J I I J A Y R C  
S I N R P A F X S J W M A J T  
S F S I K A L S W A A M T I S  
U Z D V B B J S I I V R P G V  
P Z C R Z M H F L M M I P T Q  
G W F R U O N V G G Q C O W G  
J C V X B T D J N R D C L U B  
A D I S C I P L E S O Z W J R  
K E A N P J G M U Y J T K E V  
U T A S G C B N F D F O X S G  
U F J O Y B U L W O X B B U Y  
B C W C G X M L A N D F J S N

ALIVE  
ANGEL  
CROSS  
DISCIPLES  
JESUS  
JOY  
MARY  
SAVIOUR  
TOMB