

Jesus is Alive Again

Jesus is Alive Again.....	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture.....	1
Players.....	2
Special Props.....	3
Script – Jesus is Alive Again	4
Supplemental information.....	6
Extra time.....	7

Scene Summary

Jesus is alive again presents the joyful story of the resurrection of Christ. Scenes include: the woman coming to the tomb with spices...the angel tells them He is risen...they hurry to tell the disciples...the men to not believe the story...Peter and John run to investigate...Mary Magdalene meets the “Gardener” and tearfully asked where Jesus’ body has been taken...when He speaks, she recognizes her Lord...she hurries to tell disciples she has seen him...they believe her story.

Scripture

(Luke 24:1-12 NIV) On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. {2} They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, {3} but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. {4} While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. {5} In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? {6} He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: {7} "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." {8} Then they remembered his words. {9} When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. {10} It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. {11} But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. {12} Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

(Mark 16:1-11 NIV) When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. {2} Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb {3} and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" {4} But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. {5} As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. {6} "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was

crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. {7} But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" {8} Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. {9} When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. {10} She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. {11} When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

(John 20:1-18 NIV) Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. {2} So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" {3} So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. {4} Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. {5} He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. {6} Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, {7} as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. {8} Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. {9} (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) {10} Then the disciples went back to their homes, {11} but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb {12} and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. {13} They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." {14} At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. {15} "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." {16} Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). {17} Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" {18} Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Mary** – I have seen the Lord!
- **Salome** – Friend of Mary.
- **Angel** – He is not here!
- **Peter, John** – Hearing the news, they hurry to the tomb.
- **Disciples** – More disciples can be added as needed.
- **Jesus** – He is Risen!

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

Script – Jesus is Alive Again

Narrator: Sunday morning, just as the sun was coming up, several women hurried along the quiet streets of Jerusalem. They walked quietly. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome could see their long shadows moving quickly ahead of them. Sadly they walked up the path to the cave tomb. They carried spices for Jesus' body.

Mary: Who will roll away the large stone from the door?

Salome: [all stopping and looking ahead] Someone has already rolled back the stone! [They walk ahead slowly and look inside]

Narrator: When they looking inside the tomb, it was empty.

Mary: [somewhat confused] What could have happened to Him? [now turned frightened] Perhaps His enemies have stolen His body.

Narrator: Suddenly, two angels appeared to the women.

Angel: Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He had risen! Now go and tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you into Galilee, just as he told you.

Narrator: The women were excited and amazed. Quickly they began to hurry back to the city and they told the other disciples everything they saw and heard.

Peter: [emphatically] I don't believe it!

Narrator: The disciples remembered that the rulers had sealed the tomb and set a Roman guard there. Peter and John hurried out. They ran through the streets of the city, to the narrow pathways that lead to the tomb. John was the youngest, so he ran faster than Peter. When John got to the tomb, he stooped to look inside. When Peter caught up, he walked right past John and into the tomb. John went inside too.

Peter: [with emphasis] It is gone! Jesus' body is gone!

Narrator: On the stone shelf, there were the cloths that had covered His body. There, by itself, was the cloth that had covered His head. Slowly the men turned and walked home. Mary had followed them back to the tomb. She was very sad. She turned and looked into the tomb again.

Mary: [to herself] Where could they have taken Him?

Narrator: Slowly she stood up and began to walk away. Mary was crying so hard, she did not see the Man at first. Mary noticed that He was watching her.

Mary: [to herself] It is the gardener. Perhaps he knows where they have taken the body. [going up to the Man and still crying]

Jesus: Woman, why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?

Mary: [still crying] Oh Sir, if you have taken the body away, please tell me where it is. I will find some place to bury it.

Jesus: [with comfort] Mary.

Narrator: Mary knew that voice.

Mary: [excited] Teacher! [falls at His feet and holds on to His legs.]

Narrator: [with excitement] Mary could hardly believe that it was true. Jesus was alive again! He had spoken to her. She could see Him! She could hold Him!

Jesus: Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go and tell my disciples that I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

Mary: [nodding, and to herself] What wonderful news! What a happy day!

Narrator: Quickly, Mary turned and ran back to the city with the wonderful news.

Mary: [to herself] Jesus is alive again! Jesus is alive again! He is truly the savior.

Narrator: Mary ran into the house where the sad disciples were.

Mary: [shouting] Jesus is alive! I have seen Him! He talked to me!

Narrator: The disciples stared at her.

Disciple: [questioning] Could this be true?

Mary: [emphatically] Jesus is alive!

The End

Supplemental information

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each wrote of the events concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus. They each told part of the story. None told the whole story, but each told a part that was important. For each of us, it is difficult for us to understand the details, and in the order in which they occurred. We can't be sure if the three women started out together, or Mary Magdalene went alone and the others joined her later. One scholar suggest that maybe the women agreed to meet at the tomb early Sunday morning, Mary arrived first, found the tomb empty, then ran to tell the disciples. Perhaps while she was gone, the other woman came and waited at the tomb.

North of the city there were little hills where there were small gardens with walls around them. In one of these gardens, Joseph of Arimathea had made for himself a tomb. It was probably cut out of the rock in the hillside. As was the custom in those days, the tomb was like a small room. There was a rock shelf to hold the body of the dead person. Joseph offered his tomb for the body of Jesus.

Palestine is a hot country. The Jews did not embalm the bodies of their dead. So a funeral was held hastily and the body was buried a few hours after death. Usually the body was washed, then covered in spices, and then wrapped in clean white cloth. A square of linen was used to cover the head. On the third day, it was customary for the women to come to the tomb with more spices.

Mary Magdalene had loved Jesus. She had been troubled by seven demons and Jesus had freed her of them. Now she was well and happy. The other women that came to the tomb were Mary the mother of James, and Salome. We know very little about these women.

When Mary Magdalene told the disciples that the body of Jesus had been stolen, they were stunned. They wondered how this could be. They knew that the chief priest and the Pharisees had told Pilate that He would come alive after three days. They told Pilate that they were afraid that Jesus' disciples would come and steal the body, then pretend that Jesus was alive. So Pilate told the soldiers to seal the tomb and place soldiers there to guard it.

Matthew tells us that there was an earthquake and that an angel rolled back the stone. The guards fainted. Perhaps by the time that the women arrived, the solders had left. Of course, the disciples did not know what had happened. Peter and John raced to the tomb. John outran Peter, but he was too timid to go in. Bold Peter went directly in and John followed him. Apparently they did not know what to think, so they went back to the city. They did not believe Mary when she told them that Jesus was alive and that He had talked with her. Perhaps they thought she imagined that she had seen Him.

Later that day, Jesus appeared to the two disciples on their way to the city of Emmaus. Still later, Jesus appeared to the disciples together and talked with them. Then they knew for sure that Jesus was alive again.

Extra time

If you have a year-round tree (or branch planted in sand) in your classroom, decorate it for Easter with construction paper eggs that the children make. Cut out egg shapes from colored construction paper. Provide materials with which children may decorate their eggs: lace, gummed stars and crowns, ribbon, rickrack, gummed crosses and alphabet letter, crayons, paper doilies.

Let children arrange their own design. A teacher may help young children spell out “Joy”, “Love” or “He Lives” on the eggs. When design is completed to the child’s satisfaction, tape a loop of string to the egg and let the child hang it on the tree. It will remind children that we are glad that Jesus is alive!

Older children may enjoy making egg shaped Easter cards to give to parents, shut-ins, or friends. For example, instead of cutting single shapes from colored construction paper, cut on the fold to form a double card. Children will enjoy decorating the cards. Perhaps they will want to print a Bible verse inside, such as the first part of Luke 24:6 “**He is not here; he has risen!**”