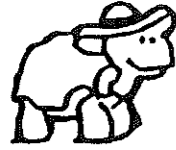


As sure as my name is
Zebedee the turtle,
I've never spent such
an exciting weekend!
Listen to this.



My Lord Is Back

The Resurrection Matthew 28:1-20

I was in the garden with Jesus, after the Passover supper. I may be just a turtle, but I knew something terrible was about to happen. While Jesus was praying, soldiers came with Judas. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek so the soldiers would know who He was. (I never did trust Judas.) They arrested Jesus and put Him through a quick trial. Just as Jesus had predicted, He was crucified. Everyone was sad. The disciples were afraid, and they hid in the upper room. Jesus' mother and some other women stayed near Jesus until His body was put in a tomb. That was on Friday.

That night I slept near His tomb. Guards came. I heard them say that the chief priests had remembered what Jesus had said about rising on the third day. The guards had been sent to watch the tomb. The weather was dark and dreary. I've never been so sad and miserable in all my life. I tried to keep thinking about Jesus' words: "On the third day I will rise again."

At dawn, on the third day after He had died, suddenly there was a violent earthquake. An angel appeared and rolled back the stone from the entrance of the tomb. I had never seen an angel before. The guards were afraid and ran away. I wanted to run away, but I was too afraid to move a muscle in my turtle legs. Then Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary came to the tomb. At first they were afraid too, but the angel told them not to be afraid. He told them that Jesus was not there, that He had risen from the dead and was going to Galilee. I was filled with joy! The Lord had risen! The women hurried off to tell His disciples. I followed them.

On the road, suddenly Jesus appeared. The women bowed down and worshiped Him. Jesus told them not to be afraid. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me," He said. The women hurried off to find the disciples to tell them that Jesus was risen. That was the fastest I have ever run. I ran all the way back to Galilee. I just wanted to be there to see the disciple's faces when they found out that Jesus was alive.

Challenge

Read: Matthew 28:1-20

Memorize:

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said"

Matthew 28:6

Seek to find:

1. Jesus talking to Mary
2. a four-leaf clover
3. frightened guards
4. an angel
5. two women with boxes
6. disciples on their way to the tomb
7. a woman with a jug of water on her head
8. a boy sharing his breakfast with his cat
9. a butterfly
10. a strangely shaped cloud
11. a spider web
12. Do you see Zebedee?

Do:

1. Make a butterfly to remind you of the resurrection story. Use a clothespin for the body and colored, crumpled tissue paper for the wings.
2. Make a poster. Print the words "Jesus Has Risen!" on construction paper or poster board. Outline the letters with paints, markers, or glitter. Add the memory verse.
3. Start an indoor spring flower garden. Begin by filling an egg carton with soil. Push several seeds into the soil in each section of the egg carton. Water. Set the planter in a sunny window. Keep the soil moist until the plants begin to sprout. Then water every other day.
4. Write a jump rope rhyme to celebrate that Jesus has risen. Try it out.
5. Make celebration sundaes. Crush cookies, chop fruit, or use raisins and nuts to top yogurt or ice cream.

