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Bible Story: Matthew 28:1-18

Divide students into two reading groups. Have them read the rhyming story with feeling and enthusiasm.

#### **Group 1**

Early in the morning, before the sky was light, Mary Magdalene went out and saw a scary sight.

#### Group 2

Jesus' tomb was empty; the door was open wide! She ran to Simon Peter; "They've taken Him!" she cried.

### **Group 1**

Had someone really stolen Jesus' body in the night? John and Peter ran back to the tomb in awful fright.

# **Group 2**

There was no body in the tomb, just strips of cloth were there, The cloth He had been wrapped up in. All they could do was stare.

# Group 1

They did not remember what Jesus Christ had said, That after dying, in three days He'd rise from the dead.

# **Group 2**

They both went back to their homes, but Mary stayed and cried.

When she looked into the tomb, two angels were inside.

(Continued on next page.)





Bible Story: Matthew 28:1-18 (cont.)

#### Group 1

"Why are you crying?" the angels asked. "What is wrong with you?" "They've taken Him away," she said, "and I don't know what to do!"

### **Group 2**

She turned around and suddenly saw a man nearby. When He spoke her name she recognized Him with a cry.

#### **Group 1**

She saw that it was Jesus, alive as He could be!
"Go tell the others," Jesus said, "that you have just seen Me."

#### **Both Groups**

Jesus was alive again! And Mary did just what He said. She told all His disciples, "He has risen from the dead!"

#### Discussion

- Why do you think Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb so early in the morning?
- Why did not Peter and John immediately realize that Jesus had come back to life?
- How do you think the disciples reacted when Mary told them she had seen Jesus, alive?
- Read the memory verse below. Jesus did not just die; He conquered death by coming back to life. That is why those who trust in Him are "justified" or saved from our sins. Say the memory verse in your own words.

# **Memory Verse**

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." (Romans 4:25)





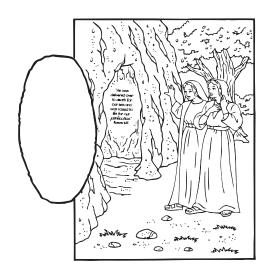
#### **Craft Materials**

- patterns on pages 100 and 101
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- tape

- white cardstock
- scissors

#### **Craft Directions**

- 1. Copy the patterns on cardstock.
- 2. Color and cut out the patterns.
- 3. Tape the rock over the door of the tomb. Tape it only on the left side.
- 4. Flip open the rock to read what happened to Jesus.



**Finished Product** 

### **Rock Pattern**

