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# Living in Faith Together

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## April 2023

### Christ is Risen!



#### **Theme and Scripture**

Jesus came back from the dead, so that we  
could have new life now and forever.

**Matthew 28:1-10**



Also available online at [www.hosannatogether.org/lift](http://www.hosannatogether.org/lift)

# LiFT with Children...

## Read this story together in a Bible:

### Spark Story Bible:

The Empty Tomb - pages 482-487

Doubting Thomas - pages 492-495

### The Action Bible:

The Sealed Tomb - pages 709-712

Seeing Jesus Again - pages 713-718

*The Action Bible was updated,  
so check the provided page  
numbers to make sure the  
title matches your Bible*

## Ask each other some questions:

- What is the scariest part of this story? The most exciting part?
- What would it have been like to be with the women who found the stone rolled away? What feelings would they have?
- What feelings do you think they had when they saw Jesus again?
- If Jesus died and rose from the dead, what do you think happens when people die? If they aren't still here, where do they go?

## Check out these videos:

### • God is With Us

<https://youtu.be/XOgKAAuEpcE>

### • 1, 2, 3, Jesus is Alive Song

<https://youtu.be/9ibQLITQ0eY>



## Do a few activities that fit you:

- Take turns sharing memories about loved ones who have died, like grand- and great-grandparents. Give a prayer of thanks for the ways you have been blessed by them in person and/or in story.
- Visit the gravesite of loved ones. Leave a token or plant a flower. Think of the blessings and share stories about those who are gone. Give thanks that they are with God.
- Choose one person to be an angel who hides somewhere in the house. Everyone else pretends to be the women on Easter morning. Look for Jesus all around the house. Have the angel tell you, "Jesus is alive!" when you find him/her.
- There are many signs of life outdoors. As a family, go on a nature hunt and search for things that remind you that Jesus is alive! Share with one another what you found and how it reminds you of Jesus.

- The angel rolled away the stone! Gather a collection of rocks that are large enough to paint a word or picture on them related to Easter. Use paints, paint markers, or permanent markers to decorate them. Give them as gifts, save them to put out as Easter decorations next year, or add them as special treasures to find in next year's egg hunt.

***See the Pray Together and Keep Thinking on the back...***

## LiFT with Teens or Adults...

**Read and discuss:** Matthew 28:1-10 - Jesus' Resurrection

- What is Jesus' message?
- Why would Jesus tell them that he has gone ahead of them? What might God be doing ahead of you for your future?
- It's good that God isn't dead. But what difference does Jesus' resurrection make in our lives?

**Read and discuss:** John 20:1-18 - Jesus Appears to Mary

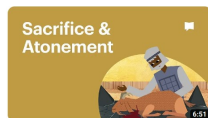
- How is this telling of the resurrection different than in Matthew? What does this one emphasize, and why is that significant?
- Mary comes out of her stupor when Jesus says her name. What do you think is the significance of that? What would happen if Jesus said your name like that?

**Read and discuss:** John 20:19-29 - Jesus Appears to Disciples

- Why do you think Jesus starts with "Peace be with you"?
- What is happening when Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on them?
- What do you make of Thomas' doubt and belief? What is your relationship with faith and doubt?

**Check out these videos:**

- **Bible Project - Resurrection of Jesus**  
<https://youtu.be/Vb24Lk1Oh5M>
- **Bible Project - Sacrifice and Atonement**  
[https://youtu.be/G\\_OIRWGLdnw](https://youtu.be/G_OIRWGLdnw)
- **Pastor Mike's Telling - Christ the Victor**  
<https://youtu.be/GIOS6bzhYF8>



## Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Look through the activity options for kids. There are some that are suitable for any age.
- Connect with someone who lost a loved one along with you (a spouse, sibling, parent, friend, etc.). Talk about what your loved one meant to you and your belief that they are with God.
- Send a card to someone who lost a loved one in the past year. Let them know that you're thinking about them, and that they are important. Even better, make a plan to do something with them!
- Share a time when you thought your life was over. Then tell how you've discovered new life since that time. What difference has God made for you?
- Pull out a hymnal. Look for hymns that celebrate life and give you joy. Sing it. If you have a piano or other instrument, play it. Or see if you can find a recording in your collection or online. Learn more about your favorite Easter hymn at [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).

## Pray Together--this or a prayer you make up:

Dear Jesus, we're glad you are alive. But sometimes we have a hard time believing you are there and that you care about us. When that happens, help us remember all the love you showed, including through your death. Raise us up every day, and someday, when the time is right, unite us with all your loved ones with you in heaven.

## Keep Thinking:

Be on the lookout for signs of new life--a baby, a flower, a new restaurant, a bird, whatever. In that moment, thank God for the gift of life, including your own.

### What is LiFT?

**L**iving **i**n **F**aith **T**ogether is a monthly series of conversations and activities to grow your connection with God and others. We encourage you to LiFT the second Sunday of each month, but you can choose *any* day. Just be intentional

### Who do I LiFT with?

Anyone and everyone! LiFT at home with kids, grandkids, or a spouse (or all of them!). Invite grown kids over or talk on the phone/online. Gather friends or neighbors over for a snack.