



Accounts of the Risen Jesus

Reflecting in the Easter Season

The season of Easter is a time when we can reflect on the resurrection and what this means for us. We revisit our Baptism, where we first received the light of the Risen Christ. We see God’s plan unfolding through the appearances of Jesus to his apostles and disciples.

The chart below gives scriptural references to these stories. You might like to explore these stories together as a family, or your older children might like to do this on their own.

What treasures can we find? What secrets can we uncover? Who did Jesus appear to?

Reflecting on Scripture as a family

If you have not had time to make a special place for the Bible in your home, you might like to refer to our [“Enthronement of the Bible”](#) article for tips. In the Bible, we encounter the true presence of God. His voice resounds in our midst speaking to each listener in an individual way. What is it that God will say to your children or to you? You may even consider giving each child in your family their own Bible.



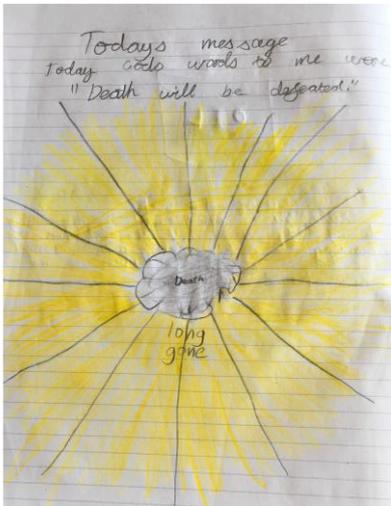
Setting the scene

- Ideally find a quiet place away from other distractions.
- Light a candle to remember God is present in His Word.
- Invite everyone to be comfortable, still, ready to listen.

Reading and Reflecting on the Scripture

- If the children have their own Bible, help them to find the reference so that they can read along. (For tips on this, refer to [How to find a scripture reference](#) from CGSUSA).
- You might begin with a brief introduction, such as: “This happened after Jesus Rose from the dead...”
- Read the words of the scripture slowly and solemnly, pausing between sentences to allow reflection if appropriate.

When you have finished reading the scripture, invite the children to share with you what they heard. “What did you hear?” Allow them to share anything they heard without commenting on your own thoughts (yet). Children often hear things we overlook! Is there a word or phrase that stood out especially for them? Why? What could Jesus be saying to us in this?



You may decide to read the passage again to see if there is more to hear, more that God is trying to say to us.

Responding to the reading of God’s Word

What can we say thank you to God for in what we have just heard? Is there something else you might say to God? Maybe take a moment of silence to speak to God in your hearts. Is there a song you would like to sing?

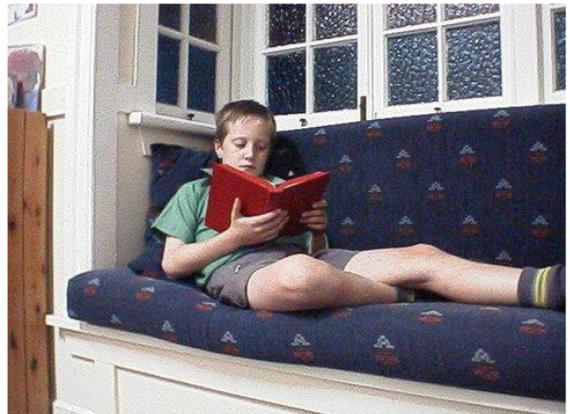
Consider together the ways in which you could continue to reflect on and remember what it is God has spoken to you. In the atrium we invite children to write in their journals, draw or paint, or go to a quiet space to be with God on their own. They may also choose to re-read the scripture during this quiet time with God.



A note to parents about reflecting with questions

In the atrium, when we share a scripture with the children, we endeavor to ask questions that will lead the children to reflect further, rather than giving them the answers or our own thoughts. We want the children to feel that there is always more to discover and that this reflecting and discovering will have no end.

One example of this for our youngest children. We never tell the children that we are the sheep of the Good Shepherd. We proclaim the Good Shepherd parable and the words of Jesus as he says, "I am the Good Shepherd." We ponder together, who are these sheep? How must it feel to be loved by this shepherd? What must it be like to be called by name?



In the Appearance Narratives, some examples of these questions might be:

- What must it have been like to see Jesus alive?
- What does it mean "Our hearts burning within us?"
- Jesus said, "Peace be with you." What kind of peace might this have been?

Let the children lead you and rejoice in their insights and if little is spoken trust that God is at work on the inside doing far more than we can dream of or imagine.

Appearance of the Risen Jesus				
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<i>To Mary Magdalen</i>	28: 8-10	16: 9-11		20: 11-18
<i>On the road to Emmaus</i>		16: 12-13	24:13-35	
<i>To the disciples (Cenacle)</i>				20: 19-23
<i>To the apostles (Cenacle)</i>		16: 14	24: 36-43	20: 24-29
<i>By the Sea of Tiberias</i>				21: 1-17
<i>On a hill in Galilee</i>	28: 16-20	16: 15-18		
<i>At Jerusalem</i>			24: 44-49	
<i>The Ascension</i>		16: 19-20	24: 50-53	
<i>Pentecost</i>	Acts of the Apostles: 2: 1-13			