

# The Empty Tomb

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Matthew 28:1-10**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Easter Day**

Lesson Focus  
**Peek-a-boo, Jesus, I see  
you!**



### Gather (10 minutes)

#### Center Time

Kids play with sand, make a butterfly, and color Bible story pictures.

#### Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



#### Supplies

Whistle, clean sand, containers for sand, measuring cups and spoons, coffee filters, watercolor markers, non-clip clothes pins, spray bottle with water, blank paper, crayons

#### Circle Time

Kids check out the empty Holy Spirit Surprise Sack, hear about the church season, and hunt for plastic eggs.

Leaflet

Gift bag, plastic Easter eggs, small treats, paper

#### Prayer Time

Kids pray and smell perfume.

None

Small bowl, perfume, cotton balls

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

#### The Empty Tomb Storytelling

Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

#### Supplies

None

#### Peek-A-Boo Jesus card

Kids make a card.

Lesson Stickers

Construction paper, crayons or markers

#### Empty Tomb

Kids add a sticker to the leaflet.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

None

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Women Walking</b> Kids find hidden pictures on the leaflet.	Leaflets	Crayons or markers
<b>Surprises!</b> Kids explore surprises.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Crayons or markers
<b>Shakin' Eggs</b> Kids make a musical instrument.	None	Plastic Easter eggs, small pebbles, Easter stickers, glue, CD player, CD

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids share the good-bye rhyme.	Leaflets	None
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray a rock prayer.	Family Pages 	Rock



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Center Time

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You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, blow the whistle. **When you hear the whistle blow, what time is it? It's time to clean up our toys to get ready for Circle Time.**

### Empty/Full

Set out a few tubs with clean sand. Add containers and measuring cups and spoons. Encourage the kids to fill and empty the containers. **Which holds the most? Was the tomb empty or full when the women went to visit?**

### Butterfly Art

Set out the coffee filters and watercolor markers. Have the kids color the coffee filters with lots of colors. When they are done, spray the coffee filters with the water bottle to make the color run and bleed. Set the coffee filters aside to dry. Later, pinch the top and bottom of the coffee filter together and fasten with a non-clip clothes pin. The clothes pin will be the head and body of the butterfly and the coffee filters will be the wings.

### Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

### Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



### Supplies

Whistle  
Clean sand  
Containers for sand  
Measuring cups and spoons  
Coffee filters  
Watercolor markers  
Non-clip clothes pins  
Spray bottle with water  
Blank paper  
Crayons

## Circle Time

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*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for learners who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

**Welcome, friends! We are all here to learn about God. Let's sing our welcome song and see who is here today.** Sing to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush".

**Now it's time for Spark Time,  
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Now it's time for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Gift Bag  
Plastic Easter eggs  
Small treats  
Paper

(Name's) here for Spark Time,  
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.

(Name's) here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

Hold up the gift bag. **Today's surprise from the Holy Spirit Surprise Sack is the biggest surprise of all.** Tip the bag over and try to empty the sack. **There is nothing in the Surprise Sack. There is nothing at all. I was expecting something really important, but the Surprise Sack is completely empty! When the women went to the tomb to take care of Jesus' body, they were expecting to see something important, too, but what they saw was an empty tomb. We'll talk more about the empty tomb later. Let's go around the circle and you can all take a turn peeking into the empty sack.** Continue around the circle until everyone has a turn.

Hold the leaflet up for everyone to see. **Let's see what's on our leaflet. I see a cross in an egg shape. That's because the season is Easter and the color is white. The white color reminds us that it is a special time when we think about Jesus dying on the cross and then rising again.**

Write "Jesus loves you!" on small pieces of paper and put the messages and small treats in the eggs. Hide the eggs around the classroom. **To get ready for storytelling, we're going to have an egg hunt. Go look around the room and find the eggs that are hidden. Bring the eggs back here, and when we have enough for everyone, we'll open them up to see the surprises inside.** Give the kids a few minutes to hunt for the eggs. Try to help everyone find an egg. When all the eggs are found, gather in your circle area and open the eggs. **What do you think the messages say in your eggs? They all say, "Jesus loves you!" Jesus loves all of us so much! Do you want to eat your treats now? We'll use the eggs later.**

## Prayer Time

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*Before using any fragrances, always check with caregivers for learners who are sensitive to them. Adjust the activity if necessary.*

Pour a few drops of perfume on the cotton ball. **The women brought sweet-smelling perfume to put around Jesus. We're going to smell a little sweet perfume while we pray. Can everyone smell it? Do you like the smell?**

**Dear Jesus,  
We thank you for loving us so much. We love you just like the women who came to take care of you. Amen.**

**Spark Resources**  
None

**Supplies**  
Small bowl  
Perfume  
Cotton balls

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## The Empty Tomb Storytelling

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Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to The Empty Tomb on pages 482-486. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

**What do the women find in the tomb?** (*nothing, an angel, bright light*)

**What is their new job?** (*tell the others the good news that Jesus is alive again*)

**Who can we tell the good news?**

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

### Supplies

None

## Peek-A-Boo Jesus Card

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Cut the construction paper in half. Fold both ends toward the center and crease. Pass the cards and stickers to each kid. **We're going to make a card with a peek-a-boo Jesus. Open your cards and let's put our stickers inside. When we close our cards, we won't be able to see Jesus, but when we open our cards: Peek-a-boo! There he is! Let's use our crayons to decorate the rest of our cards.**

### Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Construction paper  
Crayons or markers

## Empty Tomb

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Pass out the leaflets and butterfly stickers. **Look at the picture of the women on the front of our leaflets. They are peeking into the tomb to look for Jesus. Did they see Jesus? No! How do you think they are feeling in the picture? How do they look? I think they look surprised! Let's all make our faces look surprised! You can add a butterfly sticker to the picture.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

None

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Women Walking

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**Let's turn our leaflets to the other side. Look carefully at the women walking. There are pictures hidden in the drawing. There are a few things that you would not expect to see hidden in the drawing. The women are going to see something they aren't expecting, too. They are not going to find Jesus in the tomb. They are going to find him alive. What a big surprise! Let's use our crayons to circle the little surprises on our leaflet.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Crayons or markers

## Surprises!

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Pass out the bunny and the other butterfly stickers. **On the other part of our leaflet, there are more surprises!** Talk about all the pictures of surprises. **Where do you think the bunny sticker goes? Near the magician's hat, that's right. What comes out of a cocoon? A butterfly! And a butterfly reminds us of Easter, too. Let's add our butterfly sticker near the cocoon. Who wants to tell me a story about one of the surprises in the picture? What happened? Who was surprised? Do you think it was a happy surprise?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Crayons or markers

## Shakin' Eggs

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Pass out the project supplies. **Easter is such a happy day. It makes us want to dance and sing and laugh! We're going to make Easter music today.** Help the kids put a few pebbles inside their eggs. Run a little glue around the edges before you close the eggs. Allow kids to decorate their eggs with Easter stickers. **When we shake our eggs they make happy music, don't they? Let's shake our Easter shakin' eggs while we listen to music.** Play a few songs on the CD while the kids shake their eggs.

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Plastic Easter eggs  
Small pebbles  
Easter stickers  
Glue  
CD player  
CD

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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**It's time for our blessing.** The blessing song is sung to the tune of "Good Night Ladies."

**God bless [Name].** ASL *bless* sign.

**God bless [Name].** ASL *bless* sign.

**God bless [Name],** ASL *bless* sign.

**God bless me!** Point to self.

Repeat the blessing song until everyone has been blessed. At the end of the blessing song, shout out today's lesson focus. **Peek-a-boo Jesus, I see you! Peek-a-boo Jesus, I see you! Peek-a-boo Jesus, I see you!**

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

None



**Bless**

## Prayer Time

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**We're going to say a rock prayer. What was in front of the tomb where Jesus was buried? A big, big rock, that's right. It was rolled away and the tomb was empty, wasn't it? We're going to take turns holding the rock, and when our turn is over, we'll gently roll the rock across the floor to the next person.**

**Dear Jesus,**

**Thank you for dying on the cross and rising again for us. We know you did that because you love us so much. You love [Name].** Say each kid's name while the rock rolls around the circle.

**Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Rock