

Here we are - still at home but there has been a change... we have experienced Easter Sunday! This begins a beautiful season of new life and rebirth... Even though we are still at home in our cocoons - we will soon emerge as new butterflies.

Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' most loyal followers. He accepted her and loved her and she was his dear friend. We often hear only of Jesus' male followers but women also followed Jesus. Mary and Jesus were very close. Mary was the first to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection. She was afraid and found it hard to believe that Jesus was really alive. But when she had time to understand, her fear soon turned into wonderment and joy. When she saw Jesus herself, she ran to tell the others and told them that Jesus was alive. Like Mary, we too can tell the good news of Jesus and give others the hope of new life.



SCRIPTURE:

**"...Do not be alarmed; ...
He (Jesus) has been raised;
he is not here." -Mark 16:6**

BIBLE BACKGROUND (Mark 16:1-11):

The Sabbath was over. It was against Jewish law to prepare a body for burial on the Sabbath, so the women had to wait and go to the tomb early in the morning of the following day. Three women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome had prepared spices to anoint the body of Jesus as was the custom. As they walked toward the tomb where Jesus' body lay, they wondered among themselves how they would move the great stone that sealed the entrance to the tomb. When they reached the tomb, they were amazed to see the stone had been rolled away. Carefully they entered the tomb and saw a young man dressed completely in white sitting where Jesus' body had been. They were frightened.

The young man, who they thought was the gardener, told them not to be afraid. He said, "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." The three women ran from the tomb frightened. At first they stayed quiet, but then Mary told the disciples Jesus was alive.

ACTIVITIES:

Family Discussion:

1. What were the emotions that Mary felt from when she first went to the tomb until she saw Jesus alive?
2. How can you turn fear into wonderment?
3. Where do you see new life?
4. What things have changed in you during this time at home to make you feel new?

Color a Butterfly:

Attached is a butterfly coloring page.

New Life Scavenger Hunt:

See how many of these things you can spot outside that represent new life:

- Flower
- Leaf
- Green Grass
- Insect
- Bird
- Seed

Research - Why does Easter fall on different Sundays each year?:

When is Easter 2021? Can you figure out why? I'll give you a clue - it has to do with the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. If you get stumped, let me know and I will help.

PRAYER:

Dear God,
Thank you for the story
of Mary and how she helped to
spread your love and the promise
of new life. Help me to see the new
life all around as a reminder of your
love. Give my family comfort and
hope and lead us to new ways of
loving each other and our world.
Thank you for the gift of Easter
and for loving me.

I love you.

Amen

