

# Jesus appears to the women at the grave



Mark 16 : 1-10 / Matthew 28 : 5-10

*On the third day after Jesus had been crucified, several women went to his grave. They found it open and empty. An angel announced to them that Jesus had risen and that they should go and tell his disciples. Whilst on their way back, Mary Magdalene had an encounter with the risen Jesus; she saw that he lived!*

The children learn that Jesus lives,  
although his human body had to die.

**I**t is early morning. The sun has not yet risen and it is still fairly dark. In the twilight three women are on their way to the cave where Jesus' body had been laid. Their faces are sorrowful and downcast. No one speaks, yet they are glad about each other's company. Each woman is busy with her own thoughts.

The name of the one is Mary Magdalene. "Only a few days ago I was still so happy—I had such a wonderful friend in Jesus," she muses, "if only it could have remained that way! He spoke so beautifully... but he was very serious in the last days. He often said: 'I have to suffer and die. I cannot remain here.' He spoke the truth. Now it has happened, now he is dead!" Mary Magdalene weeps softly to herself.

One of her companions, Salome, despairs: "Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? He often said that he would have to suffer, but why? What purpose did his suffering serve? I simply cannot understand it!"

1

The third woman's name is Mary. She is a little older than the others. She is worried about who will roll away the huge, heavy stone with which the tomb is sealed.

Finally the grieving women reach the tomb. But here a new shock awaits them. The tomb is open, the stone has been rolled away! "Thieves! The grave has been plundered!" cries Mary as she steps back in horror.

"Surely that can't be true!" Fearfully Mary Magdalene enters the tomb. She goes down the few steps into the crypt. There is an eerie silence. Her eyes slowly become accustomed to the darkness. With faltering steps, her two friends follow her to the entrance.

2

A man dressed in a snow-white robe, awaits them. It is an angel. "Do not be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. Come and look!" he says. Mary Magdalene can see for herself: The Lord Jesus is no longer lying where he was placed two days ago! Some winding sheets are lying there, but the tomb is empty! "The Lord is not here. Why do you seek him with the dead? Did he not often say that he would rise from the dead? Go back and tell his disciples," instructs the angel.

Mary Magdalene turns back—she hesitates. She does not know whether to be joyful or sorrowful at what she has heard. Everything Jesus Christ has said, flashes through her mind. Suddenly, crystal clearly, his words come back to her: "I am the resurrection and the life." Now she understands the meaning of these words. Filled with renewed hope and strength, she turns to her waiting companions: "He lives!" she calls out to them and her eyes sparkle with joy and hope.

## Jesus Christ is the resurrection

But Salome is becoming frightened. She does not want to speak to anyone about what she has heard. Terrified, she rushes home. The two other women repeat over and over again what the angel has told them. Will the disciples believe them? As the sun has now risen, they do not have to watch the road so carefully any more. Completely engrossed in conversation, they briskly walk homewards. Suddenly a man stands before them. He speaks to them, saying: "Greetings." Surprised, they look at him more closely. They recognize him immediately: It is Jesus himself! The women fall down at his feet. They want to embrace him and hold him so that he cannot leave them again. But Jesus forestalls them and says kindly: "Do not be afraid. Go to the disciples and remind



*Mary looked for the body of the Lord Jesus in the tomb.  
But she did not find him, he had risen.*

them of everything I have told them." Jesus has hardly uttered these words, when he disappears again.

Mary asks Mary Magdalene: "Was that a dream?" But Mary Magdalene laughs as she replies joyfully: "I saw Jesus! I must tell everyone that he lives! I feel that he is close to me. God's love is stronger than death and the evil of man. Come, let us go and tell the disciples first!" Happily they hurry back.

3



*God's messengers show us the way to Jesus Christ. He lives!*

- 1 Children, can you understand why the Lord Jesus had to die?**  
**If we only think of the Lord's death, we cannot understand it either.**  
**It is only when we think of his resurrection, that things become clear to us.**
- 2 The children look at the picture and describe what Mary Magdalene sees in the tomb:**  
**The angel is a messenger of God who comforts Mary by showing her that Jesus had risen. We also have messengers of God today who want to show us our glorious future. They are the ministers, God's servants, who help us on our way home.**
- 3 Jesus Christ also lives today! How can we be assured of this? If we believe in him and trust him, we will experience how he gives us strength and confidence in all circumstances.**  
**That gives us courage and power. But this can only happen if we give him room in our heart.**