

Family Devotional

From April 16, 2017

Act it Out: Gather whatever props you want to act out the Easter story. You might read through the story once as a group and then pick parts and decide on props. Make this as elaborate or as improvised as your group wants to!

Read: Mark 15:42-16:8; Luke 24:9-12; Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:11-20

If you were making up this story is this how you would have written it? What details would you have been tempted to add or leave out?

The beauty of this story is that it is not a fairy tale made up to inspire, but it is a true story! This is what really happened. It is many of these seemingly small details that help us know we can trust the Bible as a true account.

One of the most amazing things is that God chose to tell women first that Jesus was alive! In Jesus' time, the word of a woman was not regarded as highly as that of a man, but God knew He had created them equally so to remind us of that He shared this most wonderful news first to the women that came to honor Jesus, as well as with His male disciples.

Some people have tried to say that Jesus was not really dead, but He had just fainted. However, the Roman centurion that Pilate talked to would have been skilled in the task of crucifixion. If he lied or was wrong about the person really being dead, all responsibility would have laid on him. He had no reason to lie and every reason to be certain.

Other people have tried to say maybe the disciples stole the body. The Pharisees thought about this too, as we read in Matthew 27, so not only was there a huge stone that would have taken many men to move, the tomb was also guarded by Roman soldiers who were very good at what they did. When they reported what had really happened, the chief priests were willing to do anything to keep the truth from being known. However, in that day if a soldier was guarding something and it was lost, they would pay for it with their life. So, the problem with the chief priests' story was, if they really had fallen asleep there would not have been any soldiers to tell the story, and if they were asleep how did they know who stole the body?

Lastly, the same disciples who ran away scared when Jesus was arrested were convinced that Jesus really was alive. On their own they had been scared weaklings, but when they saw the risen Lord Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit, they all devoted their lives to sharing this amazing true story with people around the known world.

So this Easter, remember this is not just a pretty story, but the most important true story that changes everything! It is because of Jesus's death and resurrection that we can have eternal life: "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent!" John 17:3. We get to spend today and every day with our loving Heavenly Father!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Matthew 28:6 this week.

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for paying our debt of sin by dying on the cross, and that you did not stay dead! You rose with resurrection life and because of that, we can live today and every day with you! Help us to never take this gift for granted, but to share this wonderful news with everyone we meet.....Amen."