

Use Week of: **April 1/2**

## Easter • Session 2

# Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 26–28; John 20

### KEY PASSAGE:

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved  
Romans 10:9

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin?  
Only Jesus saves us from sin.

INTRODUCE THE STORY

TEACH THE STORY

APPLY THE STORY



## LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are essential to the Christian faith. If we teach Jesus as a respected teacher and miracle-worker who claimed to be the Messiah and who was crucified on the cross—but who was not resurrected—then we are teaching the Jesus of Judaism. If we teach Jesus as a wise teacher and prophet who ascended into heaven—but who was not crucified—then we are teaching the Jesus of Islam.

Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. (Matt. 1:21) He died to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus died so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus died to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

Jesus' resurrection gives us joy and hope for our own resurrection. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life. (Rom. 8:11)

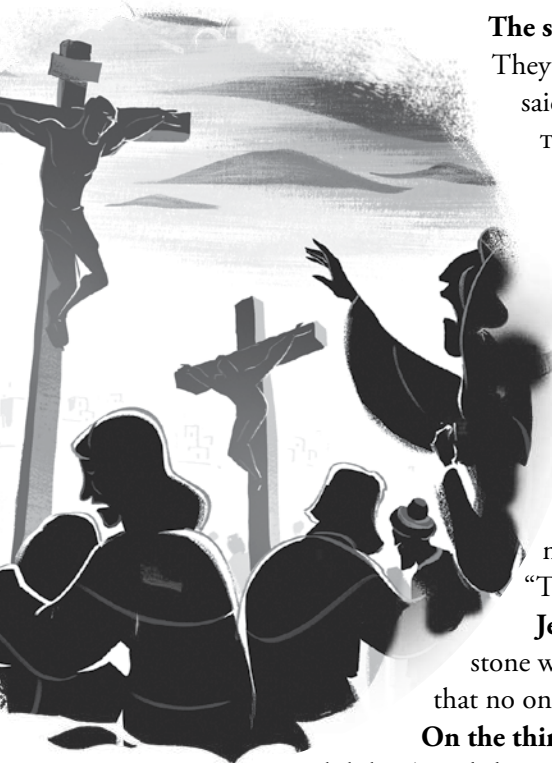
As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done. We do not worship a dead Savior. Jesus is alive! Sadness turns to joy. There is hope for sinners.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

*Matthew 26–28; John 20*

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him: "Here is the King of the Jews!" They beat Jesus and led Him away to be killed.



The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Him.

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus shouted again, and then He died.

Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus' body said, "This man really was God's Son!"

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb.

Suddenly, there was an earthquake. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. The guards were so afraid that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are

looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just like He said He would.”

The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to the other disciples. Jesus also appeared to more than 500 people who followed Him. Many people witnessed that Jesus is alive!

*Christ Connection: Jesus’ death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives hope and true joy to everyone who trusts in Jesus.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use a flannelgraph:** Use pictures on a board to tell the story. Find pictures of the people and locations in the story. Move them around as you tell the story.
- **Enter the story:** Tell the Easter story as an eyewitness to the events, such as Mary Magdalene or Peter. Convey the emotions of sadness and excitement as you tell the story.



## INTRODUCE the Story

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28; John 20

**STORY POINT:** Jesus' resurrection gives true joy to believers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** **Romans 10:9**

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

**Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time they have been surprised. What happened?

### Activity page (5 minutes)

- “The Word Alive” activity page.
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “The Word Alive” on the activity page. Kids should use the letters from the word *RESURRECTION* to make other words. Let kids share their lists. Who came up with the most words? Who had the longest word?

**SAY** • Who can tell me what the word *resurrection* means? [*Pause for kids to respond.*] *Resurrection* means “rising from the dead.” Today’s Bible story is about Jesus’ death on the cross—His crucifixion—and His rising from the dead—His resurrection. I can’t wait for you to hear more.

## **Transition to teach the story**

*From Jews to Gentiles*

75

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28; John 20

**KEY PASSAGE:** [Romans 10:9](#)

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

**Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

---

## Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

### LEADER

Do you know there is a Bible verse that tells us something true about all people, from every nation, who have ever lived? Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We are all sinners, and our sin demands a payment. Out of His love and mercy, God sent a Rescuer—His Son, Jesus—to pay the price for our sin.

Today, we will learn about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. This story is the center of the gospel and is good news for sinners.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER •

First, let's hear our big picture question: Who saves us from our sin? Do any of you know the answer? [Pause for kids to respond.]

Good ideas!

Say our big picture question and answer with me:

Who saves us from our sin? Only

Jesus saves us from sin.

LEADER • Today's Bible story is called "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection." *Crucifixion* means "death on the cross" and *resurrection* means "one's rising from the dead." Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel story. All the stories in the Old Testament and most of the New Testament Gospels lead up to this event.

All the stories following Jesus' resurrection,

point

back to Jesus' death and resurrection. When the early believers faced persecution and discouragement, they found hope in their Savior, Jesus. **Jesus' resurrection gives true joy to believers** and turns sadness into joy.

Let's get started.

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26–28; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection."

LEADER • Jesus' death and resurrection are what makes

- Bibles
- "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster



Christianity different from all other religions. While other religions may claim that Jesus was only a good teacher, Christians believe He is the Son of God. The Bible says everyone has sinned, and our sin separates us from God. God the Father sent Jesus to earth to rescue sinners. Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day, conquering sin and death.

On the cross, Jesus took on the sins of the world. Jesus took the punishment for sins and settled it once and for all. He acted as a substitute for every sinner who would trust in Him as Lord and Savior. When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. Can you believe it? That is good news!

Jesus' followers must have felt heartbroken and afraid as they watched their Lord be arrested, tried, beaten, and then crucified among criminals. However, on the third day, all their sadness turned to joy as Jesus walked out of the tomb alive as their risen Lord. **Jesus' resurrection gives true joy to believers.**

### **Christ connection**

**LEADER** • Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives hope and true joy to everyone who trusts in Jesus. The story of Jesus' resurrection encourages believers to press on in their faith, even in hard times. It reminds Christians that Jesus has settled the payment for our sins and that He is preparing an eternal home for us. Believers can look ahead with hope for the future.

## Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Easter, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus’ enemies were able to kill Him. Guide them to discuss other times God has used something that seemed bad to bring about something good.

• “Easter, Session 2”  
questions from kids  
video

## Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together **Romans 10:9**

### LEADER

- A week after people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, they killed Him on a cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. If we believe this is true, God saves us from sin. Jesus will never die again. Death has no power over Him. The greatest power sin has is death. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that He conquered the power of sin and death. We can also live in hope and true joy because Jesus is alive.

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord God, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for sin in our place. Because of His resurrection, we can experience true joy and hope—even in hard times. Help us point others to You by the way we live our lives and how we share the gospel with them. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

**Return To Classroom**

# APPLY the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26–28; John 20

**KEY PASSAGE:** **Romans 10:9**

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

**Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Matthew 28. Explain that the Book of Matthew is found in the New Testament division called the Gospels.

Challenge kids to name the Gospels. (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) Remind them that these books tell us about Jesus' life and ministry. Choose a kid to read Matthew 28:6 aloud.

**SAY** • Jesus did not stay in the tomb! He is alive!

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did the angel tell the women to not be afraid?

*Help kids recognize that the women and Jesus' disciples were probably very sad and confused. Seeing an angel would be very shocking. Seeing Jesus' tomb open and empty would have been very upsetting. They had not understood what Jesus had said about His death and resurrection.*

(Option: Choose a kid to read Matt. 20:17-19.)

2. How does Jesus' death and resurrection give believers hope?

*Lead kids to recall that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can become children of God and inherit eternal life with Him. This allows believers to live with unshakable hope for the future.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:3-4.)

3. How can we share the good news that Jesus is alive?

*Help kids recognize that it is our job and our joy to share the good news with others. We can do this simply by telling the story we heard today. The bad news is that we are all sinners, and the punishment for sin is death. Jesus took the punishment we deserve by dying on the cross, and He conquered death by rising on the third day. He offers salvation to everyone who trusts Him as Lord and Savior.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 61:1.)

**SAY** • The good news of the gospel is that Jesus made the way for people to be free from sin and experience forgiveness and hope as children of God. **Jesus' resurrection gives true joy to believers.**

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## LOW PREP

- foam ball
- music

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Hot potato

Instruct kids to sit in a circle and play a simple game of hot potato. Direct kids to pass the ball around the circle as you play music.

Randomly pause the music. Invite the kid with the ball to share one fact she has learned about missions in this unit or share one way that she can be on mission in her school or community. Play several rounds as time allows.

**SAY** • Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have a wonderful message to tell others. ***What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.*** Sharing the gospel is an important part of being the church. And you are an important part of our church!

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for the gift of eternal life we have in Jesus and the hope that gives us to persevere in this world.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Perfect Fit" on the activity page. Kids should circle the word that belongs in each sentence.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "The Perfect Fit" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

# Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26-28; John 20

**STORY POINT: JESUS' RESURRECTION GIVES TRUE JOY TO BELIEVERS.**

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus and made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They beat Jesus and led Him away to be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus shouted again and then He died. Jesus was buried in a tomb.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it.

The angel spoke to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen, just like He said He would."

The women ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. "Don't be afraid," Jesus told them. "Tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to the other disciples. Many people witnessed that Jesus is alive!

*Christ Connection: Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of the gospel. Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus is alive! God gives hope and true joy to everyone who trusts in Jesus.*



### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
- Who raised Jesus from the dead?
- How can people be forgiven of their sins?

FOLD





## The Word Alive

What words can you make using the letters in **RESURRECTION**? List them below.

### The Perfect Fit

Circle the word that belongs in each sentence.

The governor's soldiers made a crown of \_\_\_\_\_ and put it on His head. (**flowers / thorns**)

Then they mocked Him: "Here is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews!" (**boss / King**)

The \_\_\_\_\_ nailed Jesus to a cross. (**soldiers / criminals**)

Jesus cried out, "My God, why have You \_\_\_\_\_ Me?" (**laughed at / forsaken**)

One of the men guarding Jesus' body said, "This man really was God's \_\_\_\_\_!" (**Son / enemy**)

On the third day, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the \_\_\_\_\_. (**garden / tomb**)

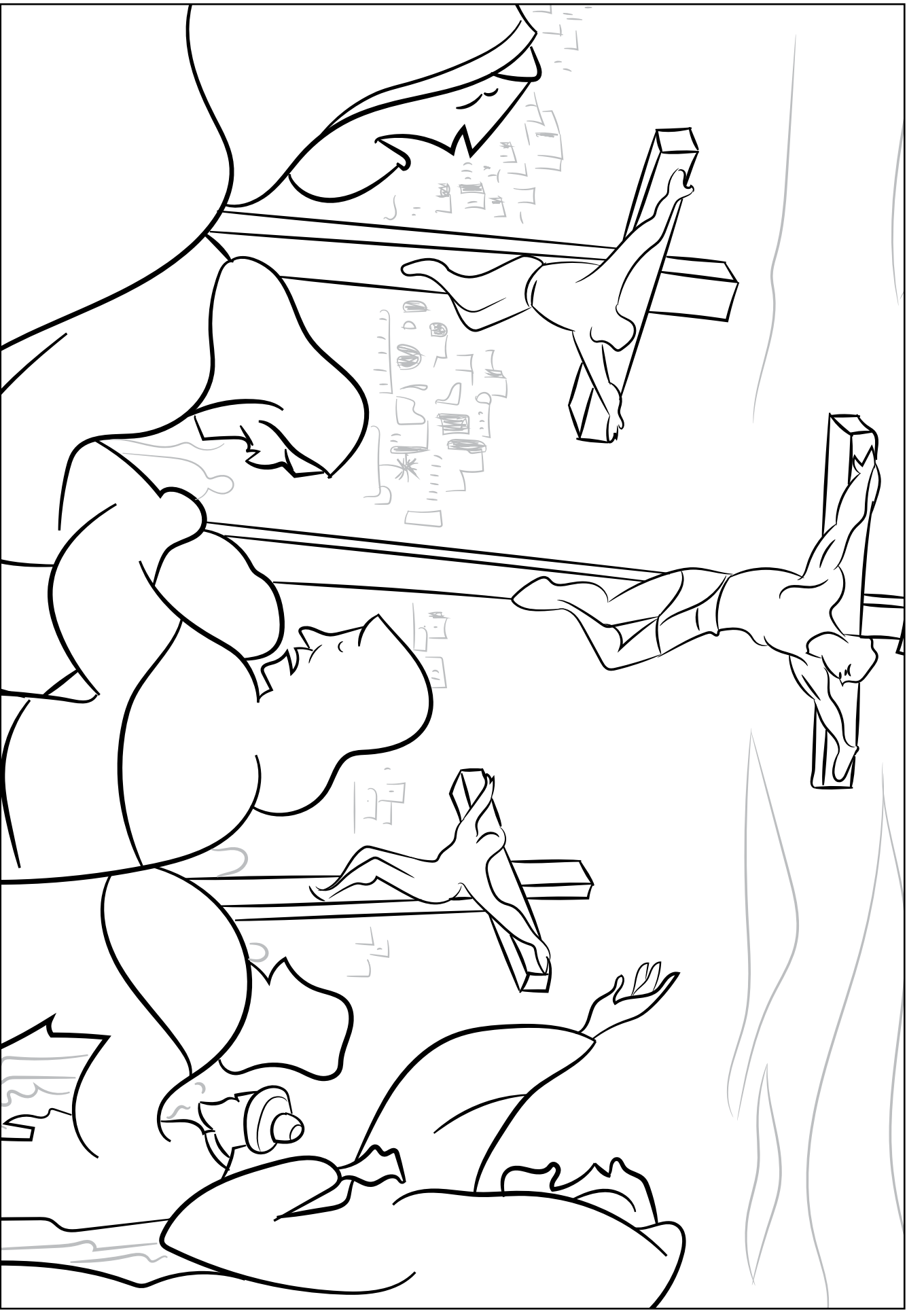
An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and \_\_\_\_\_ on it. (**sat / spat**)

The angel spoke to the women, "Jesus is not here. He has \_\_\_\_\_." (**died / risen**)

Just then Jesus greeted them. "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_," Jesus told them. (**afraid / mad**)

Jesus appeared to more than \_\_\_\_\_ people who followed Him. (**500 / 5 million**)

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_! (**missing / alive**)



**STORY POINT: JESUS' RESURRECTION GIVES TRUE JOY TO BELIEVERS.**