

He Is Risen!

The Scene: soldiers' barracks

The Simple Setup: You'll need one chair at center stage.

For Extra Impact: "Build" a simple tomb at stage right by setting two chairs about 3 feet apart, with their backs facing the audience. Drape a blanket over the chairs.

Bible Story

Jesus Resurrected

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-20

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

Head Elder: a guy or girl

Darius: a guy or girl to be a Roman soldier

Soldier 1: a guy or girl

Captain: a guy or girl, grumpy

Soldiers: guys or girls

Elders: guys or girls

The Skit

After assigning the roles of Darius, the Captain, Soldier 1, and the Head Elder form the rest of the children into two groups: the Soldiers and the Elders. If you have a small group, let the same children play both the Soldiers and the Elders.

As the skit begins, the Captain is seated center stage. The Soldiers are at stage left, talking and joking around. The Elders are off stage right.

Start the "Jesus Resurrected" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry* CD (track 44). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.



Captain: Lieutenant Darius! Get IN here!

(Darius dashes in from stage left. He comes to attention and salutes.)

Darius: I honor CAESAR! I honor ROME!

Captain: Good for you, Lieutenant. Just tell me how your GUARD detail went last night out at Jesus' tomb.

Darius: There were... some COMPLICATIONS, Captain.

Captain: COMPLICATIONS? How complicated can it be to guard a DEAD man? I sent you out there with the other guards because even a nitwit like YOU can't make a mistake with THIS assignment! What went WRONG?

Darius: First, let me say that it was a MOST unusual evening.

Captain: Get to the POINT, Lieutenant! I am NOT a patient man!

Soldier 1: Hey, Darius, the man you were guarding was DEAD, locked in a sealed TOMB, and you had six soldiers WITH you. How can you lose a prisoner like THAT?

(Soldiers laugh.)

Captain: YOU be quiet or you'll be cleaning out the stables for a MONTH!

Soldier 1: Sorry, Captain.

Captain: You BETTER be sorry! Still, it IS a good question. Lieutenant, the man you were guarding IS dead. He IS in a sealed tomb. You DID have six men with you. You aren't telling me you LOST Jesus' body, right?

Darius: Of COURSE not, CAPTAIN. We'd never do something like THAT!

Captain: Good. Then the body is still IN the tomb?

Darius: Um...no.

Captain: You brought it here WITH you?

Darius: Um...no. Not exactly. I think the ANGEL took it.

Captain: The ANGEL?

Darius: Right—the angel. I think the angel took it right after he rolled away the STONE from the front of the tomb.

Captain: You THINK? You aren't SURE?

Darius: No, sir. I quit looking when the men and I...um...

Captain: When you WHAT? Drew your swords and CHARGED the angel?

Darius: No, sir. When we...FAINTED.

(The soldiers all laugh again, pointing at Darius.)

Captain: QUIET—all of you!

(The soldiers quit laughing, but still snicker.)

Captain: Lieutenant, I'm giving you exactly one minute to explain—and it better be GOOD.

Darius: There was this earthquake, sir. Certainly you must have felt it down here in Jerusalem.

Captain: Yes...

Darius: Well, this angel of the Lord appeared, and he looked like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. And he rolled the stone away from the front of the tomb.

Captain: He rolled it away by HIMSELF?

Darius: Yes, sir.

Captain: That SAME huge stone it took ALL of us to drop in place?

Darius: Yes, sir. And we all sort of passed OUT.

Captain: From FEAR? You're a ROMAN SOLDIER, Lieutenant!

Darius: Hey, Captain—it was SCARY! I went out completely, and when I was coming to I saw these two women at the tomb. They'd come looking for Jesus, and the angel told them that Jesus rose from the dead. Then I came here.

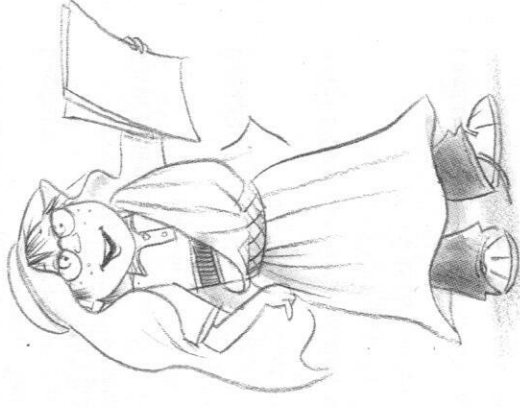
Captain: Son, I've heard about giant animals that you can ride into battle. I've heard about armies that march day after day without sleeping. But I have NEVER heard a story like YOURS. You and your men fell ASLEEP while on DUTY, didn't you?

Darius: No, SIR!

Soldier 1: That's not what I HEARD! Some of your men said you all fell ASLEEP out there!

Darius: That's NOT TRUE!

Captain: Lieutenant, I am going to have you locked away in CHAINS! Then I'm going to have you BEHEADED! Then I'm going to drag you behind my CHARIOT! Then I'm going to do it all AGAIN! Why, I...



(The Elders rush in from stage right.)

- Head Elder:** Captain, may we SEE you for a moment?
- Captain:** Well, well, well—it's the ELDERS. Aren't you supposed to be up at the TEMPLE?
- Head Elder:** We have a small PROBLEM.
- Captain:** And what's THAT? I've got problems of my OWN right now!
- Head Elder:** It's Jesus' body...it's GONE. We wondered if YOU had it.
- Captain:** Why would WE have it? I thought you and your Jewish leader buddies might have taken it.
- Head Elder:** Heavens, no! WE don't want anyone to think Jesus rose from the dead!
- Captain:** Neither do WE! WE CRUCIFIED Jesus. We don't want anyone thinking he's ALIVE again! You think the disciples have Jesus' body?
- Head Elder:** No—because they're running around saying Jesus is ALIVE again. They're risking their LIVES doing that, and they wouldn't do it if they knew Jesus was still DEAD.
- Captain:** But if the disciples don't have Jesus' body, and YOU don't have it, and WE don't have it...where IS it?
- Darius:** Maybe it's like the angel said and Jesus is ALIVE again.
- Head Elder:** The thing is, that's dangerous talk. We're happy to pay you all to say that you were ASLEEP out at the tomb and the disciples stole the body.
- Captain:** But that's not TRUE. You said so YOURSELF!
- Head Elder:** Listen—we don't CARE if it's not true. It's what we want you to SAY—and we'll PAY.
- Captain:** Well...we don't actually make all that much money as soldiers...
- Head Elder:** Then it's settled. We'll get you the money right away.
- Darius:** There's just one other thing...
- Head Elder:** What?
- Darius:** What will you do when he shows UP again?
- Head Elder:** We killed him once. We can CERTAINLY kill him again.



To Talk About

- ◆ The news that Jesus rose from the dead changed everything for the soldiers and elders. How has the news changed your life?
- ◆ The elders and guards lied because they didn't want people to know that Jesus had risen from the dead. Why is it important to tell the truth about Jesus?
- ◆ Jesus told the disciples to tell everyone about him. Who can you tell about Jesus this week? What will you say?

Topical Tie-Ins: Faith, Worship, Obedience, Witnessing