

The Rock That Rolled

Bible Story

Jesus Appears to Mary

Scripture

John 20:1-18

The Scene: the empty tomb

The Simple Setup: You'll need a large open area. Place three chairs in a row stage left. Place a folded white cloth (such as a sheet) on the middle chair.

For Extra Impact: Drape white cloth on Jesus as a simple costume.

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

Mary: a girl

Jesus: a guy

Peter: a guy or girl

John: a guy or girl

Angels: two boys or girls

Trees: kids willing to strike poses and move softly in the wind

The Skit

After casting the roles of Jesus, Peter, John, Mary, and the Angels, cast the rest of your children as Trees. If you have just a few children, don't cast the role of Trees or Angels.

As the skit begins, three chairs are in a row, stage left. Jesus is off stage left. The Angels will enter off stage left. Mary, John, and Peter will be off stage right. Position the Trees around the "tomb" and "garden."



Start the "Jesus Appears to Mary" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD* (track 45). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Narrator: After Jesus died on the cross, his body was placed in a tomb—a cave carved out of a hill. The tomb was in a garden. A HUGE stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and guards stood just outside to make sure NOBODY moved the stone. That tomb was sealed up TIGHT! But then, several days later, Mary Magdalene showed up in the cemetery. See her walking toward the tomb, moving between the trees?

See how SAD she is? That's because she was a follower of Jesus, and she MISSES him.

Mary: It seems so LONELY now that Jesus is gone. The disciples are all hiding out so THEY don't get arrested, too. And we all believed that Jesus was going to save our country from the Romans...I don't know what to do...

narrator: That's when Mary looked up. She saw the tomb where Jesus was buried, but something was different. REALLY different!

Mary: The STONE! Someone has rolled the STONE away from in front of the tomb!

narrator: Mary turned and ran back to where the disciples were gathered. She told them what she'd seen. At once Peter and John ran back to the cemetery. Here they come now, with JOHN in the lead! Man, he's fast! And now Mary is coming, too. See how they're stopping and LOOKING AROUND? John and Peter wonder if this is some sort of trap and they're going to get in TROUBLE. But it's not—and Jesus' tomb is OPEN.

John: Mary was RIGHT—the stone HAS been moved!

Mary: But who could have DONE it?

Peter: The ROMANS wouldn't have moved the stone. They want to prove Jesus is DEAD.

John: And WE didn't do it—we've been in HIDING. So how can Jesus' grave be OPEN?

Peter: I don't know...but we've got to check it out.

narrator: Peter stooped over and went into the cave where Jesus' body had been buried. He saw the CLOTH that had been wrapped around Jesus' dead body. The cloth was folded up neatly. JOHN came into the tomb, too. The two men left the cave and went back to their homes. But Mary STAYED outside the tomb. She fell to her knees. She was CRYING.

Mary: This is so SAD!

narrator: When Mary looked into the tomb again, she saw two angels sitting on the place where Jesus' body had been laid. The angels looked at Mary. One angel said, "Woman, why are you crying?"

- Mary:** They've taken my LORD away. And I don't know where they've PUT him!
- narrator:** Mary got up and turned, and behind her was Jesus. Mary looked at him, but didn't know who he was. Jesus said...
- Jesus:** Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you're looking for?
- narrator:** Mary thought the man must be the gardener who took care of the cemetery. She said...
- Mary:** Sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you put him. I'll go get him.
- narrator:** Then Jesus said Mary's name.
- Jesus:** Mary.
- narrator:** That did it—Mary immediately knew who the man was. She knew he was Jesus and that Jesus had risen from the dead! Jesus told Mary not to touch him—he hadn't yet returned to God. And Jesus gave Mary a job.
- Jesus:** Go tell my brothers.
- narrator:** That's just what Mary did. She ran from the garden so she could give the disciples the good news: Jesus was alive!



To Talk About

- ◆ How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus died? Have you ever felt scared or lonely? What did you do? What made you feel better?
- ◆ How do you think Mary felt when she discovered that Jesus was alive? What would you do if you were the first person to learn that Jesus was alive? Who would you tell?
- ◆ Why is it important for us to give people the good news that Jesus is alive today? How can we share that news with others? Who could you tell that Jesus is alive?