

# Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

## The Bible Times

### Mary Magdalene learns the real end of the story

Who will roll back the tombstone for us?" Salome asked the two other women who trudged through the early morning darkness.

Mary Magdalene's eyes smarted with bitter tears as she remembered. How could Jesus' life have ended like this? And yet, just before he died, she heard him utter the strangest words: "Father, forgive them. They don't understand."

Joanna's reply interrupted Mary's thoughts. "Perhaps the Roman guards posted beside the tomb will take pity on us. We come only to give the proper burial rites to the dead man."

Jesus was dead! Even now Mary couldn't bear to think of it. The sorrow overwhelmed her heart. None of it made any sense.

"Yes, Joanna," Mary overheard Salome say, "I am sure they will not deny such a simple request."

Who will roll back the stone of despair from my heart? Mary asked herself. My life will never be the same again without Jesus.

The path to the tomb led through a meadow. A lark cheerfully greeted the new day, as morning flowers gently opened to the first strains of light, releasing a delicious aroma. The bird's sweet tune and the fragrance in the air seemed all wrong today, as the three women continued in somber silence.

The tomb was located high on a hill looking out over the meadow.

As they approached it in the full light of the risen sun, they stopped abruptly.

"Someone has already rolled away the stone!" Salome cried. "The guards are gone, too!"

Mary's companions ran ahead and peered into the huge opening the boulder had once blocked like a fortress.

"There's nothing left but the linen wrappings from the body," Joanna called out.

Mary bolted away, not stopping until she had reached the house in Jerusalem where Peter and John were staying.

"Someone has stolen his body!" she shouted, pounding on the door. "We must find where they have taken Jesus!"

The two apostles raced ahead of her. By the time Mary arrived, everyone was gone. She stood alone outside weeping until she heard someone speaking to her from inside the tomb.

"Why are you crying?" a man asked.

"Because I don't know where they have taken the body of my Lord," Mary replied.

"Who are you looking for?" This

time the question came from behind her. Mary turned to face someone she supposed was the gardener.

"Please, sir, it is too much to bear," Mary said to him. "If you have carried his body away, tell me so I can go and get it."

A single word from him brought Mary to her knees immediately. "Mary!"

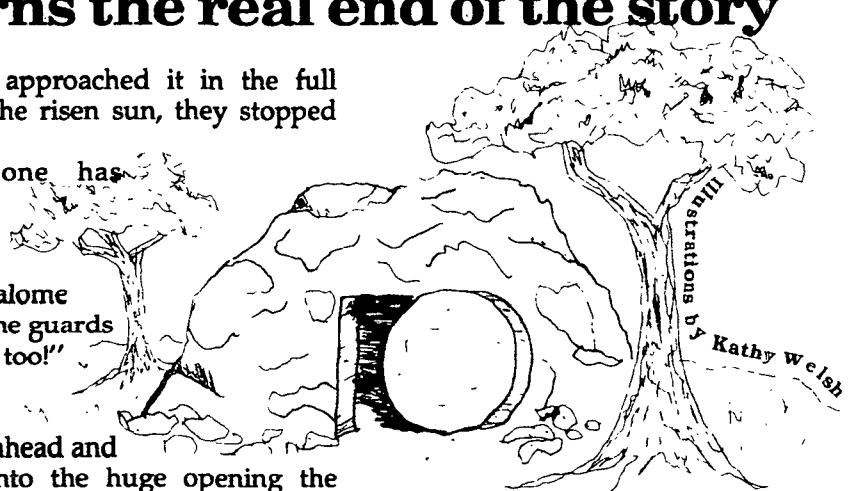
"Is it really you, Jesus?" she asked, not daring to look up.

"Yes, it is I, Mary," Jesus said. "Go and tell the others. My crucifixion did not end in death, but in eternal life for all who believe in me."

Read more about it: John 20:1-18.

### Q & A

1. What did Mary learn about forgiveness from Jesus?
2. What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean for you?



**JERUSALEM, 33 A.D.**  
 — Roman guards have reported missing a corpse that had been placed in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea. The missing body is that of Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified and died last Friday. Jesus was executed after being convicted of attempting to overthrow the government.

The guards who reported the missing body had been posted at the tomb site by Pontius Pilate at the request of Hebrew chief priests. Before Jesus' death, some of his followers claimed that he would rise from the dead after three days, and the priests feared that these followers would steal the body to prove their claims.

The guards admitted to their commanding officer that they had fallen asleep while on duty. When they awakened, they realized the corpse was missing.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that an earthquake took place near the tomb early Sunday morning.

Charges have surfaced that the two guards may have taken bribes to report the body stolen. New rumors claim that Jesus of Nazareth has been seen alive in Jerusalem.

### The Easter Message

Jesus' resurrection fulfilled all of the promises he made for his followers. Use the Bible hints to fill in the missing words from each promise. Then put the circled letters together to complete the hidden word. Answers on page 20.

1. "I will —  — — you up at the  — — day." (John 6:40)
2. "I will not  — — — you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)
3. "I have — — — — — the — — —  —" (John 16:33)
4. "I am going to — — — — — to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)
5. "I am —  — — you  — — —" (Matthew 28:20)

**Hidden word:**

### Talking to God

Dear Jesus,  
 Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Help me to forgive those who hurt me without understanding as you did.

"Praise the Lord! Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"  
*Psalms 150:1, 3, 6.*

### King Solomon's Wisdom

"The path of good people is like the first gleam of dawn; It keeps shining until it reaches the full light of day."  
*Proverbs 4:18.*

### Bible Trivia

Who was the other person who helped Joseph of Arimathea place the body of Jesus in the tomb?

Send answers to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry.

All entries must be received by May 7, 1992. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and will receive a gift courtesy of Logos Bookstore.

Last month's winner was Katie Dellina who correctly answered Malchus as the servant whose ear Peter cut off.

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