

Children's Church
Sunday, April 23, 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Easter
Jesus Appears

Theme: Jesus appears to the Disciples.
Scripture: “When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy”
Objects: Balloon, yeast, bottle

PRIOR TO START THE LITURGY: Today, I have we have science experiment that can remind us of how Jesus fills us with Joy. We have warm water, yeast, and a balloon. Even though we only have 3 ingredients, what do you think will happen?

Lesson, while waiting on the experiment to start working....

The scripture reading reminds me of a time when I lost something very meaningful to me. (Insert your story here). When I found _____, I was so excited that I could hardly believe it.

Has there ever been a time when you lost something special? Did you find what you had lost- if so how did you feel?

5 minutes: Well in today's story, the disciples lost someone very meaningful to them. Do you know who they lost? Yes, they lost Jesus. The people in the disciples time did not understand Jesus. They were upset that Jesus was breaking rules and performing miracles that they could not do. So they came up with a plan to kill Jesus. Jesus's friends watched Jesus die and then they buried him. Everyone thought Jesus was gone forever until he surprised Mary Magdalene in the garden outside of where he was supposed to be buried. His body was healed and he looked totally different! She did not even recognize him at first. When Mary recognized him- she was so excited- she couldn't believe it. She couldn't help but share it with those around her...

Let's read the story: **Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him.” As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means *Teacher*). Jesus said to her, “Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”**

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I've seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

(at end of lesson) Let's look at the Balloon- what has happened?

Mary was so upset, but seeing Jesus filled her with Joy. When you lost your _____, you were filled with Joy. When we turn to Jesus, we know he can give us joy- no matter what is happening!