

HE IS ALIVE!

There was a rich man named Joseph

from a town called Arimathea. He wasn't the same Joseph that was married to Jesus' mother, Mary, or the Joseph with the coat of many colors. Joseph was a popular name back then.

Joseph was a **FOLLOWER** of Jesus. He loved Jesus. Like all of Jesus' followers, Joseph was very sad when Jesus died. He wanted to do something nice for Jesus, to show how much he **LOVED** Him.

So Joseph went to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, and asked if he could take care of Jesus' body. And Pontius Pilate said yes.



When important people died in Israel, they weren't buried in the ground. Instead, their bodies were placed in special **TOMBS** that were carved out of solid rock, like small caves. Joseph had a special tomb that he had made to use when he died someday. But he decided to give it to Jesus instead.

Jesus' body was placed inside Joseph's special tomb. A big **ROCK** was rolled in front of the cave, so no one could get in.

Some of the Pharisees and Sadducees went to Pilate and said, "What if Jesus' friends move the rock and take His body, and then say Jesus is alive again? That would cause a lot of trouble for you!"

That **WOULD** cause a lot of trouble, Pilate thought. So Pilate put guards outside the tomb to make sure no one moved the stone.

Jesus died on a Friday. All day Saturday His body lay in Joseph's tomb, and His friends were very, **VERY** sad.

Early Sunday morning, two of Jesus' friends came to visit the tomb. They were both women named **MARY**. Neither of them was Jesus' mother though. Mary was a popular name back then too.

The two Marys were very sad. They missed Jesus very much. They had brought **SPICES** and **PERFUME** to put on Jesus' body, which is something people did long ago.

"But how will we roll away the heavy stone?" they wondered.

Just as the two Marys were wondering what to do, **BOOM!** The ground shook. Then an angel appeared right in front of them. The angel rolled the stone away from the grave. He looked toward the Roman guards, who were so scared they probably fainted and fell on the ground!



Then the angel looked at the two Marys and **SMILED**.

"Don't be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus. But He isn't here. Jesus isn't dead anymore. He is alive!"

The two Marys couldn't believe what they were hearing!
Jesus was alive?

As they turned to go tell everyone what had happened, the two Marys bumped right into someone.

It was **JESUS!** Seeing Jesus filled their hearts with joy!

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "Go tell My disciples that I am alive again! Tell them they will see Me too!"



HE IS ALIVE! FAMILY CONNECTION

MATTHEW 28

EVERYDAY TRUTH

Because Jesus is alive,
death has no power in the
kingdom of God!



And that is exactly what happened. Jesus appeared to **ALL** His disciples. He explained to them why He'd had to die. He told them the great news that death had no power in God's kingdom.

Then Jesus told His friends it was time for Him to leave. From now on, spreading the kingdom of God would be **THEIR** job.

"But we need Your help!" His friends said.

Jesus smiled. "You will have My help. I will send you a Helper, who will fill you with **POWER**. The power of God! And you will do the kinds of amazing things you've seen Me do!"

And then Jesus rose up into the sky and disappeared!

The disciples were amazed. **AND** a little confused. *How would they spread the kingdom of God without Jesus? Who was this "Helper" Jesus was going to send? And how would he help?*

Jesus' friends didn't have answers to any of these questions, but they were about to get them in a big, big way.

TALK

How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they saw Him again after His death?

What do you think it means to be filled with God's power?

Dear
God...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive and can be our friend even today. Help us to see Your power in our lives as we follow Him. Amen.

