**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Easter #1 revised**

**April 11,2021**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story The Tomb was empty, Jesus is Alive!**

**Emphasis: The Tomb was Empty!  Jesus had fulfilled his promise, he rose from the dead.**

**Bible Background:** Jesus shared with his disciples and the people who followed him that he was to die and in three days rise from the dead. Jesus died a horrible death on a cross.  Before the Sabbath was over they took his body down from the cross and put it in a tomb.  He was dead and the disciples and those who loved him were very sad. Jesus died for all God’s people.  But that was not the end.  Jesus rose from the dead and lives with his father in Heaven.  We too live because Jesus lives.  God gave us Jesus to take away our sins so we can be with Jesus and God our Father in heaven. We have new life because of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has risen, He has Risen Indeed!

All four gospels have the story of Jesus’s resurrection. Each gospel writer found the tomb empty.  The tomb was not a place for the living! Jesus was not there… he was alive.  In **Luke**, there were two men in dazzling white cloths telling them that Jesus had risen and was not in the tomb. In **Mark**, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body but found no body. They found a man in white telling them Jesus has risen and go tell the disciples!  In **Matthew**, both Marys went to the tomb and there was an  earthquake and an Angel from heaven descended down and rolled back the stone. They saw where Jesus was lying and it was empty so they quickly went to tell others that Jesus had risen from the dead and he is going to meet them in Galilee! In **John,** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, found the stone rolled away and ran to tell Simon Peter.  She said to them they have taken Jesus!  Simon Peter and the other disciples ran to the tomb and it was empty.  All Peter saw was the linen cloth that Jesus' body was wrapped in. Jesus had Risen!

**Read the Bible Story!:**  (Spark Bible: The Empty Tomb Pages 482-487) Luke 24:1-12, Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:1-,  John 20:1-8 Resurrection stories in the gospels.)

**Questions:**

1. **In the gospel of Matthew what happened before the Angel came down from heaven to roll away the tomb?** (An earthquake!)

1. **In the gospel of Mark what did Mary Magdalene,Mary the Mother of James and Salome bring with them to the tomb?**

(Brought Spices to anoint Jesus’ body)

1. **In the gospel of Luke What did the women see when they went into the tomb early in the morning?** (Two men in “Dazzling” clothes)

1. **In the gospel of John who went to the tomb early and told Simon Peter that Jesus was alive?** (Mary Magdalene)

**Activity:** **Resurrection Snack Mix** that points to the true meaning of Easter!

**Here’s what you will need:**

   Clean, plastic Easter Eggs

1. Pretzel sticks
2. Fish crackers
3. Chocolate chips
4. Small marshmallows or Popcorn
5. Any small red candy (sometimes I’ll save red M&Ms from the Valentine’s assortment or pieces of licorice – see my note below)
6. Small bowls

Have your child fill a set of Easter eggs with the various items listed above.  Leave at least one empty egg.  Then, open the eggs and dump the contents into the small bowl. As you open the egg, explain what it represents in the Easter story.  Again, as you add items to the mix, to make more eggs review what it represents in the Easter story.  By the time you’ve finished opening all of the eggs, your kids will have been reminded of these truths several times.

**Meanings of the snack items:**

**Pretzel sticks** – remind us of the wooden cross, where Jesus died.

**Fish crackers** – remind us that several of Jesus’s disciples were fishermen and he also taught his disciples to be “fishers of men.”

**Chocolate chips** – remind us of the dark sin that we were covered in.

**Popcorn** – remind us of how the blood of Jesus makes us as white as snow

**Red Candy** – reminds us of how Jesus suffered and bled for us

* ***When you get to the empty egg, celebrate that it is empty because the tomb was empty – Jesus is ALIVE!!!***

**Emphasize: The Tomb was empty that first Easter morning.  Jesus was Alive! Jesus loved us so much that he died for us. Jesus loved us so much that he rose from the dead for us.**

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Dear God, Thank you for your son Jesus, he loved us so much that he gave his life for us. Amen