



You're about to explore the Easter story! Jesus died on the cross for our sins! Jesus defeated death! He offers new life to you! Follow your kids' curiosity as they discover the true meaning of Easter!

So, choose your Exploration Stations, practice the story, gather supplies, and set up your classroom. It's time to go exploring!

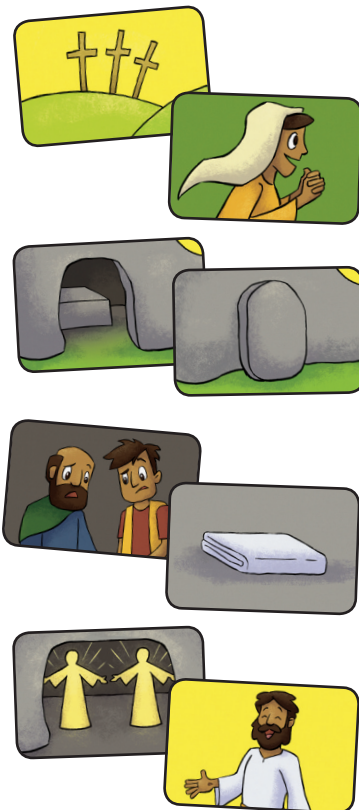
## Before You Explore

### The Basic Supplies

- ☐ *Discovery Guide* for each kiddo
- ☐ *Story Cards*
- ☐ *Eureka! Jr. Stamps*
- ☐ *Eureka! DVD or CD*
- ☐ DVD or CD player
- ☐ Bean bags or balled-up socks

### Exploration Station Supplies

- ☐ **Resurrection Rock**
  - Medium-sized smooth rocks, paint/paintbrushes or markers
- ☐ **Let's See! Story**
  - *Story Cards*, 25-32
- ☐ **Picture the Story**
  - *Discovery Guides* and crayons
- ☐ **Sculpt the Story**
  - Play-Doh
- ☐ **Play the Story**
  - Dolls, action figures, toys from a kid's meal



## 1 Here We Go!

- Place the Kai and Scout cards (#49-52) across the room. Give kids bean bags (or balled-up socks). Have them toss the bean bag to see how close they can get to a card.
- Option: Hide the Kai and Scout cards from the **Story Card** deck. Have kids try to find the cards when they arrive.
- Play *The Come Along Song* from the **Eureka! Jr. DVD** or **CD**. Invite kids to come to your gathering spot (at a table, on the floor, etc.).

## 2 What's That Word?

- Show the Bible picture from page 1 of this lesson. Invite kids to find the hidden word in the picture. Say **cross** out loud as a class. (Option: Pass out the **Discovery Guides (DG)** now and let kids find the hidden word in the picture on their own **DG**.)
- Chat about the word. **Does anyone know what a cross is?**
  - **A cross was a wooden post used to punish people in Bible times.**
  - **Although Jesus was sinless, He died on the cross on Good Friday.**
  - **The image of the cross is a reminder that God loves us and forgives sin.**
  - **Easter reminds us that God's love is more powerful than death. The cross is not the end of the story.**
- When we explore our story later today, listen for the word **cross**.

## 3 Remember Verse

- Invite everyone to stand up. Play the **Remember Verse Video** for **John 3:16** on the **Eureka! Jr. DVD**. (Find descriptions of the motions on [FoundryLeader.com](http://FoundryLeader.com).)
- Ask for volunteers to say the verse from memory.
- **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)**



## 4 Happy & Sad

- Invite kids to share something happy and not-so-happy that happened this past week. Pray together.

## 5 Explore the Story

- Prepare kids to listen to this week's passage. Gather them to a place where they can move around. Remind kids to follow Scout's exploring instructions while they listen.
- Play the **Let's Go! Bible Story** audio from the **Eureka! Jr. DVD** or **CD**. Follow Scout's instructions along with the kids.
- Option: Read (or have another adult read) the **Let's Go! Bible Story** script on page 3. The exploring instructions are italicized.



# Explore the Story

## Let's Go! Bible Story

Jesus spent three years teaching people about God's love. There were some Jews who did not like Jesus's teachings. They hung Him on a cross to die. *Look over there.* **Do you see the cross?** It was terrible. Some friends of Jesus took His body and placed it in an empty tomb. *Let's roll this large stone in front of the tomb's entrance.* Once it was sealed shut, Jesus's friends left. They believed Jesus was gone forever. **I wonder how Jesus's friends felt after He died?**

On the third day after Jesus's death, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She was holding some spices in her hands. *Let's help her carry these things.* When she approached the tomb she was shocked. *Drop the spices!* She couldn't believe what she was seeing! The stone had been rolled away from the tomb! **I wonder, who do you think could have moved the stone?**

She ran to find Peter and John. *Let's run with Mary and find Peter and John.* Whew! That was fast. She told Peter and John that Jesus had been taken out of the tomb. Peter and John didn't believe Mary's words. They had to see for themselves. Peter and John ran back to the tomb as fast as they could go. *Run again! Keep up with them!* They are fast runners!

Once they got to the tomb they took a big, deep breath. *Let's take a deep breath.* They gathered their courage and went inside. Something was wrong. *Look to the right. Look to the left.* **Can you see it? No?** Neither could they! The tomb was empty! Jesus's body was gone! **I wonder, where do you think Jesus was?** Then they spotted something in the tomb. *Let's pick it up.* All that was left in the tomb were the burial clothes that Jesus's body had been wrapped in. Peter and John didn't know what was going on. *Show me how you would look if you were there.* They decided to return home, confused by what they had seen.

Outside the tomb Mary was waiting alone. She peeked into the tomb. *Let's stand on our tippy-toes and peek in.* When she looked inside, it wasn't empty! Mary jumped back in surprise! *Let's jump too!* She saw two angels sitting where Jesus's body had been. The angels asked her why she was sad. Mary told them she was upset that Jesus's body had disappeared.

Then she heard something. *Quick! Turn around!* Outside of the tomb she saw a gardener. He heard Mary crying and asked her what was wrong. Mary told him she was sad that Jesus had died. She asked if he would help her find His body.

The gardener listened to her story and when she finished he said one word, "Mary." The way he said it made Mary stop crying. The biggest smile came on her face. *Let's see your biggest smile!* When she heard her name she realized the truth! This man wasn't a gardener! This was Jesus! *Let's make a group hug! Let's celebrate!* Jesus asked Mary to return to the disciples. He wanted her to begin spreading the good news that He was alive. Through Jesus's death on the cross and His resurrection, our sins can be forgiven! He loves us so much!



## 6 What's This Say about God & Us?

- ❑ I wonder what part of the story you liked best?
- ❑ I wonder who you are most like in this story?
- ❑ I wonder how the disciples felt when Mary told them Jesus was alive?
- ❑ I wonder what we learn about God through this story?

## 7 Exploration Stations

- ❑ Introduce the Exploration Stations you'll be doing. Review your rules for the Exploration Stations (quiet voices, share items, etc.). \*Note the new station, *Play the Story Station*, listed below.\*
  - **Resurrection Rock Station:** Help kids paint a cross on the rock. Encourage kids to hold the rock and think about the stone that was rolled away from Jesus's tomb! Invite kids to show their rock to someone and tell them that Jesus is alive!
  - **Let's See! Story Station:** Re-create the story with the **Story Cards**.
  - **Picture the Story Station:** Color the picture on your **Discovery Guide**.
  - **Sculpt the Story Station:** Use Play-Doh to make something from the story.
  - **Play the Story Station:** Have an assortment of toys (dolls, action figures, toys from a kid's meal). Have kids act out and play through the story with the different toys.
- ❑ Invite kids to choose which station they go to. Kids can stay at one or visit multiple stations.
- ❑ As kids play, visit each station and ask questions about their play and how it relates to the story.
- ❑ Allow 15-20 minutes to explore. Announce when it's almost time to stop. Bring kids back to the gathering area before cleaning up.

## 8 Share Your Discovery

- ❑ Invite kids to share what they discovered about the Bible story. Share what you discovered as you interacted with the kids.
- ❑ Remind kids to use their **Discovery Guide** to keep exploring at home. Pray as a group, thanking God for leading their discoveries.
- ❑ Use a **Eureka! Jr. Stamp** to stamp each kid's **Discovery Guide** to show that they completed today's expedition.
- ❑ Play *Tidy-Up Song* from the **Eureka! Jr. DVD** or **CD** as the kids clean up the room.

## 9 Goodbye Blessing

- ❑ Using the other **Eureka! Jr. Stamp**, stamp each child's hand as you share the following blessing with each one.
  - **May you feel God's love this week. You are loved! Share this love with others!**

