



Easter Lesson



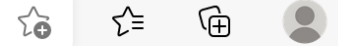
This printable pack contains the following activities:

- Can You Trust This News? (Images)
- Mary Sees Jesus Alive Storytelling Pictures
- Can We Trust These People? (Images)
- Good Friday Script

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Can You Trust This News?

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Can You Trust This News?



Can You Trust This News?



Mary Sees Jesus Alive



Early on Sunday morning, Mary ran to see her friends. She was so happy! She knew what had happened; she had seen and heard for herself - Jesus was alive! She couldn't wait to tell them.



Earlier that same morning... A very sad Mary went to visit Jesus' tomb. She had been devastated since Jesus died. She had watched him perform miracles. She had heard him teaching about God. She knew Jesus was God's Son. She believed he was the Messiah - the one who was sent to make everything right and good. And now Jesus was dead.



Mary arrived at the tomb only to discover that Jesus' body was not there! What??



Confused and shocked, Mary ran to see her friends. As she reached them her words tumbled out, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb! I don't know where they have put him!'



Two of Mary's friends – Peter and John – ran to the tomb; could they trust what Mary had said? Mary followed. When they arrived, not only was Jesus not there but Peter and John could see the clothes he had been wearing still in the tomb! Now they too were confused.



Unable to understand what was happening, Peter and John went back to the other disciples, but Mary stayed. She cried and cried. She missed Jesus, and now this latest shock...it really was all too much. She stooped down to look into the tomb. And that's when Mary got her next shock of the day...



...she saw two angels! They asked, 'Why are you crying?' She replied, 'They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him!'



Then she turned around. Mary saw another person that she didn't recognise. This person asked her the same question; 'Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?'

'Maybe', Mary thought, 'this man is the gardener. Maybe he moved Jesus' body by mistake.'

So Mary sadly asked, 'Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him.'



The man said, 'Mary!'

Mary couldn't believe her ears. Mary couldn't believe her eyes. This man called Mary by her name! And Mary realised who the man was. He called her by name because he knew her, because he cared about her! It was Jesus!

Mary could now see and hear that Jesus was alive! And so, with tears of joy, she exclaimed 'Teacher!' and ran towards Jesus to hug him.

Jesus explained, 'Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Father. But tell my disciples that I am going to the one who is my Father and my God as well as your Father and your God.'

Mary couldn't believe it; Jesus was saying that she, Mary, could now be in God's family. She could now be friends with God!



And so, early that Sunday morning, Mary ran towards her friends. Because Mary had extraordinary news to tell – Jesus, who had been dead, was now alive! And because Jesus was alive, she could be friends with God. And Mary was happy – she couldn't wait to share the good news!

Can We Trust These People?

Mary



We can't speak to the people in the Bible account – they all died long ago. But I believe there are good reasons to trust these accounts.

Why should we trust the account about Mary?

Here are some good reasons: Mary had seen Jesus die. Mary wasn't expecting to see Jesus alive – she said twice that she thought someone had taken the body.

Can We Trust These People?

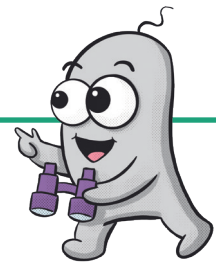
Peter and John



Why should we trust the account about Peter and John?

Here are some good reasons: The Bible shows that Peter went from a coward to a passionate spokesperson for Jesus. What do you think might have made him change? (He believed that Jesus was alive). John actually wrote this account. He gives many details that only an eyewitness would know.

Good Friday Script



Characters: Two Narrators, Mary, Peter, John

Script

Narrator 1: I'm here to tell the story behind what Christians celebrate at Easter.

Narrator 2: Me too. And what Easter means.

Mary: And I'm Mary.

Narrator 1: *(To Mary)* What are you doing here?

Mary: I thought you might like to hear from someone who was there.

Narrator 2: Are we still talking about the first Easter, nearly 2000 years ago in Jerusalem?

Mary: Yes.

Narrator 2: *(puzzled, looking at Narrator 1 and Mary)* How does that even work?

Narrator 1: *(to Narrator 2)* It's a script. Literary license. Just go with it.

Mary: That first Easter Sunday was an amazingly happy day.

Narrator 2: *(to Narrator 1)* OK. 'Happy'. That has a nice ring to it ... 'Happy Easter'.

Mary: It was also extraordinarily sad.

Narrator 2: That doesn't sound so good.

Mary: It was horrible, worse than you can imagine.

Narrator 1: And you saw horrible things really happen? *(Mary nods.)*

Narrator 2: What things?

Narrator 1: Mary, you're telling us the first Easter is history?

Narrator 2: Horrible history it seems.

Mary: *(nodding agreement)* At first, I wished it wasn't happening, then I was so glad it did.

Narrator 2: You've lost me.

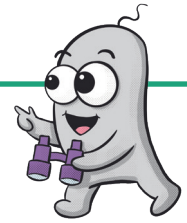
Mary: On Good Friday, when we saw Jesus give up his spirit, we were devastated.

Narrator 1: What do you mean? Jesus died?

Mary: Yes, we saw it happen.

Narrator 1: And this happened on the first Good Friday, the first day of the Easter holiday? *(Mary nods)*

Good Friday Script Cont...



Script

Narrator 2: Well that doesn't work! Someone named that wrongly! I'd have thought Frightful Friday might be more appropriate, or....

Mary: *(continuing)* It was horrible on that first Good Friday but later I knew it was really good.

Narrator 1: You've lost me too now. Tell us what happened.

Mary: When Jesus was dead, they put his body in a tomb - like a cave. They put a big stone across the entrance. I watched them do it.

Narrator 2: Let's get this straight. On the first Good Friday Jesus' dead body was put in a cave? Hardly something good to be celebrating 2000 years later!

Mary: That's not the end. The following Sunday morning I went back to the tomb and I saw that the stone had been rolled away. I ran straight away to get Peter and John...

Narrator 1: They knew Jesus well?

(Peter and John enter.)

Narrator 2: Excuse us, we're trying to work out about the first Easter here.

Peter and John: *(together)* We're here to help. We were there too.

Narrator 2: So you're Peter and John? From 2000 years ago. That's not... Oh I get it, literary license again.

Narrator 1: Mary said all those years ago, she ran to get you when she saw the tomb was open. Is that right? Did you check her story?

Peter: Mary came running up saying 'Someone's stolen Jesus' body and we don't know where they've put it!' so John and I took off for the tomb to check.

John: I got there first.

Peter: But you didn't go in.

John: No, but I looked in.

Narrator 1: Was it empty?

John: Yes. I mean No.

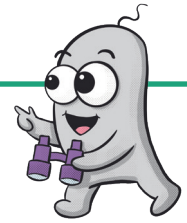
Narrator 2: Was the body there or not?

John: Well, there was no body. But the cloth the body had been wrapped in was still there.

Peter: And then I got there and went in.

John: And I went in after him. And suddenly I believed.

Good Friday Script Cont...



Script

Narrator 1: Believed what?

John: I can't explain it I just believed.

Peter: Me too.

John: Then we went back to the others, who were still devastated about Good Friday.

Narrator 1: The day that Jesus died?

Narrator 2: *(aside)* Crazy name that.

(Peter and John leave.)

Narrator 1: *(turning to Mary)* Did you go with them back to the others?

Mary: No. I stayed there at the tomb. I couldn't stop crying.

Narrator 2: Understandable, I guess.

Mary: I looked into the tomb and there were angels there.

Narrators 1 & 2: *(together)* Angels?

Mary: They were dressed in white and they were sitting where Jesus' body had been.

Narrator 1: Are you sure you didn't imagine it?

Mary: Positive! They even talked to me, asked me why I was crying.

Narrator 2: *(muttering)* Pretty obvious I would have thought.

Mary: I sobbed 'They've taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they've put him! Then suddenly I was aware of someone behind me. I didn't know who it was at first. He asked me why I was crying too.

Narrator 2: *(muttering)* She must have been disturbing the whole neighbourhood!

Mary: I thought it was the gardener. I said 'Sir, if you've taken his body away, please tell me so I can go and get him!' Then the person said my name and I knew. 'Jesus! Master!' I exclaimed. Jesus told me not to hang on to him.

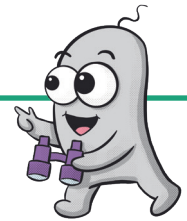
Narrator 1: He talked to you?

Mary: Yes. Jesus said 'Tell the others that I'm going to my Father and my God, as well as your father and your God.'

Narrator 1: Can you say that slowly? He's *(pointing to Narrator 2)* having trouble keeping up.

Mary: *(slowly)* Jesus said to me, 'Tell the others that I'm going to my Father and my God, your father and your God.'

Good Friday Script Cont...



Script

(Both Narrators look puzzled, scratching heads for a while until interrupted by Mary.)

Mary: We saw Jesus alive lots of times after that. But then one day he left us and went to heaven. Peter and John could tell you about that. *(Looking around.)* But they've gone.

Narrator 2: I'm still stuck on this Good Friday thing. Are you sure you don't mean Good Sunday?

Mary: The way I understand it, in some mysterious way, when Jesus died...

Narrator 1: On the Friday.

Mary: ...he made it possible for us to be with God in a new way.

Narrator 2: That might be good...

Mary: He said to me 'your father and your God'. Somehow, because of Jesus, I'm part of God's family too now. That's enough for me.' *(Mary leaves.)*

Narrator 1: We need to wrap this up.

Narrator 2: How do we do that?

Narrator 1: We need to resolve this Good Friday name problem.

Narrator 2: Strange as it sounds, If Jesus dying...

Narrator 1: On the Friday of the first Easter 2000 years ago.

Narrator 2: ...somehow makes it possible for us to be friends with the creator of the universe, in God's family...

Narrator 1: That would have to be

Narrators 1 & 2: *(together)* a Good Friday!

The End