

## The Empty Tomb : Easter play

[The play opens as the NARRATOR ENTERS. The Empty Tomb is in the background to one side. The stone is already rolled away. The WOMEN and the DISCIPLES are over on the other side of the stage; they appear very sad.]

**NARRATOR:** Jesus had died on the cross just a few days earlier. And after He died, He was buried in a tomb. His family and friends were very sad. His family and friends missed Him very much!

[MARY and the other women approach the Empty Tomb.]

**NARRATOR:** Early on Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away! This astonished them! But there was something even more astonishing... The body of Jesus was not in the tomb!!

[MARY runs to find SIMON PETER and JOHN. Other Women follow her and then stay at side of stage with other disciples for now.]

Mary came running to tell the disciples. She spoke with two of them named Simon Peter and John.

**MARY:** They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!

[SIMON PETER and JOHN head towards the empty tomb.]

**NARRATOR:** Simon Peter and John started for the tomb. Both were running, but John outran Simon Peter and reached the tomb first.

[JOHN outruns SIMON PETER and gets there first. Then JOHN looks in the tomb, but does not go in.]

**NARRATOR:** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

[SIMON PETER gets there and goes right in the tomb.]

**NARRATOR:** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. [JOHN goes into the tomb as well.]

**NARRATOR:** Finally John, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (But they still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

[SIMON PETER and JOHN go back where they started from.]

**NARRATOR:** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. [MARY returns to the empty tomb and is crying.]

**NARRATOR:** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

[Two ANGELS appear at tomb. MARY looks in the tomb and sees the ANGELS.]

**NARRATOR:** As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They spoke to her.

**ANGELS:** Woman, why are you crying?

MARY: They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him.

[JESUS appears near MARY.]

**NARRATOR:** At this, Mary turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize yet that it was Jesus. She thought perhaps the man she saw was the gardener.

**JESUS:** Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?

**MARY:** Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.

**JESUS:** Mary.

**MARY:** (very excited) Rabboni! (Teacher)

[MARY reaches for JESUS.]

**JESUS:** Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'

[MARY turns and excitedly runs to find the DISCIPLES.]

**NARRATOR:** Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news.

**MARY:** (happy and excited) I have seen the Lord!

**NARRATOR:** And she told them all the things that He had said to her.

[ALL CAST members come to front of stage area.]

**NARRATOR:** Now Jesus' friends didn't have to be sad anymore. Now they knew that Jesus was alive forever!

**ALL:** Jesus is Alive! Happy Easter!!

**THE END**

Taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV) [www.SundaySchoolCenter.com](http://www.SundaySchoolCenter.com)

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