

Groundbreaking!

Matthew 28:1-10

Two women, disciples of Jesus, visit his tomb and find it empty. They are sent by an angel to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus has been raised. As they run, they meet Jesus himself, who repeats the angel's message, that he is risen.

Read this week's passage:



Research

Find out how many Christians there are living in the world today. They all believe that Jesus is alive! Who else can you tell this week?

PLAY

Play a game of Snakes and Ladders. Sometimes it's easy to fall down, but the risen Jesus is always with us as we slowly climb towards life with God. Keep going and share Easter treats to celebrate when everyone has finished the game!

Discuss

Discuss with your family and friends what it means to be 'Easter people'.



Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:

Living Scripture

'And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.'
Matthew 28:9

Sometimes events can shake us to the core – earthquakes, traffic accidents, medical diagnoses, the death of someone we love dearly. We wonder what on earth is going on. The Easter stories are full of shocked people wondering what is happening, shocked people to whom the risen Jesus comes and says, 'Don't be afraid'.

In their confused state of 'fear and great joy' on the morning of the first Easter Day, the two Marys take 'hold' of Jesus. If you've ever been separated from someone you love or have not expected to see again, you will know what it feels like to take hold of that person. You grab them and never want to let go!

When life's events shake us, we are wise if, like the women, we take hold of Jesus and bring to him all of our confusion, mixed-up feelings and questions. How might our weekly and daily worship be times or moments when we deliberately take hold of Jesus and listen carefully for his voice? Like the two Marys, such moments can't last forever, but how can we use some time in this coming week to simply be and take hold of Jesus, in a moment of worship?

First impressions

- How does it feel to be physically shaken or moved by something, e.g. a fairground ride, or travelling?
- In what ways is the Easter story groundbreaking?
- Do we make the Easter story too 'safe' in our retellings? How can we share the seismic joy of the resurrection?



Pray



Dear Lord,
when things happen that make us scared:
help us to know you are with us;
help us to hear you saying, 'do not be afraid';
help us to remember that on Easter Day
you turned fear to joy;
and help us to share this good news with others.
Amen.

Write

The women were scared when they saw what had happened, and no wonder! Write down your fears and place them somewhere to remind you of Jesus' words, 'do not be afraid', e.g. by a cross or in an Easter Garden.