

Jared heard the rumours. The Chief Priests and Pharisees were scared that Jesus might rise from the tomb as He had promised. Apparently, they had managed a meeting late Friday afternoon with Pilate and organized for a Centurion and his one hundred soldiers to be posted around the tomb. Not only did they do that, they put ropes across the large rock at the entrance to the tomb and fixed them to both sides with the Roman seal. From their perspective, Jesus was locked in tight.

Sabbath seemed to drag by. Attendance at the Temple. But it all seemed so empty now. The torn temple curtain and the possibility that Jesus really was the Messiah seemed to be all the chatter that Jared heard that day. People had brought their sick ones to the temple only to be told that Jesus was dead. No healing. No Jesus. No hope. With his mother's agreement, Jared had got permission to have a sleep-over. Not your normal sleep-over. He knew a spot close to the tomb of Jesus, where he could sit and watch and not be seen. He remembered Jesus had told everyone that He would rise in three days. Friday afternoon was the first day. Sabbath was Day 2. And any time from Saturday night through to sunset on Sunday was Day 3. Jared wanted to be there to see it. He just knew that Jesus would rise again. After all, He had said He would, and what Jesus said always happened.

Jared had watched the soldiers as darkness settled on Saturday night. They were bored. After all, how much trouble can you expect from Some-one who was dead? He had drifted off to sleep but then woke up some hours later. He could not remember why he had woken up. He just had. In the glimmer of the small fire near the tomb he saw the soldiers who were allocated to be on duty standing around. Still bored. And then it happened!

This immense bright light focused on the large stone at the tomb entrance. The light ended up being a powerful angel. He majestically stood there, easily rolled away the tomb stone, and then in a powerful voice, called out "Jesus, Son of God, Your Father calls You!"

Another earthquake, just like the one when Jesus had died on Friday afternoon.

As Jared's eyes glued on the tomb entrance, Jesus suddenly stood there. But not the Jesus he knew from walking the dusty roads of Judea. This was Jesus who looked like the King of the Universe. Bright. Powerful. Glowing. The angel knelt at His feet in worship. Jesus then stood tall and exclaimed, "I am the Resurrection and the Life!"

The soldiers had seen the angel in all his glory. They had seen Jesus emerge. And then it seemed the soldiers had just collapsed and fainted with the shock.

As Jared watched further, other people from other tombs began to emerge. He did not know their names or when they had lived. Some were much taller than the people that Jared knew. They looked like they had new bodies and were all excited that Jesus' resurrection had activated their own resurrection. Years later, he understood when Paul called this special group the "first fruits" of Jesus resurrection to take back to heaven with Him.

Eventually the soldiers got themselves together and in confusion and nervousness set off to let Pilate know the incredible things they had seen.

Unfortunately, the Pharisees and Jewish leaders saw the soldiers first and bribed them to lie and tell a different story for the general public. But the soldiers could not hide the truth from Pilate. He found out and it tormented him and tormented the soldiers for the rest of their lives.

Jared just sat there in awe. He had seen Jesus come out of the tomb. He had heard Jesus speak in triumph. He had seen the angel worship Jesus. He knew Jesus was the Messiah. He also knew that Jesus was his very own friend too. How fantastic that he was both a Friend and the Messiah? Jared knew that he wanted to live just how Jesus would like him to. He wanted to go back with Jesus when the time was right too.

Jesus Conquers Death

Sabbath

Have you ever lost a pet, or a friend or relative? It is a very sad thing. Jesus' friends were very sad when He died too, but they didn't stay sad.

A young boy, perhaps 3 years old had lost one of his pet chickens. Mummy had buried it in the back yard. That night he couldn't sleep, and his Mummy talked to him about death and what would happen when Jesus comes.

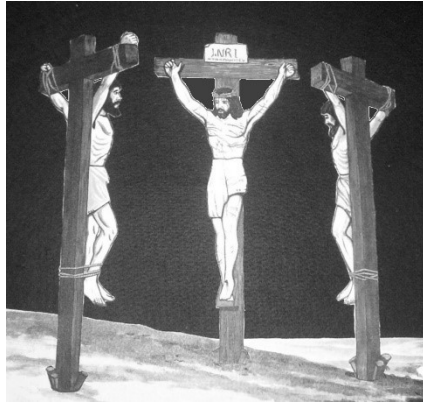
The boy listened attentively and then said, "One day, I will dig up my chicken, and Jesus will come and raise her to life!"

Mummy agreed that Jesus would come soon to bring to life those who loved Him, and to take them all to heaven – but, she said, 'We don't have dig them up – it happens by itself, when Jesus calls them.'



Sunday

Jesus was nailed to a cross between two thieves. It was Friday and just before sunset the soldiers broke the legs of the thieves to hurry their deaths; but they found that Jesus was already dead. But one soldier stuck a sword in Jesus' side to make sure, and blood and water came from the wound.



Then Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish council. He was a secret disciple of Jesus and had not agreed with the decisions and actions of the other Jewish leaders. Now he took a risk and asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body. Pilate couldn't believe Jesus was already dead, but the Roman officer confirmed it, so Pilate gave permission.

Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus' body, wrapped it in cloth and laid it in his own new tomb which had been carved from rock in a nearby garden. Then they rolled a heavy stone in front of it. And Jesus rested in the tomb for the Sabbath.

Now the priests went to see Pilate. They told him, "Jesus once said: 'After three days I will rise from the dead.' So we want you to seal the tomb and guard it until the third day. This will stop His disciples from stealing His body and then telling everyone He was raised from the dead!"

If that happens, we'll be worse off than when He was alive."

Pilate replied, "Take guards and do as you have said."

So they sealed the tomb and soldiers stood guard.



Friday

Find the words in bold.

Death is a **sad time**, but we **know** that **anyone** who **dies believing** in Jesus, who has **asked** Jesus to **stand in their place**, **will rise again** when **Jesus returns**, just as Jesus rose from the **tomb**.

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Tick the things you think are true. (The answers are at the bottom of the page)

Because Jesus died...

- ☐ Satan has lost.
- ☐ Nothing bad will ever happen again.
- ☐ I can go to Heaven.
- ☐ Satan doesn't exit.
- ☐ When we get to heaven, we can meet people who died loving Jesus.
- ☐ I can live again.
- ☐ Satan will be destroyed.
- ☐ Jesus paid the price for my sins.
- ☐ Jesus didn't really die.
- ☐ Death is not the end of everything.
- ☐ Jesus won.

☐	Satan has lost.
☐	Nothing bad will ever happen again.
☐	I can go to Heaven.
☐	Satan doesn't exist.
☐	We can meet people who died loving Jesus in Heaven.
☐	I can live again.
☐	Satan will be destroyed.
☐	Jesus paid the price for my sins.
☐	Jesus didn't really die.
☐	Death is not final.
☐	Jesus won.

Thursday

A heavy stone, the seal of the Roman Governor, a unit of Roman soldiers, Satan and all of his evil angels - could not keep Jesus in the grave. Remember, Satan is only himself an angel, but Jesus is God. What do the angels in heaven call God?

Revelation 4:8^{NLT}, "_____, _____, _____, is the Lord God, the _____ - the one who always _____, who _____, and who is still to _____."

And yet Jesus said in John 3:16^{NIV}, "For God so _____ the _____ that He gave His _____ and _____, that whoever _____ in Him shall not _____ but have _____."

No matter what we face in life, we can know that God is in control, that He is greater, and that He loves us and will not fail us.

Romans 5:3^{NLT}, "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Fit the underlined and missing words into the puzzle

Monday

Early on Sunday morning there was a great earthquake! An angel of the Lord came down from Heaven, rolled aside the stone and sat on it.



The guards were so scared they fainted, when they came to, they went into the city and told the priests what had happened. The priests decided to bribe the soldiers into saying that they were sleeping when the disciples came and stole the body. "We'll make sure you don't get in trouble," they promised. So the soldiers agreed. Their story spread widely among the Jews and is still believed today.

On Saturday evening, a group of the woman who had followed Jesus prepared burial spices, then they got up early Sunday morning to go to the tomb. On the way they remembered the heavy stone and wondered how they would move it, but then they saw it was open!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Why are you looking for the living among the dead? You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said He would. Look where His body was lying. Now go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and He will meet you in Galilee."

The women ran back towards town, frightened but also filled with joy, but on the way, they met Jesus Himself. They knelt in front of Him, touching His feet and worshipping Him.

"Don't be afraid," He said, "Tell my brothers I will see them in Galilee."

When the women told the disciples what had happened and that they had seen Jesus, it didn't make sense to them. But John and Peter ran to see for themselves and found the tomb empty.

John tells us more details of Mary Magdalene's story: she also had gone to visit the tomb in the early morning and was crying in the garden when she saw a gardener. She asked if he had taken the body or knew where it was. When He called her by name, she suddenly realised that it was Jesus Himself!



Tuesday

The priests were worried because they remembered something that Jesus had said.

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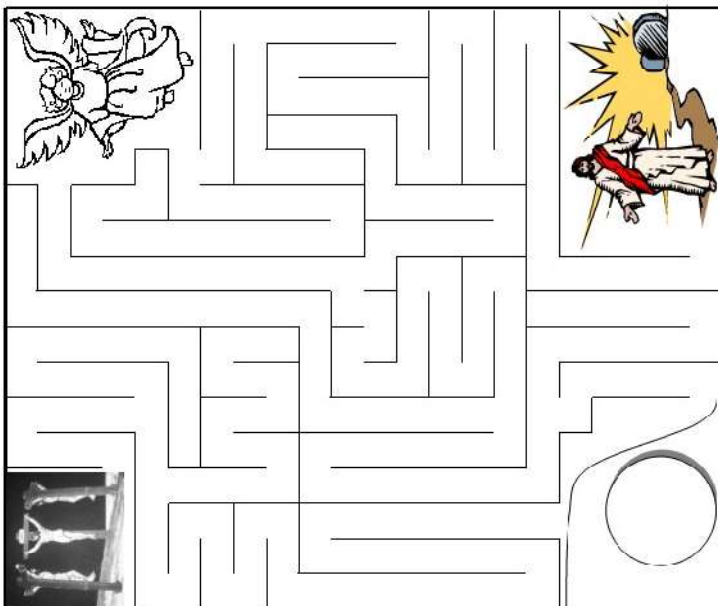
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Jesus died on the cross on Friday, rested in the tomb on Sabbath, and the angel rolled away the stone and Jesus rose, early Sunday morning. Find your way through the maze from Jesus being crucified to Jesus returning to life.



Wednesday

Read Matthew 28:2-4 and answer these questions.

What happened to the earth? _____ (9a)

Who came? An _____ (5d)

What did the angel do? R_____ (17d) the S_____ (12a)

Then what did the angel do? _____ (3d) on it.

What did the guards do? F_____ (15d)

What did the angel say? Luke 24:6-7, "He isn't here; He is _____ (8d) from

the dead! _____ (13d) what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and

be _____ (14a), and that He would

rise again on the third day."

Matthew 27:52-53, written at the time when Jesus died, also tells us something that happened at the resurrection.

"_____ (2d) broke open. The

_____ (6d) of many

holy people who had _____ (18d)

were _____ (19a) to life. They

came out of the

tombs after _____ (11a)

(10d) and went into the holy

_____ (1d) and _____ (16a)

_____ to

_____ (4a) _____ (7a)."

NIV

