



# EASTER SUNDAY

AGAIN & AGAIN, THE SUN RISES

MARK 16:1-8

**Engage:** *Ask, “Have you ever gotten a present you didn’t understand? Maybe you opened it and thought, ‘What do I do with this? What is it? What is the weirdest present you have ever received?’ Accept children’s answers and thank them for sharing. Ask, “Did you say thank you for that weird present, even if you didn’t know what it was for?”*

**Explain:** On the first Easter morning, the women disciples got a really weird present that they didn’t know what to do with, either. Remember, on Friday they had watched Jesus die and were very, very sad. On Saturday, they couldn’t have the funeral because it was the Sabbath day. So first thing on Sunday, as soon as they could, they went to the tomb expecting to take care of Jesus’ body and prepare him for his funeral. But what happened when they got there? ... Jesus wasn’t there! How weird! That’s not at all what they expected. And then on top of that, there’s a strange man sitting where Jesus should be telling them wild stories about Jesus being alive, even though the women saw him die with their own eyes. The Bible says they were afraid—I would be, too. We don’t always understand the gifts God gives us, but thanks be to God for strange miracles like the risen Christ who brings us new life.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you for miracles we don’t always understand. Help us to be on the lookout for new life in the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Play:** For an extension activity, have a puzzle Easter egg hunt. Put each piece of a puzzle in an Easter egg and hide them around the room, playground, house, or backyard. (*Don’t let on that there’s something different inside these eggs!*) Encourage children to go on an egg hunt and collect all the eggs. When they open their eggs, ask whether they are puzzled by what’s inside, just like the first disciples were puzzled when Jesus wasn’t in the tomb. Ask them to guess what picture the puzzle will form when all of the pieces are placed together. Then help them assemble the puzzle. You can purchase puzzles at dollar stores, create your own using recycled cereal boxes and craft materials, or order a custom printed puzzle of your family or church at websites like [GotPrint](#), [Vistaprint](#), [Shutterfly](#), or [Snapfish](#).

ADDITIONAL EASTER BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN:

You might like to share one of these books on Easter morning with children to celebrate the resurrection:

- ***Petook: An Easter Story*** written by Caryll Houselander and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Unfortunately, this book is out of print, but you can [watch a read aloud on YouTube](#) if you have difficulty finding the book secondhand.

- ***The Story of the Easter Robin*** written by Dandi Daley Mackall and illustrated by Anna Voitech  
*Purchase a copy or watch a read aloud on YouTube. There is also another version with a different illustrator under the title “The Legend of the Easter Robin”.*
  - ***That Grand Easter Day!*** written by Jill Roman Lord and illustrated by Alessia Trunfio  
*Purchase a copy or watch a read aloud on YouTube. Contains lots of repetition for little ones.*
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<https://sanctifiedart.org/blog/again-and-again-childrens-lessons>