Jesus died on a cross on Friday afternoon. Only a few hours were left until sunset, when the Sabbath Day would begin. The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies of Jesus and the two thieves left hanging on the crosses during the Sabbath. So they went to Pilate and said, “Tell your soldiers to go out to Calvary and break the legs of Jesus and those thieves. Then they’ll die more quickly and their bodies can be taken down and buried.”

Pilate sent his soldiers to do what the Jews had asked. The soldiers used their heavy clubs to break the legs of the thieves. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So instead of breaking his legs, one of the soldiers stabbed his spear into Jesus’ side. When he saw blood and water flow out of the wound, the soldier was sure that Jesus was dead.

Later that afternoon, a man named Joseph went to Pilate. Joseph was a follower of Jesus. He asked Pilate, “May I have the body of Jesus? I’ll take it down from the cross and bury it.”

After Pilate told Joseph that he could bury Jesus’ body, Joseph and another believer named Nicodemus went out to Calvary. The two men took Jesus’ body down from the cross.

Joseph owned a large garden near Calvary. In this garden was a new grave that Joseph had made for himself. This grave was like a cave, cut out of a hillside. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus’ dead body to this grave. There they put sweet-smelling spices in strips of cloth and wrapped the strips around Jesus’ body. Then they gently laid his body in the grave. When they were finished, they rolled a large stone in front of the doorway to the grave and sadly walked away.

Some women who were friends of Jesus had watched the two men bury him. They wanted to help get Jesus’ body ready for burial, but there was not enough time to get more spices. The sun was setting, and the Sabbath Day would soon begin. No work could be done on the Sabbath Day. So they went home, saying, “On Sunday, after the Sabbath Day is over, we’ll come back and put more spices in Jesus’ grave.”

Very early on Sunday morning, the women started out for Jesus’ grave. One of them was Mary Magdalene. The women carried spices to put on Jesus’ body. On the way, they thought about the heavy stone that blocked the door of the grave. They asked one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us?”

But when they came to the grave, the women could hardly believe what they saw. “Look!” they said. “The stone is already rolled away!”
When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been moved, she didn’t go any farther. She ran to tell the disciples what she had seen. But the other women hurried to the grave and went inside. They didn’t see Jesus’ body anywhere. But what they did see amazed them! In the cave sat an angel, wearing a white robe that was as bright as lightning!

The women were filled with fear. But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said he would. Come see for yourselves!” Then the angel told them, “Go and tell Jesus’ disciples that he has risen from the dead. Tell them that they will soon see him again.”

Now the women were filled with joy because of the angel’s message. They ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples the good news. Jesus had risen! He was alive!

Throughout his life, Jesus did many miracles that showed his power as God’s Son. In this lesson we learn about his most glorious miracle—rising from the dead. By his resurrection, Jesus showed the world that he truly is God’s Son and the Savior.

1. In the Bible story, find and circle two things that happened to Jesus to show he was truly dead. Then draw a happy face near the good news about Jesus that the angel told the women.

2. Have the family read Matthew 16:16; Mark 1:11; and John 3:16. These passages show that Jesus truly is God’s Son and the Savior. Then compose a prayer thanking Jesus for coming to save you.

Dear living Savior, God’s own Son,
My salvation you have won.
Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

* The Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**Hymn 152:1**
I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living Head!