



# Insights & Ideas

FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7

## The Rock Rolled Away from the Tomb

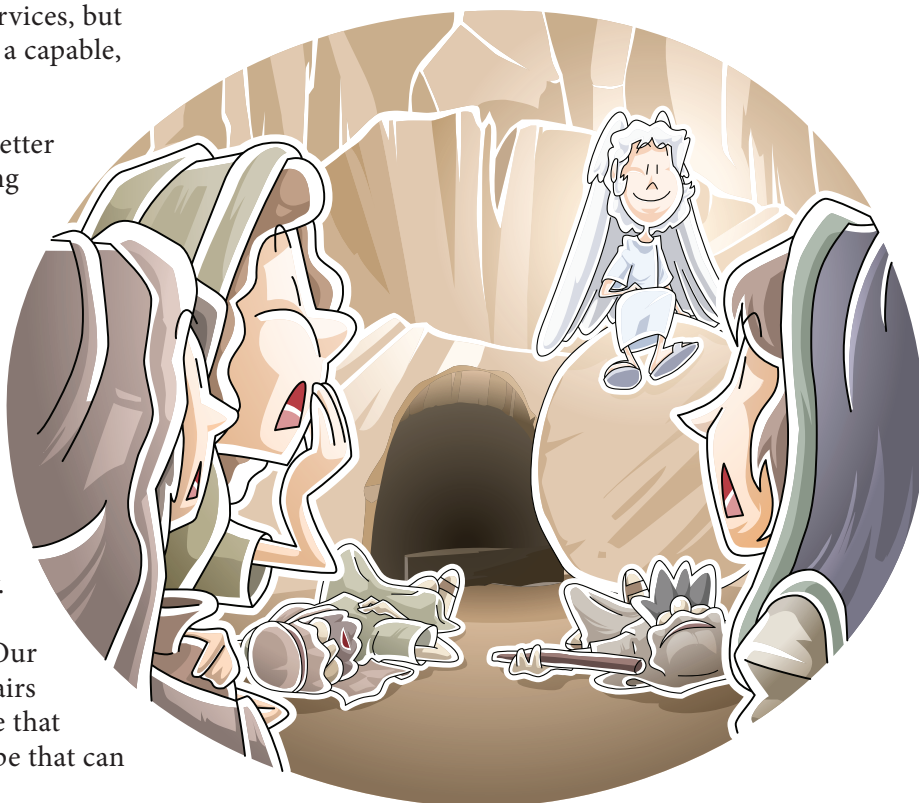
You've heard the old proverb, "There are only two certainties in life: death and taxes." How true that is for us — a reality we remember especially this month! Hopefully by the time you read this, you will be anxiously awaiting your bountiful refund check from our beloved national treasury. For many, tax season is stressful and burdensome. Not for me. At the start of the year, I gather up all the necessary documents and send it off to my tax guy. It is so nice to have someone else take care of it. It is such a relief to not have to worry about it or buy the newest TurboTax software. My tax guy will work through the mess, comb over the details and make sure all my files are in order. He'll make sure the government gets its due. He'll make sure I don't land in jail. To be sure, I do have to pay for his services, but it is worth it. It is a good investment to have a capable, reliable guy to take care of things.

As good as it is to have a tax guy, it is even better to have an eternal life guy. Easter has a lasting impact. The joy and celebration, the good news and victory of Easter still ring loudly in our worship and in our lives. Like taxes, we have all been forced to face the reality of death. We've dealt with it personally, and we see it constantly on the news. Yet, Easter reminds us that death does not win; we have "a guy" who takes care of it for us!

That's the Easter message: Because He conquers death, so do we! No need to worry. No further work or effort is needed from us. We don't even have to pay for His services. Our guy, Jesus, makes sure all of our spiritual affairs are in order — free of charge! He makes sure that nothing will happen to us. He offers us a hope that can

stare death in the eye and proclaim, "O death, where is your sting?" (1 COR. 15:55). Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ (1 COR. 15:57). In life and in death, we have "a guy" who takes care of us. First Peter 5:6–7 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

Thank You, Jesus, for taking care of us. We stand secure, knowing that the inevitable and guaranteed certainties of life are already dealt with. My tax guy has my taxes done. My death guy has the rest under control. Time to relax and enjoy the last few months of school!



## Spiritual and Social Living

Get the kids up and moving for a game of Follow the Leader or Simon Says. These games are simple enough for the children to understand. After a round or two of playing, sit the kids on the floor and read them the Easter story from a children's Bible (of the Concordia Publishing House variety, of course). This will once again get them to remember the "what" of Easter — Jesus' resurrection. But now, you can teach them the "why it matters" part as well. Just as in the game, we follow the leader so the story of Easter is that we follow Christ right out of our tombs too. Of course, your teaching point may be something as simple as: "Jesus died and rose to go to heaven. Now if we follow (believe in) Him, He will lead us right to heaven to spend the rest of our lives with Him."

## Wellness

### Roll Like a Rock

Technical steps for the forward roll:

1. Stand up and stretch your arms forward.
2. Squat and face forward.
3. Bend your head down.
4. Roll around on your back.
5. Finish it on your bottom with your arms around your knees.
6. Stretch your legs forward and stretch your arms forward the air.
7. Return to position in Step 1.

## Communication Arts

### Story Rocks

To make story rocks, you will need enough fairly large, flat rocks for the characters in your story. Then take the characters' pictures, place them on the rocks and paint over them with watered down glue. Let the rocks dry completely.

Place the rocks in a storage container so that the students can retell the story of how Jesus rose from the dead.

## Expressive Arts

### Easter Time

Sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

Easter time, Easter time,  
We have so much to do.  
Time for bunnies, time for eggs,  
But time for Jesus too.  
Oh, Easter time, Easter time,  
Jesus showed His love,  
He died for us and rose again,  
He's with the Lord above.

## Discovering the World

Place different shape outlines in the math area. Allow the students to use small rocks to create the outline of each shape. They can estimate how many rocks they think it will take to create each shape as well.