

Children's Sermon for April 12 (based on John 20:1-18)

Items needed: small table, plastic Easter egg, small box, piece of black construction paper.

Beforehand, "gift wrap" the box with the black paper. Place Easter egg on table and ask what it is. Egg is used as a symbol of new life--just like God gave new life to the dead Jesus on the first Easter. So, let's say this egg, on this table, stands for the Easter miracle, of God giving new life to the dead Jesus. Now, I'm going to make this egg disappear. (Place black box on table so egg gets knocked off.) There, the egg has disappeared! Well, it hasn't really disappeared, but it has been knocked aside. (Take black box off table and put egg back on.) In today's Bible reading, a good friend of Jesus, comes to visit the grave of the dead Jesus. But God has already worked the Easter miracle---Mary is looking for the dead body of Jesus, but nobody is there--Jesus is alive, and on the move! Unfortunately, Mary guesses that something BAD must have happened (place box on table again so egg gets knocked off.) Mary guesses that someone must have stolen the dead body of Jesus. She's so sure that's what happened, that it takes a long time for Mary to understand the Easter miracle. It takes the living Jesus, calling Mary's name, for her to see the miracle of Easter (use egg to knock black box off of table.) Today, Jesus is still calling to us (pick up egg in one hand and box in another), trying to help us hold on to a God Who can work miracles, rather than guessing, assuming, that something bad will happen.

By Rev. Dave Quinn