



# THE BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT

**JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS!**

**IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM**

# MARY AT THE TOMB

## BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:15-18 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

Tell the Good News!

## FOCUS VERSE

“Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.” Mark 16:15 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Blindfold (Optional) | Mary Sees Jesus Worksheet | Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What are your favorite pizza toppings?
- Do you have a secret talent? What is it?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Worship is more than singing. Everything a believer does should be for God’s glory and is worship. Before you sing today, share a bit about what it means to worship God all the time, every day, with our lives. Incorporate a personal story about a way you worship God in your daily life, and then sing together.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer.



OCASSIONALLY ALLOW THE CHILDREN TO CHOOSE THEIR PRAYER POSTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MAY WANT TO STAND, LAY DOWN, OR KNEEL.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “God, thank You for sending your Son, Jesus, to show us how to live! We are excited that You let us learn about how good You are from the Bible. Help us know who You really are! In Your great name, Amen.”

## REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

Use the weekly puzzle pieces to review.

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “Does anyone remember what we are learning about this month? Yes! The BIGGEST announcement—Jesus has risen!”

- Ask, “Who can remember what an announcement is?”

An announcement is information one person tells others. For example, you might announce that your soccer team won a big game or that you learned to ride your bike. “

“Two weeks ago, we learned about Holy Week and that Jesus died on the Cross. Then, we discussed the biggest announcement of all! Jesus rose from the dead! Today, we get to hear about another big announcement! But first, let’s put up our puzzle piece!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Let’s play a game to get our ears ready to hear our story!”

## ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Blindfold (Optional) |

Say, “Today, we will hear another announcement—but it’s going to be different than the ones before. Let’s play Marco, Polo together to help us with our story.

**GAME GOAL:** One person is “it” and will close their eyes, announcing “Marco” to find everyone. The rest of us will try to hide and announce “Polo” in response to the person who is “it.”

**HOW TO PLAY:**

- Choose someone to be “it.”
- Cover that child’s eyes with a blindfold.
- Tell everyone else to find a spot to hide in the room. Once the children have found a place, explain that this is the spot they have chosen for that entire round.
- The blindfolded child will walk around the room announcing “MARCO” in order to find the other children who respond by saying, “POLO.”
- When everyone has been found and tagged, restart the game with a new blindfolded person.

**CHALLENGE:** For a harder game, allow the children to move around while the person who is “it” is trying to tag people.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job playing Marco, Polo! Did you know that our story for today is about hiding and then announcing? It is similar to the game we just played! Let’s read the story together.”

## LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we will hear an awesome story about Jesus and Mary! In this story, Jesus hides who He is from Mary. This event happened right after Easter. When Mary and her friends arrived at Jesus’ tomb, it was empty. An angel told the women that Jesus had risen, but there was one problem; no one had seen

Jesus... Until now! Let's read John 20:15-18 (ICB) to find out more."

**15 Jesus asked her (Mary)... "Whom are you looking for?" Mary thought he was the gardener. So she said to him, "Did you take him (Jesus) away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, "Rabboni." (This means Teacher.) 17 Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me. I have not yet gone up to the Father (ascended). But go to my brothers and tell them this: 'I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, "I saw the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.**

Say, "What good news! Jesus made the biggest announcement to Mary."

- Ask, "In our story, who was hiding? Right! It was Jesus. He was hiding who He was from Mary."

"Did you know that Mary was one of the first people to see Jesus after He had risen from the dead? That's pretty amazing! Mary saw Jesus, and then she **told the Good News** to His disciples."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "This is so exciting! Let's talk more about our story!"

## DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Some interesting things happened in our story. Let's discuss it!"

### 1. Who did Mary think Jesus was?

Response: Mary thought Jesus was a gardener. He hid His appearance from Mary so she wouldn't recognize Him yet.

### 2. What did Jesus say to Mary that showed her who He was?

Response: He called her by her name, and she knew right away He was Jesus



**DON'T MISS THIS MOMENT: SAY, "JESUS KNOWS YOUR NAME TOO! HE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW MANY HAIRS ARE ON YOUR HEAD (LK 12:7) AND EVERYTHING YOU DO (PS 139:2). HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU AND HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH!"**

### 3. What announcement did Jesus tell Mary to say to others?

Response: 'I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God. I saw the Lord.' Jesus wanted Mary to tell His disciples He was going to be with God, His Father, in heaven.

### 4. How would you have felt if Jesus appeared to you like He did to Mary?

Response: Answers will vary.

### 5. Do you think it would be hard to believe Jesus was alive if you hadn't seen Him?

Response: Answers will vary.

### 6. What do we learn about God in this story?

Response: God is powerful, God sees you and knows you by name, God wants you to tell others Jesus is alive, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job! Mary **told the Good News**, and we can do that too! What a great reminder to share what Jesus has done for us. Let's do an activity to go with our story."

## RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Mary Sees Jesus Worksheet | Crayons |

Say, "It's time for our craft! To help us remember our story, we are going to be coloring in a picture of Jesus and Mary. It says 'Jesus is Alive' at the bottom! Let's start."



USE THIS TIME TO TALK TO YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT HOW THEY VIEW GOD. WHEN THE CHILDREN'S ATTENTION IS ON A COLORING SHEET, IT'S EASIER TO INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR FAITH, CONCERNS ABOUT GOD, AREAS OF CONFUSION, AND FEELINGS ABOUT JESUS.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Your coloring sheets look awesome! What a great reminder of how Mary saw Jesus alive! Then she **told the Good News!** Let's practice this month's memory verse together."

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our verse this month is about how we can share Jesus' biggest announcement. We get to **tell the same Good News** that Mary announced!"



IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE STARTING TO DISENGAGE, SHOW THEM HOW MUCH THIS TIME MATTERS TO YOU, BY JOINING IN AS THEY PRACTICE THE VERSE.

**"Go everywhere** (point forward) **in the world** (make the shape of the earth with your arms). **Tell the Good News** (put your hands around your mouth) **to everyone** (open your arms wide)." **Mark 16:15 (ICB)**

**CHALLENGE:** Ask the children what this verse means to them. Some questions you can ask are:

1. What do you think God means when He says to "go everywhere?"
2. What is the "Good News" God wants us to tell?
3. Does Jesus mean we have to share the Good News with "everyone?"

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We can **tell the good news** that Jesus is alive! Now, who will pray for us?"

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, thank You for seeing each one of us and for knowing our names. We praise You, Jesus, for coming back to life so we can tell the good news of your resurrection! Help us be like Mary and boldly tell this good news. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, review the story, play another round of the ENGAGE game, recite your memory verse again, or engage the children in conversation.



KIDS AND ADULTS ALIKE WANT TO BE KNOWN AND RECOGNIZED.  
USE THIS STORY AS A REMINDER TO TELL YOUR KIDS HOW HAPPY  
YOU ARE THAT THEY ARE HERE TODAY.



Jesus is alive!

