

Empty Tomb Craft

Paper plate tomb with a stone that rolls away · Matthew 28:1–10 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Both are a paper plate with a sunrise sky and a gray rock tomb. The round stone is held on with a brad, so it swings away from the door to show the empty tomb with only the linen clothes inside. Medium (left): the doorway is colored dark. Harder (right): the doorway is cut open with the inside of the tomb glued behind it, and a paper sun rises behind the tomb.

Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



**"He is not here: for he is risen, as he
said. Come, see the place where the
Lord lay."**

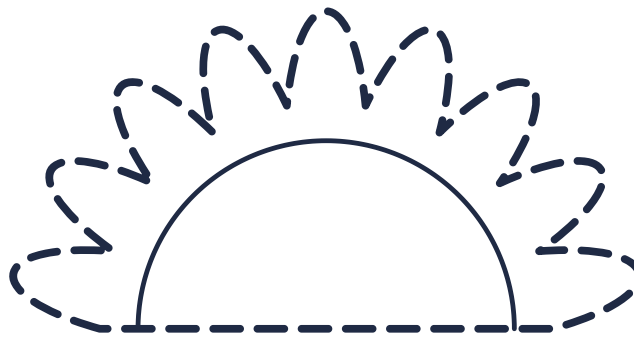
Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Sun (harder level)

Color it yellow and orange. The sun was coming up when the women came (Matthew 28:1).



Glue it on the plate first. The top of the tomb hides the flat edge.

Inside of the tomb (harder level)

Color the walls and the ledge gray. Leave the linen clothes white (Luke 24:12).

First cut out the doorway of the tomb on page 2 along its outline.



Glue it on the back of the tomb behind the doorway, bottom edges together, so the linen clothes show through the open door.

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/resurrection-craft

Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels

You need: 1 paper plate per child, page 2 printed once per child, 1 brass paper fastener (brad) per child, crayons or markers (yellow, orange, green, gray, black), scissors, glue sticks, and a sharp pencil for poking holes. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.

Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the tombs, stones and verse strips ahead of time. For everyone, have a grown-up ready to poke the brad holes with a sharp pencil (lay the plate on a folded towel and push the pencil point through).

What the pieces show:

1. **The tomb:** Joseph laid Jesus' body in his own new tomb, cut out of the rock (Matthew 27:59–60). A tomb is a room cut into a rock.
2. **The stone:** Joseph rolled a great stone to the door (27:60). The angel of the Lord rolled it back and sat upon it (28:2). On the craft, the brad lets the stone swing away from the door.
3. **The linen clothes:** Peter looked into the tomb and saw the linen clothes laid by themselves (Luke 24:12). Jesus was not there. He is risen (Matthew 28:6)!
4. **The sunrise:** the women came as it began to dawn on the first day of the week (28:1).

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's tomb, stone and verse strip. Kids color the sunrise and the grass on the plate with crayons, color the tomb and the stone, and glue the tomb on. A grown-up pokes the holes, adds the stone with the brad and glues the verse strip on the back. Read it together and let them roll the stone away.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color and cut out the tomb, the stone and the verse strip, glue them on, and push the brad through after a grown-up pokes the holes. This is the craft on the left in the photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** kids color the sunrise and the grass on the plate, then color and cut out the sun on page 3 and glue it on the plate where the top of the tomb will cover its flat edge. They color the tomb and cut it out, then cut out the doorway along its outline (fold the tomb gently across the doorway and snip a small cut to start). They color the inside-of-the-tomb panel on page 3, cut it out, and glue it on the back of the tomb behind the doorway, bottom edges together, so the linen clothes show through. Then they glue the tomb on the plate over the sun's flat edge, add the stone with the brad, glue the verse strip on the back and say Matthew 28:6 from memory. This is the craft on the right in the photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Sky and grass:** on the bottom side of the plate, color the top part yellow and orange like the sun coming up, and color a strip of green grass along the bottom edge.
2. **Color:** color the tomb gray with green grass along its bottom. Color the doorway black, but leave the linen clothes on the ledge white. Color the stone gray.
3. **Cut:** cut out the tomb, the stone and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Glue the tomb** on the plate so its flat edge sits on the green grass.
5. **Stone:** a grown-up pokes a hole through the dot on the stone, and through the dot on the tomb and the plate. Push the brad through the stone, then the tomb and the plate, and open its legs on the back. The stone covers the doorway.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the plate and read it together. Then swing the stone away and see the empty tomb!

Questions to ask while kids work

- Joseph rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb (Matthew 27:60). Who rolled it away? (*The angel of the Lord, 28:2*)
- The angel said, "Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (28:6). Swing your stone away. What do you see inside? (*Only the linen clothes, Luke 24:12. Jesus is not there. He is risen!*)
- The women came as the sun was coming up (Matthew 28:1). How do you think they felt when they saw the stone rolled away?
- The women ran with fear and great joy to tell the disciples (28:8). Who will you show your craft to and tell that Jesus is alive?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** risen = alive again after dying, lay = was lying, sepulchre = tomb, linen = a smooth cloth made from a plant called flax.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal. A grown-up pokes the holes and pushes the brads.
- **Brads:** push the brad from the front, through the stone first, then the tomb and the plate. Don't press the legs too flat, or the stone won't swing.
- **Line it up:** before you poke the holes, set the stone over the doorway so it covers it, and check that the dot on the stone sits on the dot beside the doorway.
- **Harder level:** glue the sun before the tomb, and glue the inside panel on the back of the tomb before the tomb goes on the plate.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Easter Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/resurrection.