

“An Empty Tomb”

by
Tracy Wells

What This script is a dramatic retelling of the story of Jesus' resurrection from Luke 24:1-12. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Joanna went to anoint the body of Jesus and found an empty tomb and two angels who told them Christ is risen. They told the disciples and were met with disbelief until Peter saw the empty tomb for himself.

Themes: Easter, Resurrection, Kids Ministry, Risen

Who Mary Magdalene
Mary, mother of James
Joanna
Man 1
Man 2
Peter
Thomas
Optional extras as remaining 9 disciples

When Biblical times

**Wear
(Props)** Exterior of tomb- may be representational, or even gray blankets or fabric draped over chairs/table, small table and chairs
Bible costumes for each actor
3 bottles and/or boxes for each Woman

Why Luke 24:1-12

How This skit is easy to perform, with no special lighting or sound effects required. Optional “dazzling” lighting could be used when the two men appear.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary enter, each carrying a small bottle or box.

Mary M: *(turning to Joanna)* Joanna, did you bring the myrrh?

Joanna: *(holding up box)* Yes, I have it right here.

Mary M: Mary, do you have the oils to anoint his body with?

Mary: *(holding up a jar)* Yes, I do.

Mary M: Good. *(Holds up small jar)* And I have the aloe. *(Lowers jar and sighs)* I can't believe what we have to do today.

Joanna: It's hard to believe he's gone.

Mary: I know this is all part of God's plan, but it just doesn't seem right.

Mary M: Our savior, Jesus, is dead!

Mary M puts her head in her hand and crumples in sadness. Mary and Joanna rush to comfort her.

Mary: It's so hard, Mary. He was a wonderful man.

Mary M: But he was so much more than a man! He was the Messiah himself—the Son of God!

Joanna: Yes, he was.

Mary M: From the moment I met Jesus, I knew my life had changed. He saw me as so much more than I ever knew was inside of me. Ever since that day my world has turned around him. What am I supposed to do now?

Mary: We will do what he taught us to do—to spread the word of God.

Mary M: I know that's what he wants. But right now, I'm just so angry and sad.

Joanna: *(putting her hand on Mary Magdalene's shoulder)* We all are.

Mary: *(putting her hand on Mary Magdalene's other shoulder)* When things like this happen, we do what must be done. And what we must do today is to anoint his body with the spices and oils we have brought.

Mary M: *(straightening up)* You are right. As helpless as I feel right now, this is one thing I can do for Jesus, who I loved so much.

All three cross to the tomb.

Joanna: This is it—the tomb where Joseph laid Jesus to rest.

Mary M: *(looking around)* It's a peaceful place.

Mary: Is it odd that the stone has been rolled aside?

Joanna: Maybe they knew we were coming to anoint his body and the guard opened the tomb?

Mary M: Perhaps. Who knows? Let us go in and do what we came to do.

*They cross to the entrance of the tomb. As they do, a bright light comes out of the tomb as **Man 1** and **Man 2** exit from tomb. The **Women** jump back in surprise and fear.*

Mary: Who goes there?

Joanna: Where did they come from?

Mary M: *(fearfully, stammering)* I...I think they might be messengers from God.

*All three **Women** bow and kneel, bringing their faces down to the ground.*

Man 1: Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Mary: *(looking up)* Did he say *living*?

Man 2: He is not here but has been raised.

Mary M: *(looking up, excitedly)* Jesus is alive?

Man 1: Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee?

Man 2: That the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men?

Joanna: I *do* remember him saying that! That must be when Judas betrayed him and turned him over to the soldiers, to be tried in front of Pontius Pilate.

Man 1: And that he must be crucified?

Mary: Yes, of course! And Jesus *was* crucified, up on Golgatha, with those two prisoners.

Man 2: And on the third day he would rise again.

Mary M: *(excitedly)* Today is the third day! Then he *has* risen—just as he said he would!

*The **Women** turn toward each other, excitedly. As they do, the two **Men** exit through the tomb, unseen, and the light goes out.*

Mary: Then Jesus is not dead after all!

Joanna: He is alive and with us once more!

Mary M: We must go back and tell the others what wonderful news we have heard today! But first we must thank these two wonderful— *(turns to see the **Men** have gone)*—messengers.

Mary: Where did they go? They were just here.

Joanna: They did what they came to do. Now that their message has been delivered, they have been called back to God.

Mary M: *(resolutely)* Now it is our turn to become to messengers. Let us go back to the disciples and tell them that Jesus's body is not in the tomb. Just as he told us he would, Jesus has risen!

Women exit hurriedly offstage. Lights black on tomb and come up on table and chairs. Peter and Thomas are seated at the table, possibly eating and drinking, or maybe just sitting solemnly. Extra disciples are sitting or standing around the scene, doing the same.

Peter: It's hard to believe that only a few days ago we were sitting here, all together, sharing one final supper with Jesus.

Thomas: If only we had known it would be our last.

Peter: *(standing, agitated)* We should've known! He told us, didn't he? He told us of God's plan. But did we listen? No! We kept carrying on as before, without a care in the world.

Thomas: *(stands and crosses to Peter, putting his hand on Peter's shoulder)* I think the plan was too great for us to fully comprehend, Peter. Don't be so hard on yourself.

Peter: Hard on myself? I'm not being hard enough! *(Shaking Thomas's hand off his shoulder and turning to face him)* Thomas, I denied him three times! *Three times!* Just like he said I would. *(Shakes his head)* I will never be able to live with the shame of having done that.

Thomas: It was a crazy night, Peter—we were all scared.

Peter: All I know is, Jesus would never have denied any of us. I'm so sorry for what I did and all I want to do is to tell him that. But he's dead, and now I'll never be able to.

Peter sits and puts his head in his hand. Thomas crosses to him and tentatively rests his hand on Peter's shoulder as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary enter, excitedly.

Mary: We come bearing good news!

Joanna: Wonderful news!

Mary M: The greatest news!

Thomas: Well? What is it then?

Women: Jesus has risen!

All Disciples are shocked.

Peter: *(looking up)* Jesus has *what?*

Mary M: Jesus has risen! He no longer walks with the dead, but instead is here with us—with the living!

Thomas: Here with *us?* *(Runs to look behind Women)* Where is he? I don't see him.

Mary: Well he's not here in this room, exactly. But he is here—on earth.

Peter: But he's dead.

Thomas: *(angrily)* What are you women playing at? This is not a game.

Joanna: We aren't lying, I swear!

Mary M: When we went to anoint his body, we saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb.

Thomas: Who could've rolled that stone? It was massive!

Mary: Out of the tomb came a bright light and two men dressed in dazzling attire.

Thomas: Dazzling attire? *(Scoffs)* You really expect us to believe this?

Joanna: The two men told us not to look for the living among the dead. And that Jesus had risen!

Thomas: *(turns to Peter)* I don't believe what I'm hearing. These women have gone mad!

Peter: *(thoughtfully)* I must go see for myself. *(Exits, quickly)*

Thomas: *(calling after him)* Peter! *(Turns back to Women)* Now look what you've done.

Mary M: We're telling the truth, I swear!

Thomas: *(crossing his arms and scoffing)* I'll believe it when I see it.

Lights black on scene. All exit. Lights come up on tomb. Peter enters near tomb.

Peter: The women were right. The stone has been rolled aside! *(Crosses closer to tomb, tentatively)* Could they be right? Is everything they said really true? Has Jesus truly risen from the dead? *(Stops suddenly, nervous, and turns away)* And what if he has? What will I say to him then? How will he receive me after knowing I denied him three times? *(Looks down, sadly)* What's done is done and I must answer for that. *(Looks up, resolute)* I came here to see for myself if what Mary Magdalene and the other women said was true—that Jesus is among the living. *(Crosses to the tomb and pauses)* I don't see a great light. *(Looks around)* There are no men in dazzling attire. *(Looks up, then takes a deep breath)* I suppose all there is to do now is to have a look inside. If Jesus's body is there, I will know they have been lying. *(Steps inside tomb. Moments later he emerges, holding strips of linen)* His body is gone! All that remains are these strips of linen he was buried in. But what does this mean? Is Mary Magdalene telling the truth? Has Jesus risen from the dead?

Peter looks down at the linen and then back at the tomb as lights black. End of scene.

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