



# Mary Magdalene



Sees Her Lord

“Shh, follow me!” Mary Magdalene whispered to the women behind her.

They picked up their jars of spices and walked softly down the path to Jesus’ tomb. It was early on Sunday morning. Hardly anyone else was awake.

“Wait!” whispered the women.

“How will we get inside the tomb? Who will roll the heavy stone away?”

“I don’t know,” Mary answered. “But let’s keep going. We must pour our spices on Jesus’ body and show how much we loved Him.”

Mary wiped away a tear. Jesus had died on the cross on Friday – and she missed Him already.

As they walked, the rising sun peeked through the trees in the garden.

Suddenly, one of the women pointed. “LOOK, there’s the tomb!” she gasped. “And the stone has been rolled away!”

The women raced to the tomb. Mary Magdalene arrived first and peered inside.

“Jesus is gone!” she cried. “Someone has taken His body away.”

At once, Mary took off running. “I must tell His disciples the terrible news!” she hollered to her friends.

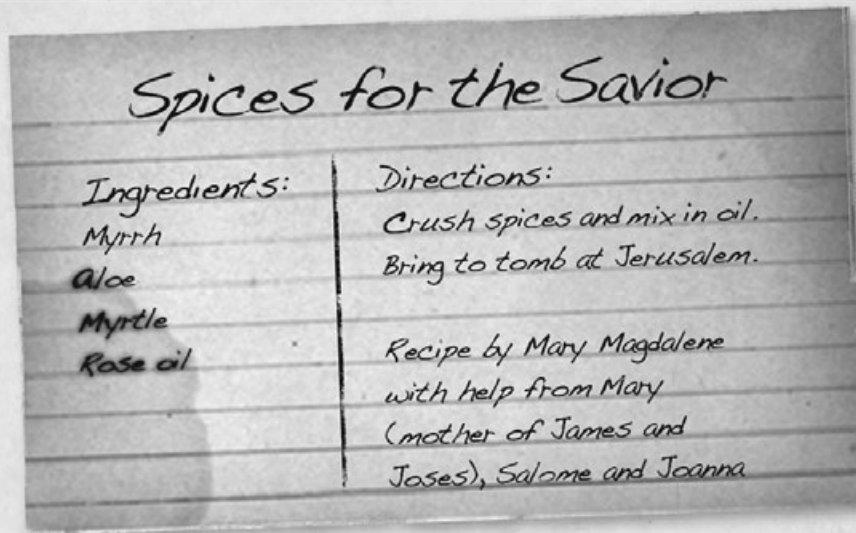
Mary’s feet pounded on the path. Her heart pounded too. *Where was Jesus?*



Soon she saw Peter and John. Mary was breathing so hard, she could barely talk.

“They took the Lord out of the tomb,” she gasped. “We don’t know where He is!”

Peter and John rushed with Mary to the tomb. When they got there, Mary’s friends had already left.



Peter and John ducked inside the tomb and looked around.

Mary just stood outside crying. All she could think of was Jesus. *Would she ever see Him again? Would she get one more chance to say goodbye?*

After a little while, Peter and John went home. But Mary stayed behind.

With tears in her eyes, she leaned over and looked in the tomb one last time.

This time, two angels sat there.

“Woman, why are you crying?” they asked.

“They took my Lord away,” Mary sobbed. “And I don’t know where they have laid Him.”

Mary stood up and turned around. Then – OOPS! She almost bumped into someone.

“Whom are you searching for?” asked the man standing before her.



Mary blinked in surprise. *He must be the gardener*, she thought.

“Sir,” she said, sniffing. “Just tell me where you put Him, and I will go get Him.”

“Mary!” said the man.

Mary stopped crying. She knew **THAT** voice. Once, the man with that voice had healed her. He had forgiven her of all her sin.<sup>1</sup>

“Jesus! My Teacher! My Master!” she cried.

Mary fell at Jesus’ feet and reached out to touch Him. She never wanted to let go.

“You can’t hold Me yet,” said Jesus gently. “I must return to My Father in heaven. But go tell My disciples I’m alive.”

<sup>1</sup>See Mark 16:9.

Mary took off running again. But this time, she had good news – the best news in the world. “I have seen the Lord!” she shouted to the disciples.

Now Mary cried tears of joy. Her Lord had risen from the dead! And one day she would join Him in heaven to live with Him always.



### **Learn from Mary Magdalene’s biography:**

- Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead.
- Share the good news that Jesus is still alive today.

# Parent Ideas

## Mary Magdalene Sees Her Lord

Scripture: Mark 16:1-4; John 20:1-18

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead.
- Share the good news that Jesus is still alive today.

#### 1. Read-together activity

Note: When comparing Scriptures, it is difficult to determine the timing of the women at the tomb. Mark's Gospel reports that Mary Magdalene and the other women came together. John's Gospel suggests that many came alone. This biography tries to harmonize the different, yet equally true accounts.

You and your child can make biography characters out of clothespins. Purchase a pack of old-fashioned wooden clothespins (the kind with the slot, not the spring). Draw facial expressions on the pin heads with a fine-point felt pen. Twist a chenille wire (pipe cleaner) around the neck of each clothespin to form arms. Glue yarn on the head for hair and wrap and glue felt or fabric pieces around the body for clothing.

Make a tomb out of modeling clay. First, make a large ball. Then punch your fist into the side of the ball and shape the clay around your hand to make an opening. The tomb should end up hollow inside, like a cave. Shape a stone to roll over the opening.

As you read, your child can use the characters and the tomb to act out the events. You may want to save your figures and bring them out each Easter. To keep your tomb and stone, bake them on an ungreased cookie sheet for about one hour at 250° F (130° C).

#### 2. Read-together activity

Divide the biography into five or six scenes. Ask your child to draw a picture of each scene. Then take turns reading the biography

to each other. While one person reads, the other person holds up the pictures. (Keep these pictures for potential use in the second application activity.)

#### 3. Discussion activity

Ask your child these questions to help him reflect on the biography:

- How can you tell Mary Magdalene loved Jesus?
- Have you ever had to say goodbye to someone you loved? What did you do to show that person you cared? *(Parents, you may want to share your own experiences here.)*
- How did Mary feel when she couldn't find Jesus' body? What did she think had happened?
- What did she do when she realized she was talking to Jesus? What would you have said or done?
- Jesus rose from the dead! Why is that such good news?

Remind your child of his handbook verse for this section: 1 John 5:12. If we know Jesus as Savior, we will live forever, just like He does. We don't have to be sad or afraid of death.

#### 4. Discussion activity

Make "Jesus Is Risen" cookies with your child. Follow the recipe and related discussion topics on the following page. Each of the ingredients symbolizes a different aspect of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. If you search for "resurrection cookies," you will find many variations of this recipe online.

# Parent Ideas

## Mary Magdalene Sees Her Lord

Scripture: Mark 16:1-4; John 20:1-18

### Jesus Is Risen Cookies

Bake these cookies the Saturday night before Easter or any other night – whenever you desire to focus on Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Before you start, read the full recipe and collect all the ingredients and other needed materials. Familiarize yourself with the Bible passages so you can read and explain them to your child.

#### You will need:

1 cup whole pecans (121 g.)	sealable plastic bag
or almonds (170 g.)	wooden spoon
1 teaspoon (5 ml) apple cider vinegar or white vinegar	electric mixer and bowl
3 egg whites (room temperature for best results)	wax paper
pinch of salt	cookie sheets
1 cup (192 g.) sugar	tape
	Bible

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 300° F (180° C). (This is IMPORTANT. Do this before doing anything else.)
2. Place the nuts in the plastic bag. Let your child beat the nuts with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, the soldiers beat him. **Read John 19:1-3.**
3. Let your child smell and taste the vinegar. Add one teaspoon (5 ml) of vinegar to a mixing bowl. Explain that people gave Jesus vinegar to drink while He hung on the cross. **Read John 19:28-30.**
4. Add egg whites to the vinegar. Tell your child that eggs represent life. Jesus gave His life so we could have life. **Read John 10:10-11.**
5. Sprinkle a pinch of salt into your child's hand. Let her taste a tiny bit and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that Mary Magdalene and Jesus' other followers cried salty tears when Jesus died. **Read Jesus' words to His disciples in John 16:20.**
6. So far the ingredients are not very appealing. Sprinkle a little sugar into your child's hand for her to taste. Say that Christ's death is sweet to us because He loves us and saves us from our sin. **Read John 3:16.** (Your child should know this verse by heart. It's the Sparks key verse!)
7. Gradually add one cup (192 g.) of sugar to the bowl as you beat the ingredients on high with a mixer. Beat eggs for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks form. Eggs should look glossy white. Discuss how white stands for purity. Jesus forgives all our sin and makes us pure in God's eyes. **Read Isaiah 1:18.**
8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop the mixture by teaspoon onto a cookie sheet covered with wax paper. Explain that the mounds remind us of the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read Matthew 27:57-60.**
9. Place the cookie sheet in the oven. Close the door and turn OFF the oven immediately. Give your child a piece of tape to seal the oven door. Tell your child that Jesus' tomb was also sealed. **Read Matthew 27:65-66.**
10. Go to bed! Leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Your child may be sad that she can't eat the cookies tonight. Explain that Jesus' friends were sad to leave Jesus in the tomb, but Jesus had promised they wouldn't be sad for long. **Read John 16:22.** Tell your child to look forward to the morning.
11. The next morning, open the oven and take out the cookies. Point out the cracked surface and invite your child to take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On Sunday morning, the third day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. **Read Matthew 28:1-9.**

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## **5. Application activity**

Gather the family and bring out the cross you made during Biography 5 activities. Remove the sin cards that you attached to the cross. Decorate the cross with flowers and bright colors. Ask people to share reasons why they are personally glad that Jesus is alive. Pray and thank God for forgiveness and new life in Christ.

## **6. Application activity**

Collect the pictures your child drew in the second Read-together activity. Ask your child to add a picture of a cross to represent Christ's crucifixion. Then make these into a book. Glue each picture onto a sheet of card stock (leave back sides of card stock blank and save two sheets for the covers). Hole punch the left sides of the card stock sheets and attach them together with yarn or paper fasteners. On the back sides of the card stock, help your child write a few sentences to describe the facing picture. Encourage your child to read this book to a family member or friend who needs to hear the gospel.