



# The Borrowed Tomb!

By Deborah Wassenberg

## Introduction:

Jesus borrowed a tomb for three days – He didn't need it forever! He rose again, proving He is the Son of God and giving us hope, forgiveness, and new life.

## Bible Lesson: Jesus is Buried

Bible References: Matthew 27:57-28:10; Mark 15:42-47;  
Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

## Visuals You Will Need:

1. Borrowed items: library book, pencil, jumper, toy
2. Child returning an object
3. A tomb
4. Joseph of Arimathea and the body of Jesus
5. Soldiers guarding the tomb
6. Angel sitting on the stone
7. The women with the spices
8. Two angels
9. Jesus talking to His disciples
10. Empty tomb

## Words

1. Have you ever borrowed something?  
You've probably borrowed a library book.  
You've probably borrowed a pencil from a friend at school.  
Maybe you've borrowed a jumper.  
Maybe even a toy or game.
2. What happens when you borrow something?  
Are you supposed to keep it forever?  
No. You take and use whatever it is with every intention of returning it.  
Today, we're going to hear about something surprising that Jesus borrowed.  
Not a book...not a jumper...but a tomb!

3. A tomb is a chamber or vault, above or below ground, where dead people are placed.  
The tombs in Jerusalem were carved into the sides of hills made of limestone. The doorway to these tombs was usually low enough that a person had to bend down to look inside.  
The tombs were closed with a large blocking stone.  
Rock-cut tombs were very expensive, so only the wealthy could afford them.
4. Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man who was a follower of Jesus, had a new, unused tomb cut into rock.  
He decided he would give Jesus his expensive, newly built tomb.  
In the evening, after Jesus had died on the Cross, Joseph asked Pilate for His body.  
Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph.  
Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.  
Then Joseph put the body in his own new tomb.  
He rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb and went away.  
(It was the Sabbath and all work had to stop.)
5. The religious leaders had asked Pilate to secure the tomb.  
They remembered that Jesus said He would rise from the dead.  
So soldiers were told to carefully guard the tomb for three days so no one could steal the body.
6. Suddenly, a strong earthquake struck, and the Lord's angel came down from heaven.  
He rolled away the stone and sat on it.  
The angel looked as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.  
The guards shook from fear and fainted.
7. Very early on Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared.  
When they found the stone rolled away from the entrance, they went in.  
But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, and they did not know what to think.
8. Suddenly, two men in shining white clothes stood beside them.  
The women were afraid and bowed to the ground.  
But the men said, 'Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone alive?  
Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from the dead.  
Remember that while he was still in Galilee, he told you, 'The Son of Man will be handed over to sinners who will nail him to a cross.  
But three days later, he will rise to life.' ”  
Then they remembered what Jesus had said.

9. Jesus told His disciples three times that He would suffer, die, and **rise again** on the third day.

*(Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22)*

And He hinted about His death and resurrection many other times.

They didn't understand at the time that Jesus had been preparing them all along.

10. As loving as Joseph of Arimathea's gift of his brand new tomb to Jesus was, Jesus didn't need to keep it.

He only needed to *borrow* it!

## Ministry to the Children:

Jesus died because He loves you more than you can imagine. He wanted to rescue you from sin - the things you do wrong that separate you from God. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment you deserve so you could be forgiven. He swapped places with you. Jesus died so you could be forgiven and adopted as God's children! When Jesus came back to life, He proved He is more powerful than sin, death, and the devil. Nothing can defeat Him. Jesus rose again to give us new life. When you believe in Jesus, He gives you a brand new heart on the inside. He helps you love God, love others and live His way. Because Jesus is alive, you can live with Him forever in heaven. Death isn't the end – it's the beginning of forever with Him! But you must receive Jesus into your heart. How?

### **Believe that Jesus loves you**

Jesus already knows you, cares about you, and wants you in His family.

He isn't waiting for you to be perfect—He loves you right now.

### **Trust that Jesus died and rose again for you**

We all do wrong things (sin), and that separates us from God.

Jesus took that sin away when He died on the cross.

When He rose again, He made a way for us to have a clean heart and a fresh start.

### **Ask Him to come into your heart**

This is the moment of opening the “door” of your heart and saying:

“Jesus, I want You. Please forgive me. Please come into my life.”

### **Pray:**

“Jesus, thank You for loving me.

I know I've done wrong things.

Please forgive me.

I believe You died and rose again.

I open my heart to You.

Come into my life and help me follow You.

Amen.”

## Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6

'He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.'

### **Borrow a Word!**

#### **You will need:**

- Words of the Memory Verse on individual cards
- A large unbreakable cup that will hold a Memory Verse card
- Start and finish line

#### **What to do:**

Holding the cup, each child runs to the volunteer at the finish line and **borrow**s **one word** of the Memory Verse. They then run back to the start, keeping their borrowed word, and hand the cup to the next child so they can borrow a word too.

When all the words have been borrowed, the children work together to arrange the Memory Verse in the correct order.

Then the relay is played again—this time the children **return** their word in the cup to the volunteer waiting at the finish line.

## Game: Borrow-the-Ball Dash!

Teams race to score points, but they can only score by borrowing a ball from the 'Ball Keeper'.

### **Players**

10–40 kids

Divide into 2–4 teams.

### **You Will Need:**

1 ball per team (but the twist is: they don't start with it!)

A volunteer to act as the Ball Keeper

A scoring zone for each team (a hoop, bucket, or taped square)

### **How to Play:**

#### **1. No Team Starts With a Ball**

All balls sit with the Ball Keeper in the centre.

#### **2. Borrowing Begins**

One player from each team runs to the Ball Keeper and borrows their team's ball.

The Ball Keeper hands it over only if the child says:

"May I borrow the ball?"

(You'll get adorable variations like "Can I borrow the ball, please?" which is half the fun.)

### 3. Score and Return

The runner races back to their team and tries to score by:

- placing the ball in a hoop
- throwing it into a bucket
- bouncing it once in a marked square  
(Choose whatever suits your space.)

After scoring, the player must run back and return the ball to the Ball Keeper.

### 4. Next Player Goes

Only when the ball is returned can the next teammate run to borrow it.

### 5. Keep Borrowing, Keep Scoring

Play for 3–5 minutes.

The team with the most scores wins.

## Craft: The Rolling-Stone Tomb

### You will need:

- Paper plates
- Grey paper/card
- Split pins
- Felt pens and crayons

### What to do:

- Cut a doorway in the top plate.
- Glue it onto a full plate (background).
- Make a stone circle from grey paper.
- Attach with a split pin so it rolls open.

