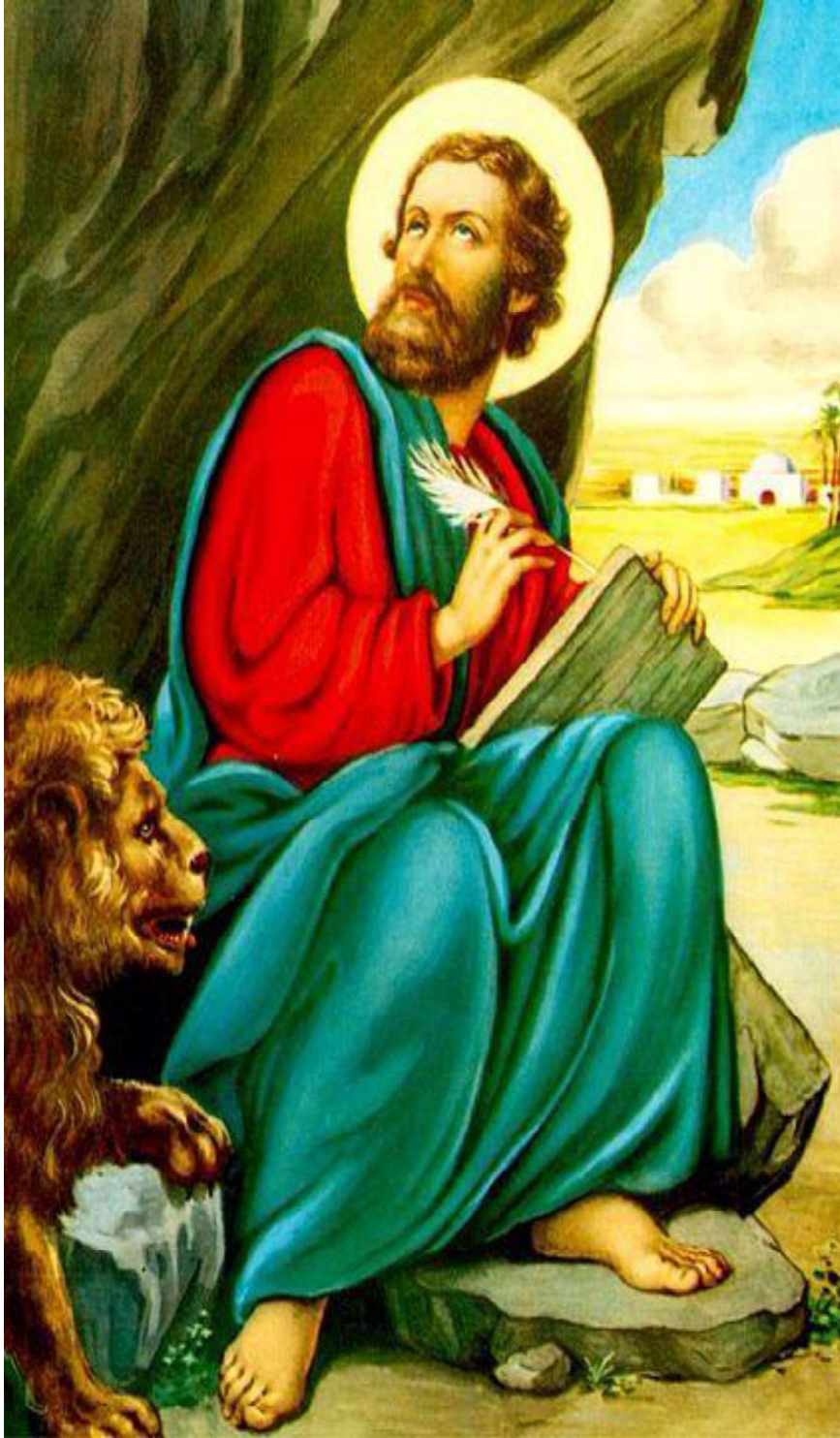


The Gospel According to St. Mark
Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



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Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle



An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show the kids a part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.
<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

Servant's preparation:

A link to the whole series of 22 sermons covering the whole book of St. Mark's gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

An introductory sermon to the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

Who is St. Mark?

- ❖ He was born in Libya near Egypt to Jewish parents.
- ❖ He is a relative to St. Barnabas and to St. Peter, the disciple.
- ❖ He moved to Jerusalem with his family while Jesus was preaching.
- ❖ His house was the first church where Jesus instituted the Eucharist with His disciples.
- ❖ His Jewish name is "John" while his Roman name is "Mark".

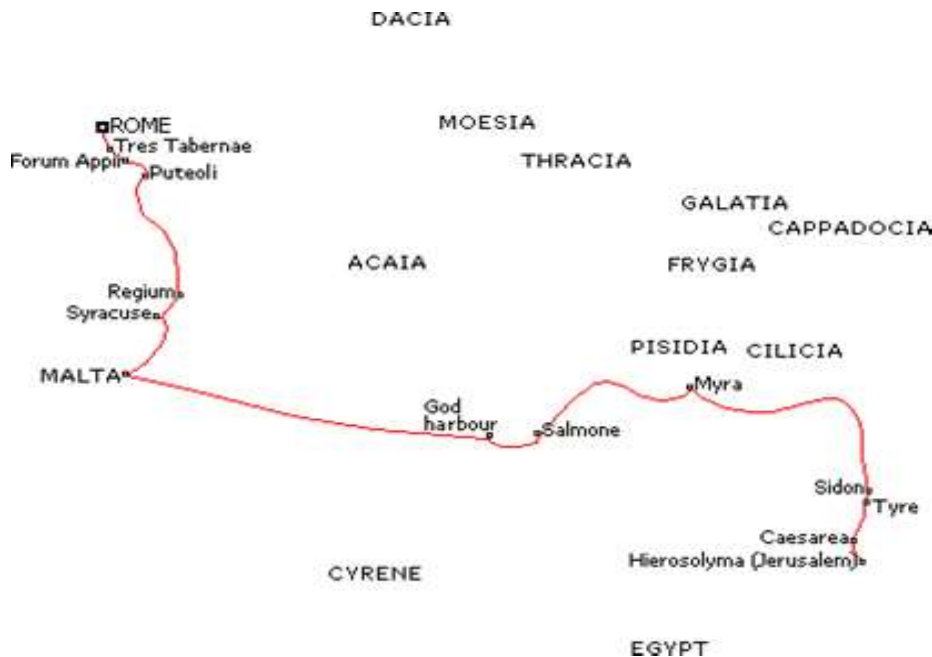
- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

Why do we see a lion in his icon?

- ❖ St. Mark attracted his own father to Christianity when he struck two hungry lions dead with the sign of the cross.
- ❖ He started his gospel by describing John the Baptist as a lion roaring in the wilderness and he also portrayed Jesus as the Divine Master serving with power like a lion.

The message of the Gospel:

- ❖ He began his preaching with St. Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey. But he left them and returned to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus. Afterwards, St. Paul needed St. Mark with him and they both preached in Colosse (Col 4:10), Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11) and perhaps in Venice, from which St. Mark proceeded to Libya his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. Then he preached in Rome with St. Peter.
- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and inspired by his teachings.
- ❖ Since he wrote his gospel to the Romans, he did not include many prophecies from the Old Testament as opposed to the gospel of St. Matthew which was written for the Jews and which therefore included many of those prophecies. St. Mark also explained in his gospel to the Romans many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he presented to them Jesus Christ as the true ruler over devils 1:27, disease 1:42, nature 4:41, plants 11:12-20, and the temple 11:33. Angels minister to Him 1:13, He is Lord of the Sabbath 2:28, He knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, He speaks with authority 1:21, He feeds the multitude 6:30-44, and He is the destroyer of death 5:21-43. His authority is evident through love, service, humility, and through pain.



1- Unit 1: (Chapter 1-6)

Getting to Know Christ: Chapter 1:1-11

His Ministry in Galilee: Chapters 1:12-6:30

- 1) In chapter 1, St. Mark begins by describing Christ as a servant to mankind, sacrificing Himself, aiming to deliver us. That is why he does not detail the birth of Christ but rather focuses on His ministry.
- 2) John the Baptist prepares the road for Christ the Servant (Chapter 1)
- 3) Jesus served in Galilee, prayed for us in the desert, healed many on the Sabbath, in the house, by the sea, and wherever He went.
- 4) Jesus called others to preach with him (the disciples)
- 5) Resistance of His service (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) The people marveled at His parables despite resistance from the scribes (Chapter 4).
- 8) He commanded the evil spirits, death, and disease (Chapter 5).
- 9) Strange behavior towards this Servant who is unique in His love and work (Chapter 6)

2-Unit 2:

His Retreat from Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- 1) Jesus left Galilee not to avoid trouble but to prepare his disciples' minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, comforted even the Gentiles.
- 2) St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- 3) Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

3-Unit 3:

His Service in Judea chapter 10:

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples for the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)

- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

4- Unit 4:

Crucifixion and Resurrection Chapters 11 to 16

- 1) The events of the passion week,
- 2) His entry into Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation for the cross (Chapter 14).
- 6) The events of the crucifixion (Chapter 15).
- 7) His resurrection declared the glory of this unique Servant, who is capable of rising from the dead.
- 8) The One who rose from the dead is still serving us, as He sent His disciples to preach and He is still serving His church.
- 9) He ascended to heaven so that our hearts may ascend with Him also.



Chapter 16

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 16 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKFIpeipXT0&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=22>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions.

- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1st church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great power of Jesus Christ who through His amazing actions demonstrated His Divine power.

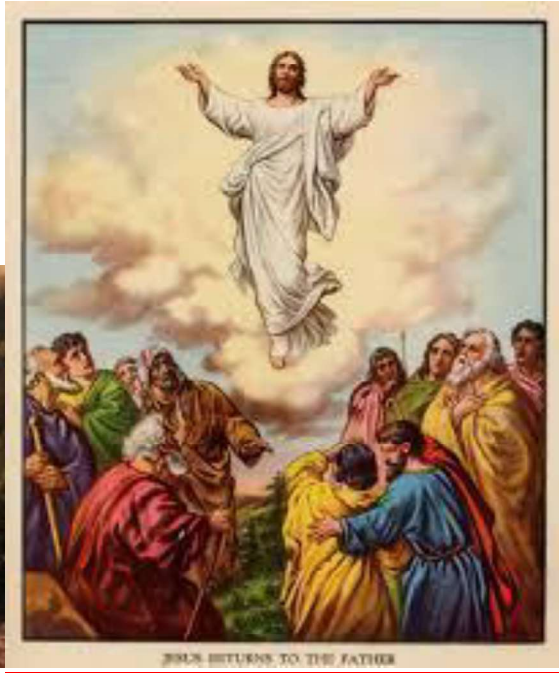
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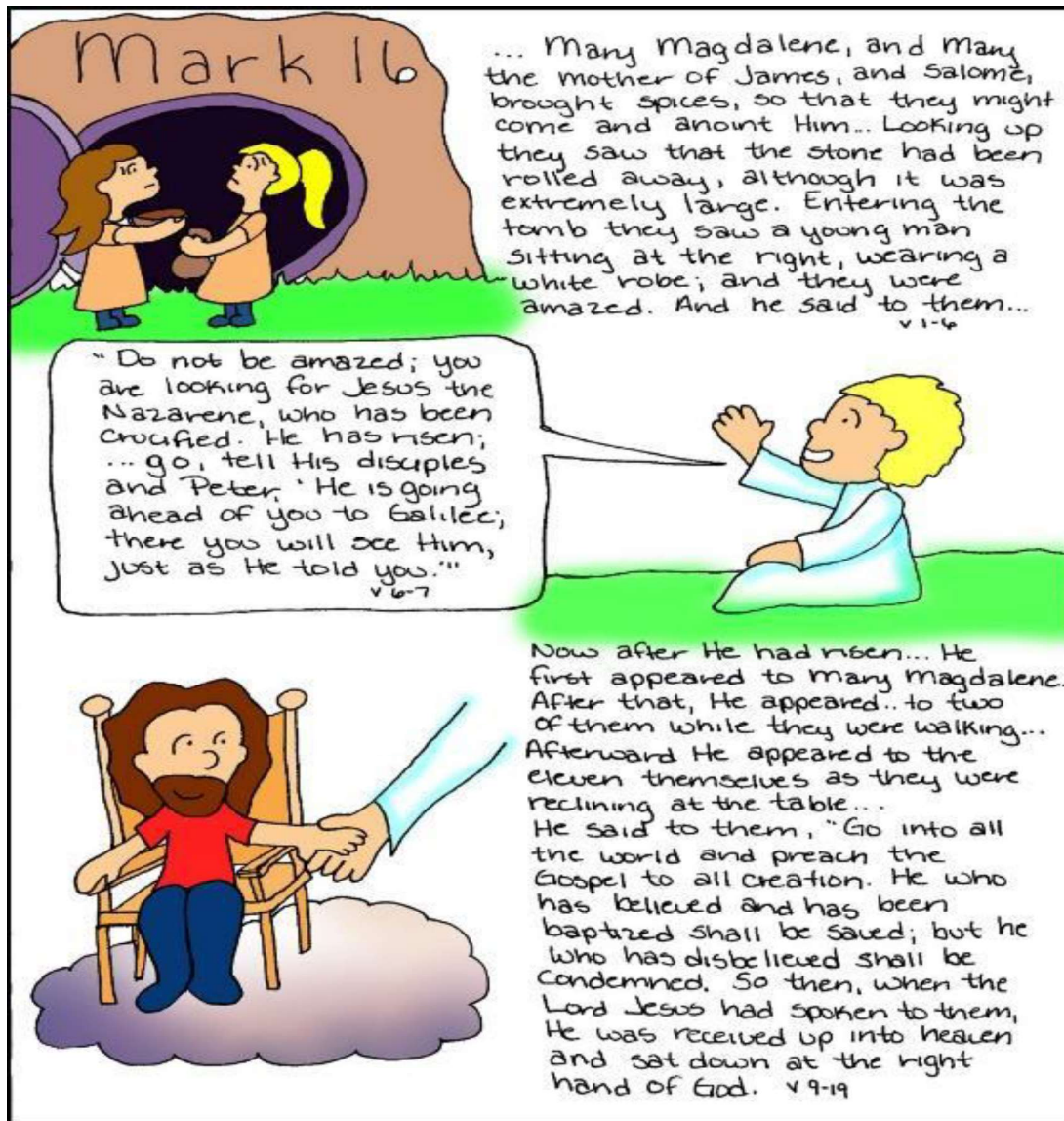
Last lesson, we saw the events of the crucifixion, how Jesus went through all that tremendous pain for His love for mankind. He was unjustly judged, scourged, hung on the cross and died for our sins. He didn't try to defend Himself because He knew that this is why He came on earth.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. He Is Risen
2. Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord
3. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples [Emmuas disciples]
4. The Great Commission
5. Christ Ascends to God's Right Hand







Lesson overview:

The story of Easter begins in the book of Genesis when God created a perfect world. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and their sin ruined their relationship with Him. Since that time, there has been a separation between God and humans. Then God sent Jesus, who was perfect, to bridge the distance. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, taking the punishment for us. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have a good relationship with God again.

Jesus rose from the dead and the first to witness this news were the women who went to the tomb. They took the news to the disciples. Jesus appeared to two disciples on their way to Emmaus and they recognized Him only after He broke the bread. Jesus appeared to many groups of disciples, then He finally ascended into heaven in front of them.

Goal we learn:

In this chapter, we will focus on the resurrected Jesus who gave us life after death. He fixed the problem of sin and death that had entered humans a long time ago. We should remember the great salvation we received every time we approach His body and blood on the altar.

Lesson delivery idea

OBJECT LESSON: [Opening game]

Smooth plate, clear drinking glass, penny, votive candle, and colored water

Set the plate down.

For some of us, it might be hard to really understand what happened when Jesus died on the cross. What does that mean for you? Let's look at it this way: Imagine this is you.

Bring out the penny. Set it on the plate.

No matter how hard we try to be good, all of us have done bad things. We call this sin.

*Pour the colored water into the plate.**

Sin covers us up. We're drowning in it. There's no way out for us on our own. But then God sent his Son, Jesus.

Place the lit candle onto the plate. The candle needs to be setting in the water but not covering the penny.

Jesus came to be a light. He lived a perfect life. And then He died on the cross.

Place the drinking glass over the candle. (After a few seconds, the light will go out and then the water will soak up inside the glass.)

That amazing act of love takes our sin away. If we accept Jesus and ask for His forgiveness, He will forgive us our sins. They are gone forever.

That's what Easter is all about.

INTRO

When you hear the word "Easter" it might bring to mind baskets full of jellybeans and chocolate bunnies. Or maybe Easter egg hunts in the backyard. Or maybe even putting on your Sunday best to come to church.

But what is Easter really all about? That's what we're going to talk about today. To understand what Jesus did at Easter, we have to go all the way back to the beginning of time, when God created everything.

God made the world and everything in it. He created Adam and Eve – the first people and He put them in a beautiful garden to live. The world was perfect. Adam and Eve had a good relationship with God – they got to see Him and talk with Him. The garden was filled with gentle animals and great food to eat. There was only one tree in the garden which God had said "do not eat from this tree." God had given humans only one rule. And as we read, they couldn't even obey that one rule.

MAIN POINT

In following the serpent's advice and eating the fruit, Eve and Adam had disobeyed God. The perfection that had been in the world was destroyed. People had brought sin into this world. Sin took away the good relationship that Adam and Eve had with God.

Sin separates us from God. It creates this great distance between us – a gulf, a chasm. For thousands of years, people have tried to cross that distance. But we can't do it. That's the bad news.

But here's the good news. We may not be able to cross the distance, but God can. And He did. God loves us so much. He wants to have a good relationship with us, like He had at the beginning with Adam and Eve. He doesn't want our sin to keep us away from Him.

So the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. He came to earth so that He could make a way for us to have that good relationship with God again. But how could He do that?

Jesus came to take our death for us. The word for that is sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. Jesus came to die for us, and He succeeded in his mission.

After His death on Friday, He was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb that belonged to Joseph of Arimathea. For everyone involved, they thought that was the end of the story.

Then on Sunday, Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb. It's like when people go visit a cemetery. They go to visit the place where a loved one's body is buried.

But when Mary got to the tomb, it was empty. There was no body to visit. Mary did not understand what had happened.

Jesus is alive! He conquered death. He destroyed sin.

Jesus is alive! If we put our trust in Jesus, He will give us new life with Him. He will take away our sin. He will give us back that good relationship with God.

Do you believe that He died for you and rose from the dead? Do you trust in Him?

If you answered "yes" then remember that Easter is a time to celebrate what Jesus did for us.

Actually, every time we come to church; we can celebrate that. This news is too good not to celebrate all of the time. And to share with others.

God loves us. He wants to have a good relationship with us. He sent Jesus to die for us and take away our sin. Jesus rose from the dead. This is happiness. This is good news. This is Easter.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for coming to earth. Because of Your death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven, and we can have a good relationship with You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

An alternative illustrative game:

PREPARATION:

Before class, put 32 pieces of candy (or other items) in a brown paper bag.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Jesus told us to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15) In Romans 10:14-15 the Bible says, "How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?"

(Take one piece of candy out of the bag.) This piece of candy represents the very first kid to come to Sunday school. After church, this kid went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus

Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take another piece of candy out of the bag and place it next the other.) Now there were two kids in Sunday school. After church, these two kids went home and each told a friend the good News about Jesus Christ and asked those friends to come to church the next week.

(Take out two pieces of candy and place them next to the others) Now there were four kids in Sunday school. After church, these four kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out four pieces of candy) Now there were eight kids in Sunday school. After church, these eight kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out eight pieces of candy) Now there were sixteen kids in Sunday school. After church, these sixteen kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out sixteen pieces of candy) Now there were thirty-two kids in Sunday school. In just six weeks, the size of the class grew from one child to thirty-two kids. (Give each child two-pieces of candy.) Here is a reward for hearing about what it means to go into all the world and preach the good news. Enjoy one piece and share the other with a friend.

Another game option (just for fun): LARGE GROUP GAME: EMPTY BASKET

ITEMS NEEDED:

3 Tissue boxes (empty and with the plastic over the hole removed)

9 Plastic Easter eggs

Broad Ribbon

Duct tape

INSTRUCTIONS:

Beforehand, attach four-foot lengths of ribbon to each tissue box using the duct tape.

Select three kids to play.

Tie a tissue box around the waist of each kid, tissue box in the back. This will be their “Easter basket.” Place three plastic eggs inside each tissue box. The goal is to remove the eggs from their “basket” without reaching in and taking them out. The first kid to jump, shake, and wiggle the eggs out of their basket is the winner!

M&M Gospel



M is for Manger where Jesus was born.
Luke 2:1-7



E is for Everyone and reminds us that Jesus came to show he loves us all. John 3:16



3 is for three crosses on a hill the day Jesus died for our sins. John 19:18



M is for Morning and the orange sunrise when Jesus rose. Mark 16:2-6



W is for World. Jesus told us to tell the whole world that He loves them. Matthew 28:16-20



E is for Eternity. That's how long we can be with Jesus in heaven if we accept him as our Savior. John 5:24

Memory Verse:

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Appendix:

Attach:

- 1- A boy and his lunch for chapter 6
- 2- A PowerPoint about the tongue for chapter 7
- 3- Jesus and the children Bible fun lesson for chapter 10
- 4- All links should be active