

March-April 2015

## RESURRECTION SUNDAY

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

"Mom and Dad, why do we celebrate Easter?" asked Billy, as his family was driving to church on "Easter" Sunday.

"Our family, as Christians, celebrates 'Easter' for entirely different reasons than most people do. It is not about cute little bunnies, decorating and eating colored eggs or chocolate," his mother answered. "These things can be fun and tasty, but they are not the reason that we observe 'Easter' as a special event every year."

"Your mother is right," said their father, Mr. Jones. "You see, about two thousand years ago, God showed us how much He loved us by sending His Son Jesus Christ to be crucified for our sins. God allowed Jesus to be the payment for our sin. Jesus paid the price that we could never pay. After Jesus died on the cross He was buried in a tomb (grave). However, Jesus did not stay dead; three days after His burial, He rose from the grave ... He was alive! Jesus' return (or rising) from death is called the Resurrection. Your mother and I, along with many other people prefer to call 'Easter', **Resurrection Sunday.**"

"On Resurrection Sunday we remember and thank God with joy (celebrate) for Jesus' death

for our sins and His resurrection," added Mrs. Jones.

"I remember learning at church, that after Jesus arose from the tomb that He stayed around for ... uh, I think it was forty days before He went up to heaven," said Mary.

"That's right, Mary. The Bible tells us there were several eyewitnesses that the tomb was empty after three days. During those forty days, He showed His disciples (followers) the scars on His hands and feet, and talked with them. At one meeting He was seen by about 500 people."

Mr. Jones continued by asking, "Mary, do you know why He stayed those forty days before going to heaven?"

"Well, our Bible teacher said that Jesus had told His disciples (followers) that He would die and rise again, but that they didn't seem to understand what He meant. If He had gone straight to heaven after burial, then He would be just like other men. So by staying around for awhile, He showed that He really was the Son of God."

"I agree with your teacher, Mary. Because the disciples did see Jesus alive again, they were convinced that He was the Son of God - so sure of this that they began to tell others about His death and resurrection," explained Mr. Jones. "Because of what they preached about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they were threatened, tortured, put in prison and killed;

yet they would not stop preaching for they knew that Jesus was the Son of God, because they had seen Him alive!

"Since Jesus was resurrected from the dead, never to die again, death and sin were defeated. So Christians (people who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ) don't need to be afraid of death (Romans 8:2). We know that we, also,

will someday arise from the dead to spend an everlasting life in Heaven with our Savior and Creator."

"So you see Billy, Resurrection Sunday is a special day, but really, we should be thanking God every day for

resurrecting Jesus from the dead and promising to do the same for us," said Mrs. Jones.



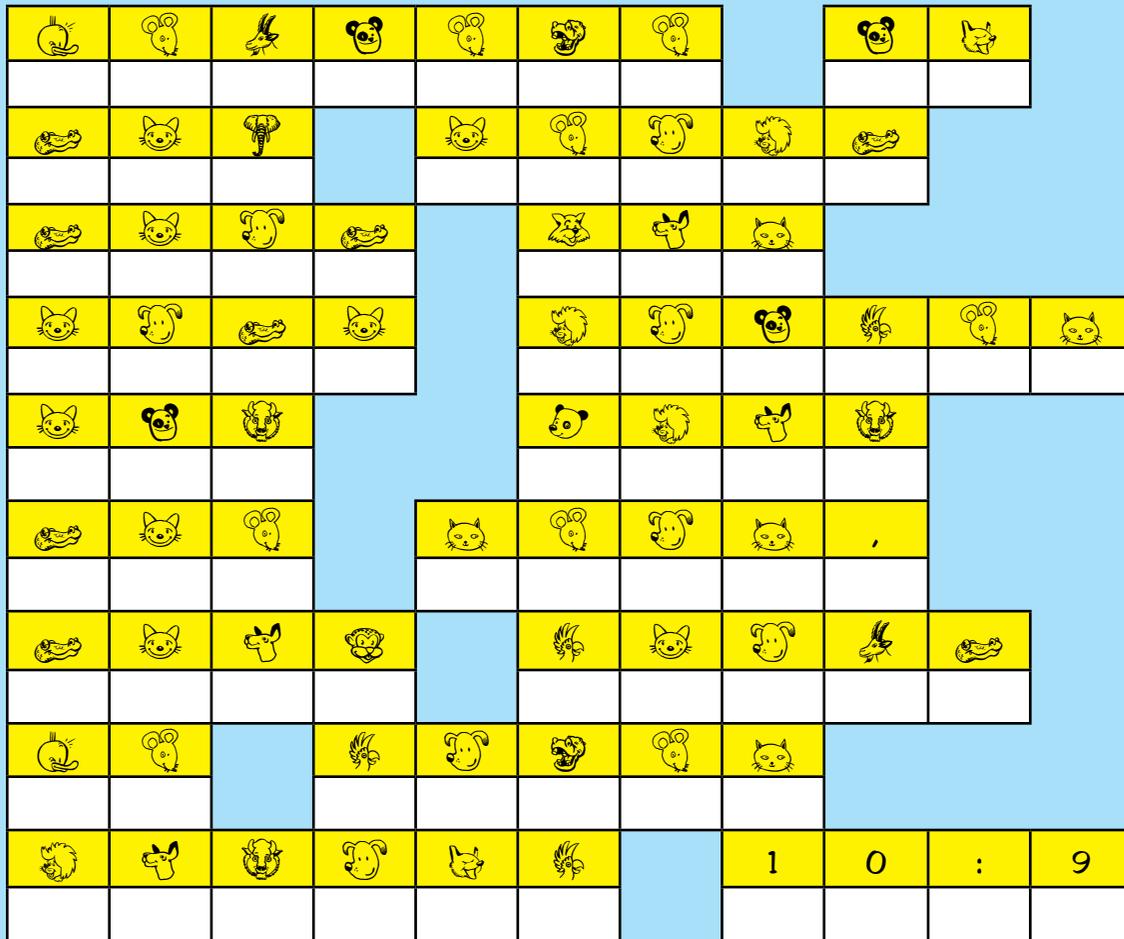
This tomb is AN EXAMPLE of what the tomb Jesus was buried in and arose from MIGHT have looked like.

[For more information about the resurrection of Jesus Read Matthew 27:56-28:20, Mark 16:1-19, Luke 24 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8]

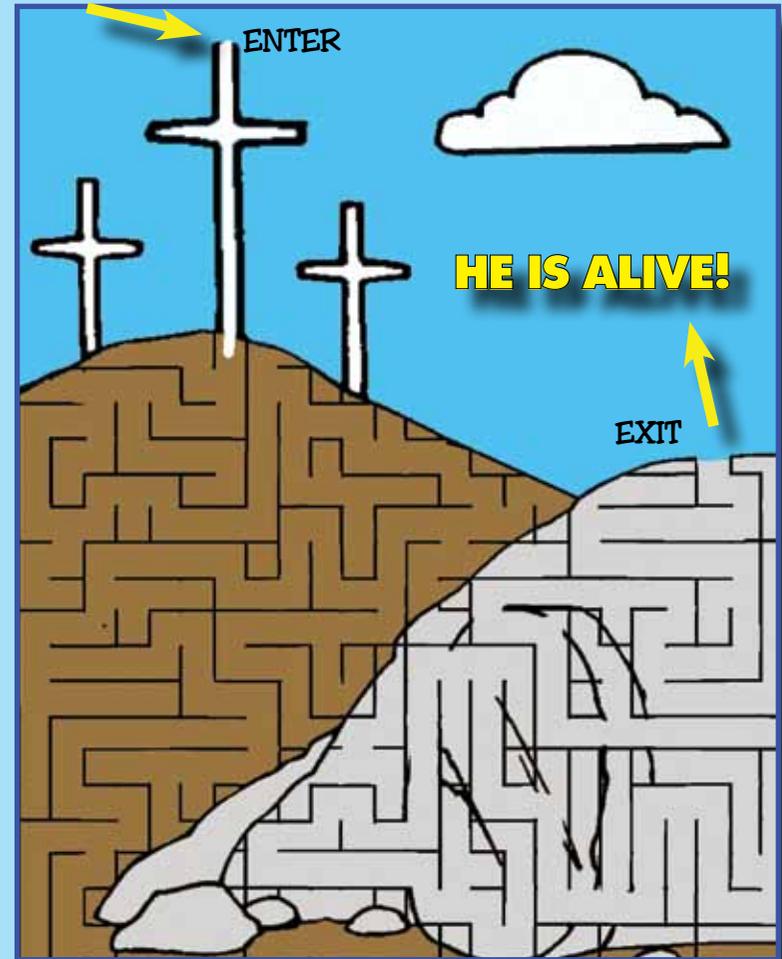
[For more information on salvation go to <http://discovercreation.org/kids/documents/JulandAug1998KTB.pdf>]

Resurrection Sunday ("Easter") is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Vernal or Spring Equinox (about March 21-22). This can be any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th.

This chosen date comes from a formula established by Roman Emperor Constantine the Great and the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.



Jesus was crucified (killed) on the cross, was buried in a tomb and arose 3 days later ... alive! Find a path through the cross and out the tomb.



Not only was Jesus' crucifixion very important for our salvation, but so was His resurrection:  
 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt ..."  
 Finish the Bible verse above using the KEY below  
 to solve the secret code hidden in puzzle at top.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

FOR ANSWERS GO TO: <http://www.discovercreation.org/kids/NewsletterAnswers.htm>

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