



RESURRECTION DAY

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Young Billy was helping clean up after his mother's birthday party when he asked, "Look at all the cool gifts you got! Your birthdays must be your favorite thing to do. Aren't they, Mom?"

"I do enjoy them," Mrs. Jones answered, "but they are not my favorite."

"Oh, then it must be Valentine's day when you get candy and flowers!"

"Well, I do enjoy Valentines, but there are two holidays that are more important to me than all others – Christmas and ..."

"Christmas is my favorite day too!" Billy interrupted, "I love all the presents I get!"

Smiling, Mrs. Jones replied, "I know you do, Billy, however, Christmas is more about celebrating Jesus' birth than it is for receiving gifts. I love Christmas too, but the most important holiday to me is Resurrection Day."

"What is that word wreck, uh, 'wreck-er-ek-shun'?" Billy asked.

"That is Resurrection [rez-ur-ek-shuhn] Day, also known as Easter. On Easter, your father will read for us the Biblical account about Jesus' death, His burial, and most importantly, His rising from death, which is called resurrection.

"During Jesus' ministry, many Jewish people came to believe in Him as the long-promised

Messiah (Savior) and the Son of God. The powerful teaching and miracles He performed resulted in a growing number of followers. Because of this, some of the Jewish religious leaders were jealous and feared Jesus. They hated Him so much that they found a way to have Him put on trial by the Roman government. Even though He was without sin and innocent, He was sentenced to die by crucifixion (hung on a cross).

"After the trial, Romans soldiers cruelly whipped, kicked and spat on Jesus. They put a robe on Him and a

staff in his hand.

They then stuck a crown of thorns on His head while making fun of Him as a king.

"After this horrible beating, Jesus was taken to a hill where He was nailed by His hands and feet to an upright post in the shape of a cross. Six hours later, the Lord Jesus died upon that cross. Once He died, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and buried in an empty tomb (like a cave) and an enormous stone was rolled in front of the entrance, sealing it shut."

Mrs. Jones paused as Billy began to weep. Hugging him, she comforted him by saying, "I'm sorry, Billy. What was done to Jesus was terrible."

"But why did He have to die?" Billy sobbed.

"The Bible tells us in Romans (3:23 & 6:23) that everyone has sinned (disobeyed God) and the punishment for sin is death. Because there is nothing that we can do on our own to get sin

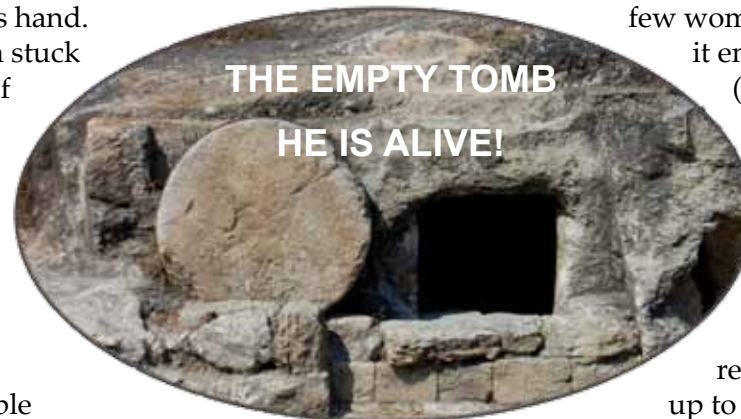
out of our lives (Ephesians 2:8-10), we needed someone that was without sin to die in our place. Because God loves us so much, He offered Himself in our place. He did that by becoming a man in the person of Jesus Christ, His own Son. Jesus died for everybody's sins, so now if we are truly sorry for what we have done, and ask God to forgive us, He will forgive our sins like they never happened. Now, doesn't that sound like good news, Billy?"

Billy grinned and nodded his head.

"But that is not the end of the story," Mrs. Jones continued "Three days after His burial, a few women went to His tomb and found it empty. Jesus had resurrected (risen from the dead). He was

alive! Then Jesus appeared to these women and some of His followers (disciples), talking and eating with them. He remained on the Earth for forty days, where hundreds of people saw Him in His resurrected body, before He went up to Heaven.

"Before His trial and crucifixion, Jesus had promised eternal life to those who followed Him. When Jesus rose from death, He showed that He has the power over death, and it is only through Him that people can have hope for eternal life. Jesus said, *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life'* (John 3:16)."



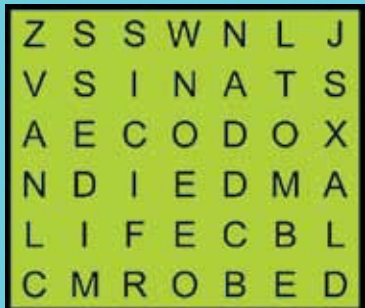
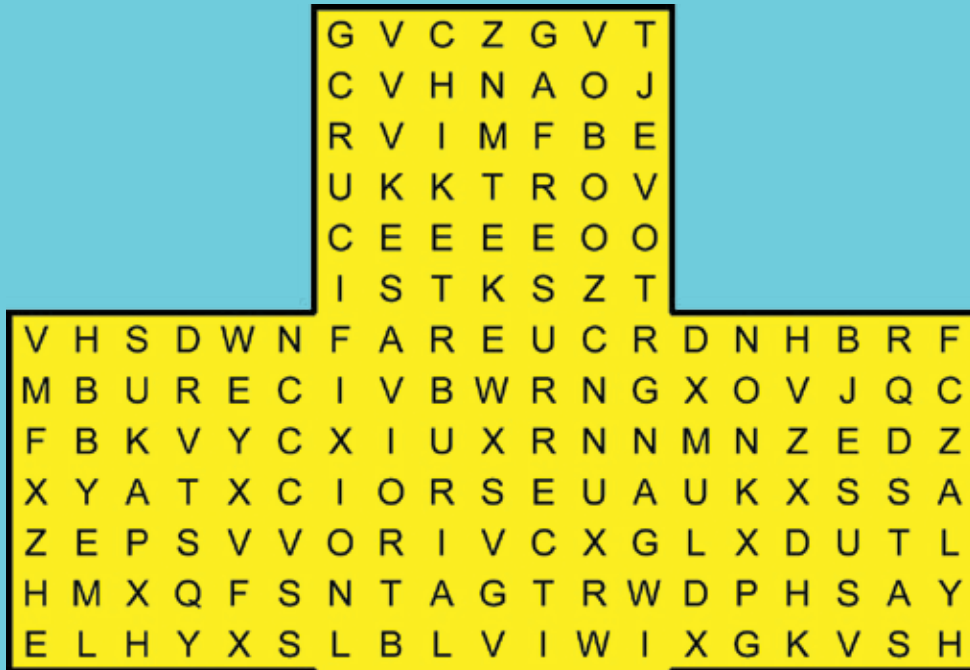
The preceding story is a very simplified narrative of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.

For more details of the Crucifixion, read the Biblical accounts in Matthew 27 ; Mark 15 ; Luke 23 ; John 19 and for the Resurrection, Matthew 28 ; Mark 16 ; Luke 24 ; John 20.

WORDSEARCH

Look for the words from the WORD LISTS below. The hidden word might be up, down, sideways or slanted, but not backwards. There are 2 puzzles - 1 HARD & 1 EASY

Find the path through the maze from the Crucifixion, to the tomb, and to Resurrection



EASY WORD LIST

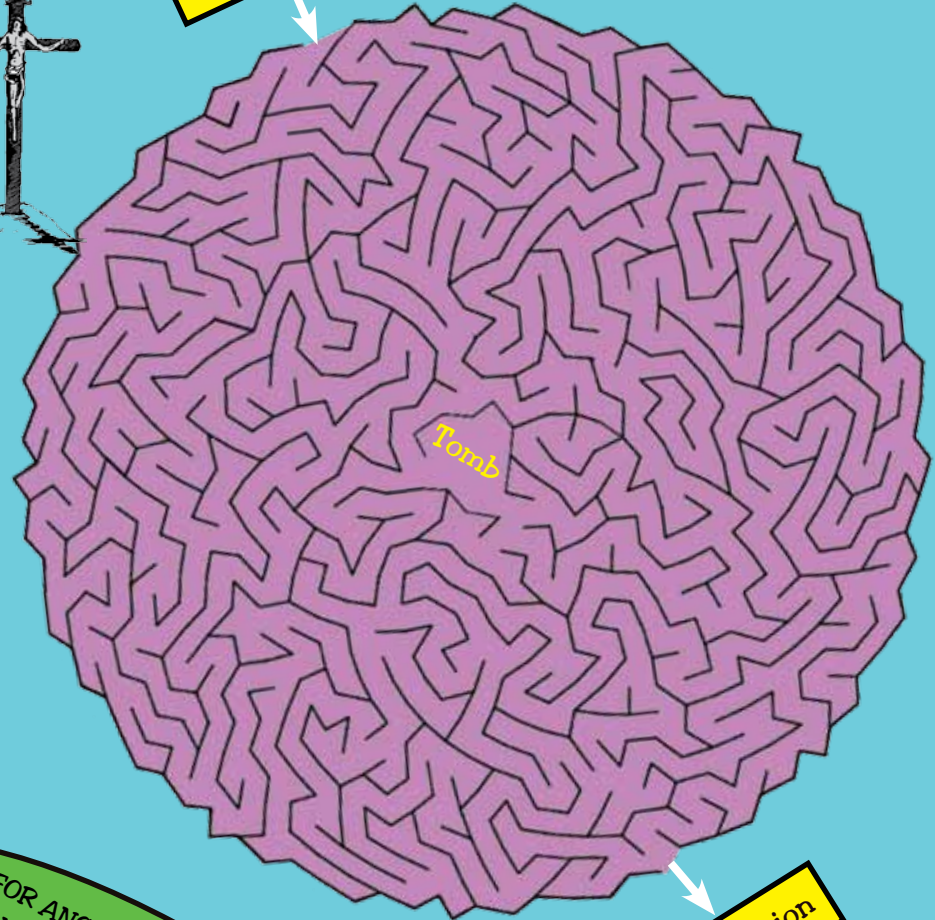
DIED
 LIFE
 ROBE
 SIN
 TOMB

HARD WORD LIST

ALIVE
 BURIAL
 CROSS
 CRUCIFIXION
 EASTER
 EMPTY
 ETERNAL
 HEAVEN
 JESUS
 KING
 NAILED
 RESURRECTION
 SAVIOR
 TRIAL



Crucifixion



Tomb

Resurrection



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