

John 20: 1

a) Matthew chapter 29

John 20: 2-10

Topic: a) The tomb is empty

a) If you dig up George Washington's grave...What will you find?

- If you dig up Abrahams Lincoln's grave...what will you find?
- If you go to a cemetery and dig up every grave...what will you find in every one?
- If you dig around in Jesus' grave...what will you find? (Nothing) Why not?

a) There is a cemetery with two hundred graves in it. How many people are buried in this cemetery? (None...only their old bodies are there. The people are somewhere else)

- Because Jesus is alive, those who believe in Him are in heaven.

Topic: b) God said this would happen.

b) What if someone told you that on your tenth birthday you would look out your window and see an elephant with wings flying by? Would you believe him? What if he told you this and then on your tenth birthday you looked out the window and there was a winged elephant flying by. Would you believe him then? Why? (Because he said it would happen before it happened)

- The Bible said that Jesus would rise from the dead hundreds of years before He was even born.

John 20: 11-13

Topic: a) Why are you weeping?

a) There was a city. One day something terrible happened. The city was attacked by a giant monster named Sadness. Sadness was destroying the city and ruining people's lives. The people tried everything to get rid of sadness. They wore smiley face masks. They told jokes. They tried to laugh but nothing could drive the monster away. Then one day the people heard the sound of giant foot steps. Something huge appeared. It was called Hope. When Sadness saw Hope, Sadness started to shrink and get smaller and smaller. The now little monster was still around bothering people but as long as Hope was there, Sadness could not destroy or ruin people's lives.

- When Jesus rose from the dead He gave us hope.
- Jesus will take care of us. Whoever believes in Him will never die but live forever in heaven.

John 20: 14-18

Topic: a) The happiest day of her life.

a) Rays uncle promised him something. He said that when Ray was old enough he would buy him a really cool bike. Ray grew. He learned to ride a bike. He had an old bike that was always breaking. All his friends had cool new bikes. His was old and junky. Ray remembered what his uncle had promised him but it didn't seem like it was ever going to happen. One day Ray was in the driveway trying to fix his old bike. Suddenly his uncle's car pulled up. Rays uncle yelled for him to help him unload his trunk. Ray walked to the back of his uncle's car. He opened the trunk and there in the trunk was the coolest new bike Ray had ever seen. Ray thanked his uncle, jumped on his bike and took off down the street. This was one happy day!

- Why was Ray so happy? (Because everything his uncle said was suddenly all true)
- When Mary saw Jesus alive she suddenly knew that it was all true.

Topic: b) Now God is our Father.

b) Who is God?

- The all powerful one?
- One who knows everything?
- The creator of the universe?
- Your Father in heaven? (All four)

b) There was a mighty king. All the kings children had pointed heads. The king was a good king and said that anyone who lived in his kingdom could become part of his family. This was a good thing because if you became one of the kings sons or daughters you would be a prince or princess and get to live in the castle which was a most fun place. The only thing was that in order to be one of the kings sons or daughters you had to have a pointed head. There was one boy who really wanted to be one of the kings sons and live in the castle but he couldn't because his head was round and not pointed. The king loved the boy and wanted him in his family so he took the boy and stuck his head into a giant pencil sharpener. Now the boy could be the kings son and he lived happily ever after in the castle.

- To be Gods son or daughter you don't have to have a pointed head but you do have to be perfect and not have any sin.
- How can we ever be? (We have to be made perfect. How?)

John 20: 19

Topic: a) Everyone gets scared.

- a) Matthew 14: 25-27... "It's a ghost!"
- a) Mark 4: 37-41....Storm at sea
- a) Hebrews 12:13-21....a fearful sight.

a) In the middle of the desert there was hole. The hole was empty. There was nothing in it but dry dirt. There wasn't even any grass around it. Then one day it rained. The hole filled up with water. Things changed. Suddenly there were little bugs swimming around in the hole. Animals came and drank out of the hole. Little tiny flowers started springing up around it. A bird flew by, landed in the hole and swam on the water. The hole now had a lot of life around it. What was dead was replaced by life.

- God wants to replace our fear with His peace.

Topic: b) But do we believe?

b) There was a little girl hiking deep in the woods. Suddenly it got very dark and started to rain. It was a cold rain that made her shiver. Then the thunder and lightning began. The little girl ran through the woods looking for some kind of shelter to keep her safe from the storm. Deep inside the woods she found a little stone house. It was empty. Inside there was a huge fireplace. The little girl gathered some wood and made a fire. She sat in front of the fire with a smile on her face because it was warm and there was light. Outside the storm raged. Inside it was safe and cozy.

- Jesus is alive.
- If we believe in Him we are safe in Him.

b) Eric and his dad were driving home. Suddenly it began to snow. It was snowing so hard that you could barely see the road. Soon the snow was piling up on the road. Some cars got stuck in the snow. Eric was scared. His dad turned to him and smiled, "Don't worry Eric; this old car will plow right through the snow." Eric felt much better when he heard that. As the snow got higher, Eric remembered what his dad said and wasn't scared anymore.

- Whenever you get scared remember....Jesus is alive. He never sleeps. He is taking care of you.

John 20: 20

Topic: a) hope revived

a) There were some kids walking through the desert. It was very hot. They were very thirsty but all their water was gone. It got hotter and hotter and they got thirstier and thirstier. They were just about to give up hope when one of the kids said, "Hey I think there's something in my canteen!" All the kids gathered around hopefully hoping that there was some water left in the canteen. The boy tipped his canteen over and carefully poured out the contents. All that came out was sand. The kids had sad faces because hope wasn't there anymore. They were just about to give up when they saw something in the distance. As they got closer they saw that it was a building with a sign in front that said "Free Lemonade." How do you think the kids felt now? Hope came back to life.

- The disciples saw Jesus die... all their hope was gone.
- Now they see Him alive....How do you think they felt?

John 20: 21-23

Topic: a) Light of the world / We need to be lit up.

a) Once there was a land of darkness. It was so dark that you couldn't see your hand if you held it up to your face. People were tripping over things and each other and getting hurt. One day a candle walked into the land of darkness. The candle wanted to help the people but it couldn't because it wasn't lit. The candle was in as much darkness as the people. Then one day the candle met a match. The match burst into flames and lit the candle. Now the candle could light the way and all those who wanted to see, could.

- Those who know Jesus and are forgiven are like lights in a dark world.
- We can't shine by ourselves. We need the Holy Spirit to light us up so we and others can see the truth.

John 20: 24-29

Topic: a) Haven't seen yet believe.

a) Once there was a boy who looked out of a window. He wanted to see how high up he was. It was dark and he couldn't see the ground so he leaned out farther and farther hoping to be able to see all the way to the ground. He leaned out so far that he fell out of the window. He grabbed hold of the window ledge and was dangling from it. He didn't know if he was far away from the ground or close to it. He yelled for help. Suddenly he heard a voice, "Let go! I'm right below you, I'll catch you!" He couldn't see the person but he knew he had to trust him. He let go of the window ledge, fell and landed in the arms of the man who promised to catch him. He was safe.

- We have never seen Jesus. If we believe His words and give Him our lives, we will live.

John 20: 30-31

Topic: a) These are written so that....

a) There was a man who walked into a very dark room. He closed the door, tried to see but there was only darkness. The first thing he did was find the light switch and turn it on

- Why did he do that?

a) There was a man who worked in a zoo. Every morning before they let people come into the zoo, he would go to the lion's cage to make sure it was locked.

- Why did he do this?

a) Randy's mom is going away for a week. Randy is old enough to stay by himself. Before mom goes she shops for groceries and fills the refrigerator with a weeks worth of food.

- Why did she do this?

a) John wrote down for us some of the things that Jesus did and said.

- Why did he do that ?