

2nd-4th GRADES

WATCH this week's Bible Story Video on our website:
www.goodshepherdholmen.org/childrens-ministry

READ this story: In your Bible: Matthew 27:62-66;
28:2-4, 11-15

In last week's story we learned how Jesus finished his saving work by suffering and dying on the cross for us. Throughout his ministry and especially in these last days of Jesus' life we learned a few things about the Jewish leaders: **What didn't the Jewish leaders believe about Jesus?** (They didn't believe he was God's Son, the promised Savior.) **How did many of the Jewish leaders feel about Jesus?** (They hated him.) **What had the Jewish leaders done to show their hatred toward Jesus?** (They had him crucified.)

This hatred continued after Jesus died. In today's lesson we will see what these enemies did after Jesus was buried. We will also find out **how Jesus showed his power over death and the grave.**

The Jewish leaders who had Jesus crucified remembered that he had said that after he died, he would rise from the dead. Although they did not believe that he could raise himself from being dead, they did worry that Jesus' disciples would remove his body from the grave and claim that Jesus had risen and was alive again, so they went to Pilate to ask that Jesus' grave be made secure so that this could not happen. Pilate agreed to their request. There was a seal put on the stone that was blocking the entrance to the grave and guards were stationed outside the grave to make sure no one went in or out of the grave. The Jewish leaders felt confident that this plan was a good plan and that Jesus' body would remain inside the grave. **What didn't the Jewish leaders realize about Jesus?** They did not realize that Jesus is God's Son and the Savior and there was nothing they could do to keep Jesus in the grave.

Early Sunday morning there was an earthquake, and an angel appeared and rolled away the stone covering the entrance to the grave. The grave was EMPTY! Jesus came back to life and left the grave early Easter Sunday morning, sometime before the angel rolled away the stone. **How could Jesus have left the grave without the seal being broken and the stone being moved?** Jesus is God and can do anything! Also, after he rose from the dead, Jesus had a glorified body that could easily pass through the stone grave. **What then did Jesus show he had power over?** Jesus showed he had power over death and a sealed grave.

The guards who were stationed outside the grave witnessed the earthquake, and the angel and the empty grave. They saw all this and became so terrified that they fainted. When they recovered from their fear, they went to report to the Jewish leaders what they saw. This was not what the Jewish leaders wanted to hear! The Jewish leaders did not want people to hear what actually happened, so they made up a story for the guards to tell. In fact, they paid the guards money to tell a lie about what happened. They told the guards to say that while they were asleep, Jesus' disciples stole his body so they could say that Jesus was alive – but to lie and say that Jesus really was not. The Jewish leaders reacted to the news that Jesus had risen by denying it and trying to keep it a secret. **We react to the news that Jesus has risen and is alive by believing that he is risen and praising Jesus and sharing this great news with others!!**

Memory Treasure: John 11:25, 26a: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Prayer: Dear Jesus, our risen Savior, help us be confident that you did indeed rise from the dead. We praise and thank you, our God and Savior. Amen.

Have a Blessed Easter! He is risen, He is risen indeed!

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements