

IN THE GARDEN WITH JESUS



FIRST CHURCH
OPEN BIBLE
Family Life Resources



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Family Life Resources

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Introduction

“Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.” (Luke 22:39)

His disciples had spent the evening of Passover with Jesus, discussing many things.

Intense prayers rose to heaven. Jesus went to the garden to find respite from the weight of His mission.

This resource takes us from Thursday to Sunday as we meet Jesus in the Garden.

LESSON 1

Gethsemane: Garden of Prayer

Parent's Passage: John 17

Family Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Key Verse: John 17:20

"I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

One of Jesus' longest recorded prayers is found in the book of John. After washing His disciples' feet, sharing the Passover meal, and speaking to them about the future, He prayed for them. Read John 17:1-5 slowly, meditating on its meaning.

The first part of His prayer reveals His relationship with His Father since the beginning of time.

The next part is an intercessory prayer for His followers, asking for their protection, holiness and grounding in truth.

The final part of His prayer speaks about His arrest, trial and execution. He willingly did that for us (John 17:4) Let that soak in... He prayed for us. We were on His heart and mind. He continued:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me"

(John 17:20-21).

The astonishing request in this prayer is that Jesus wants us to be in the same relationship with Him that He has with the father. He wants unity with us!

(Continued next page)

“May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” Verse 21

In case you missed it, He repeats it in verse 23:

“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Pray to the Father that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you and your family the profound spiritual truth Jesus reveals in his prayer for us.

Family Prayer Template

START

Gather in a quiet place in your home. This is your special time to be with Jesus. Read aloud Matthew 26:36-46. Emphasize how Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him.

Start the prayer time by thanking God for bringing us to Christ.

CONTINUE

Read verse 39 and 42 again. Jesus prayed, ***“If this is possible may this cup be taken from Me.”*** He then ended with, ***“Yet not as I will, but as you will!”***

Talk as a family about the fact that Jesus was under the will of His Father, and this time, His Father asked Him to go to the cross for us. Pray together, asking for a willing heart to say, “Yes” to God like Jesus did.

CLOSE

Read Matthew 26:41 again. Remind your family that prayer keeps us connected to God and is the way to remain in His protection.

Finish with a prayer of gratitude, thanking God for His protection and love.

LESSON 2

Golgotha: The Place of the Skull

Parent's Passage: Matthew 27:33-54

Family Reading: Isaiah 53:5

Key Verse: John 19:17

"Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)"

Golgotha, meaning "Place of the Skull" has such a dark name that it may bring to mind punishment and death. After all, it's where Jesus was hung on the cross. But Jesus has a way of taking a barren, gloomy place like one named Golgotha and turn it into a place of hope and salvation!

Jesus did nothing to deserve the death penalty He received. Even Pilate, a Roman leader declared:

"You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. . . he has done nothing to deserve death."

Yet, Jesus was whipped and beaten. His clothes were taken from Him, He was mocked and given a crown of thorns, and His wrists and feet were nailed to a cross. And yes - Jesus did die.

This is not the warrior the Israelites expected! Even His disciples had scattered - one follower even ran away naked when someone tried to seize him (Mark 14:52)!

Jesus' friends and followers probably thought, this is not the way it should have happened!

Do you ever feel that way? Do you ever wonder, "God, I've done what you've asked. Why is this happening to me?" Well, dear sweet follower of Jesus, you are not alone! And your personal "Golgotha" is not the end!

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

(1 Peter 4:12)

Difficult and terrible things happen to good and obedient people. But we serve a God who understands our suffering. Jesus told his disciples,

"I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy . . . I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." (John 16:19-22)

Jesus's death was horrible! It was painful and it was unfair! But wait-it was not the end . . .

FAMILY TALK

Jesus chose death as the sacrifice for our sin. This is a difficult idea to think about, but it is important to take time to reflect on the terrible ordeal Jesus went through on our behalf.

As a family, we need to agree to choose Jesus. He chose us on the cross; we choose Him by deciding to follow His ways.

FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to cover our sin and for making us right before God, our father.

***Help us to honor Your life by faithfully following You.
Give us willing hearts to obey Your word.***

In your name we pray, Amen.

LESSON 3

The Race to the Garden

Parent's Passage:	John 20
Family Reading:	Read the paraphrase from John below.
Key Verse:	John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John, one of the 12 disciples, gives a firsthand account of the morning of Jesus' resurrection: [Taken from 20:1-10 & 19]

At sunrise on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the huge stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the cave where the body of Jesus had been laid.

She ran back to the disciples as fast as she could and told Peter and John, "The body is gone!"

Peter and John raced toward the tomb, their hearts pounding. John arrived at the entrance first and looked inside. Peter caught up with him and ran inside. They saw the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body and the cloth that had covered His head.

Finally, John stepped inside the cave.

"He saw and believed." (John 20:8b)

At that time, they still did not fully understand all the prophecies concerning Jesus. They went back to give a report to the other disciples. They waited there all day, and in the evening Jesus appeared to them, and they received Him with great joy.

This is a wonderful story to read together as a family. Think together how the disciples might have felt after they placed Jesus' body in the cave and rolled the huge stone over the entrance. How would you have felt if you saw His body was gone, yet the burial clothes were still lying in the tomb?

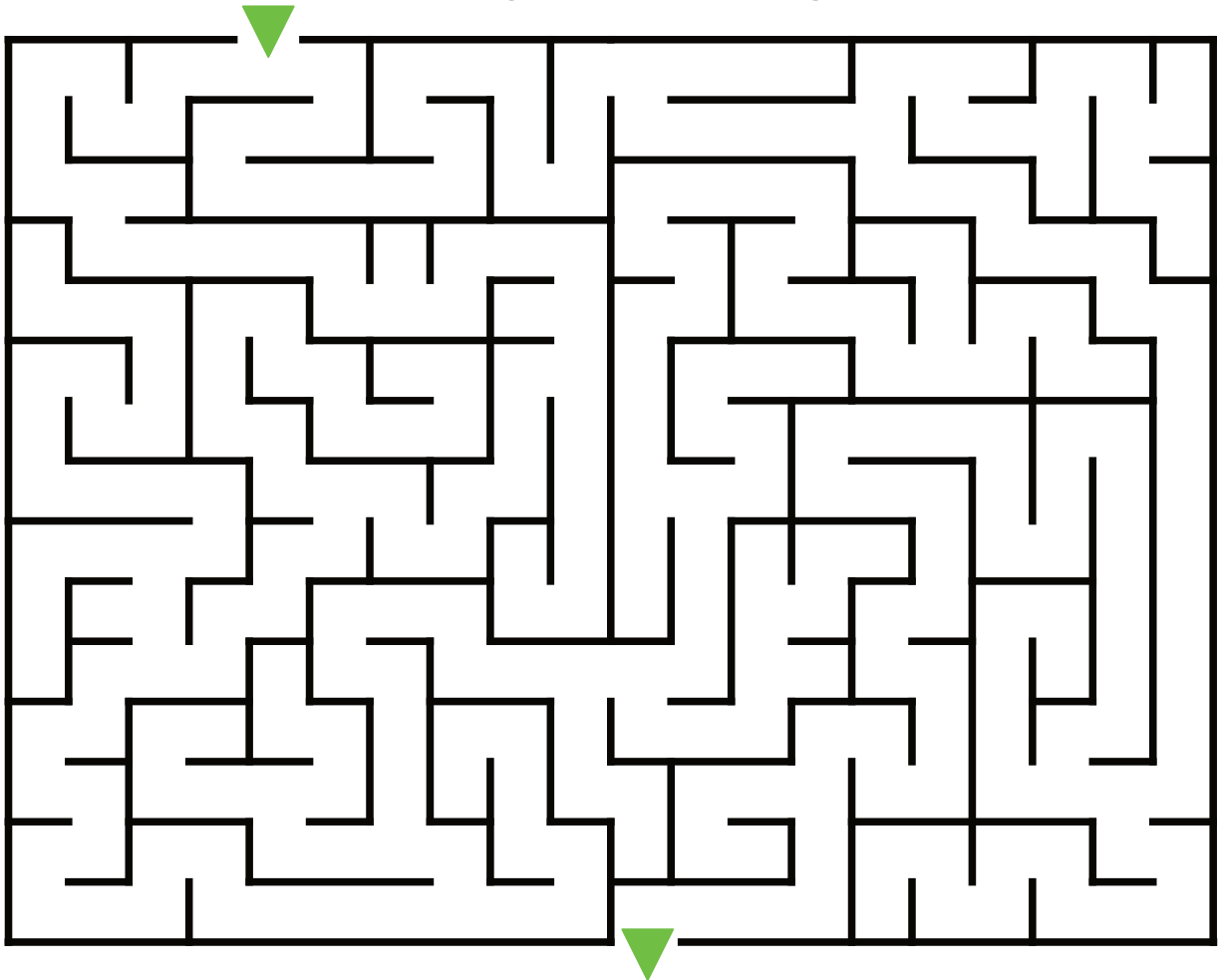
John saw these things and believed all Jesus had taught him.



How blessed we are to have this eyewitness account that Sunday morning when the risen Jesus greeted his disciples in person!

Mary's Maze Activity

Lead Mary to share the good news!



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The disciples were overjoyed to learn Jesus was alive!



LESSON 4

Who is the Gardner?

Parent's Passage: John 20

Family Reading: John 20:11-18

Key Verse: John 20:14

"At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus."

Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus's followers. She stood near the cross when He died and was the first one to visit His tomb. But that morning as she searched for Him, she didn't find what she expected. Instead she found a man she thought was a gardener.

She was polite and spoke to him respectfully, but her heart was heavy. She wasn't looking for a gardener-she was searching for Jesus. She was not happy. She wanted the Jesus she remembered. The Jesus who was in a tomb, not a gardener. She was confused. Where is Jesus?

I love this part of the resurrection story because it shows us three very revealing things about Jesus.

1. **Jesus shows up when we seek Him.**

Mary's heart was full of sorrow. The Bible shows she ran, wept and kept searching. She didn't realize that the very One she was looking for was already near her. All she had to do was turn around-and there He was. What a beautiful reminder that when we seek Him, He is never far away.

Thank you, Lord, that you draw near when we turn toward you!

"The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."

Psalm 145:18

2. Jesus doesn't always show up in the way we expect Him to.

Jesus shows this often in the New Testament. The Jews thought He'd be a conquering hero, Herod thought He'd appear as a mighty king, and Mary expected to find Him in the tomb. Thank you, Lord, that you are not limited by our assumptions.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:9

3. Jesus knows us by name.

When Mary encountered the angels in the tomb, they called her "woman." Even when she spoke to the man she thought was only a gardener, He also called her "woman." But when Jesus revealed Himself, He spoke her name. In that moment everything changed. She recognized Him. Jesus knows each of us personally.

"But now, this is what the Lord says - He who created you, 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'"

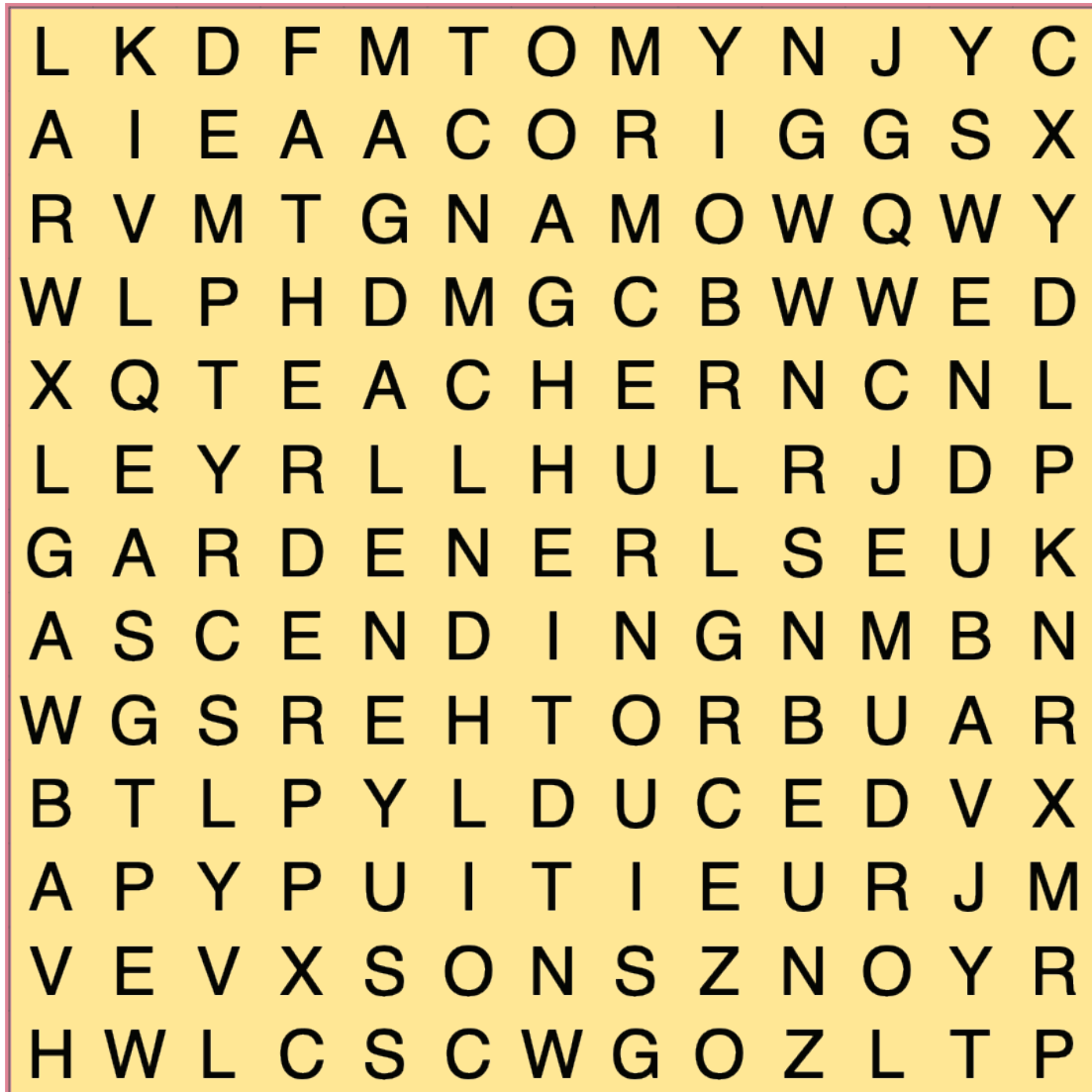
Isaiah 43:1

Have fun together as a family as you solve the word search on the next page.

(All words are taken from our lesson.)

The Resurrection Word Search

See if you can find all the words in our lesson!

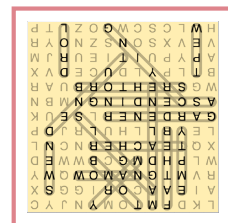


WORDS TO FIND:

- Mary
- Magdalene
- Gardener
- Tomb
- Empty

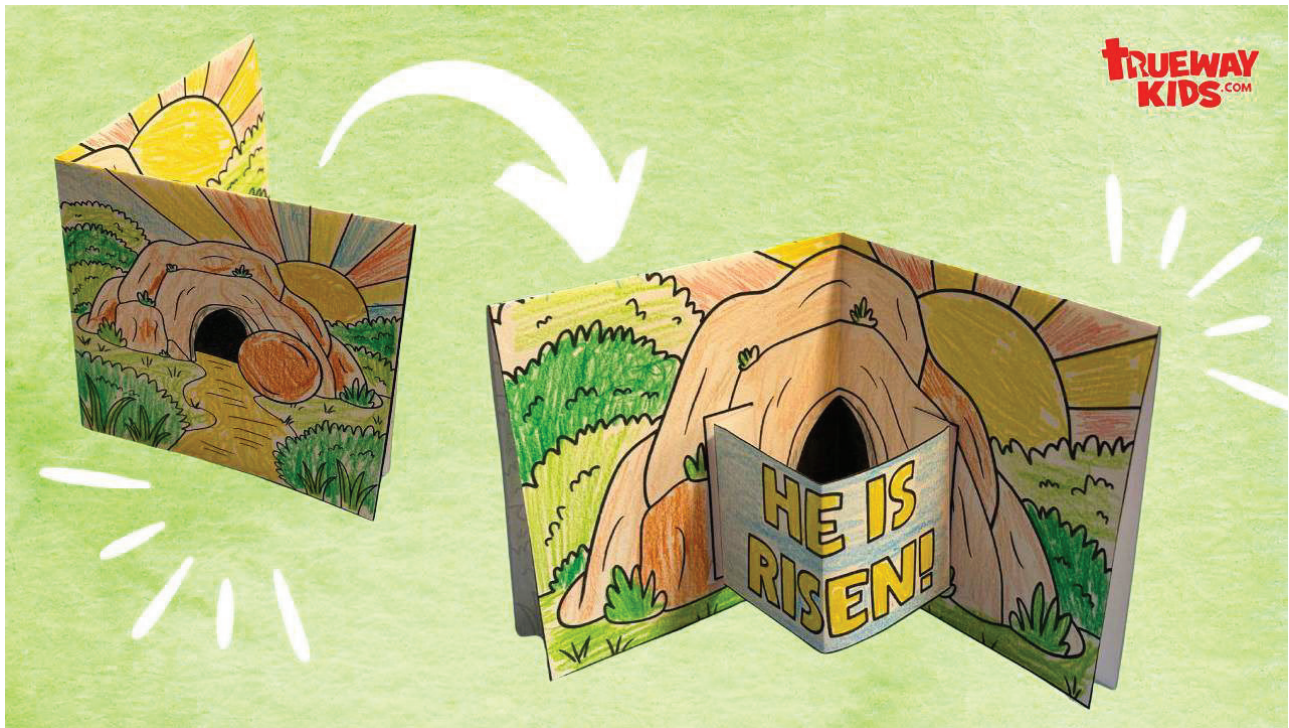
- Brothers
- Wept
- Lord
- Woman
- Turned

- News
- Ascending
- Teacher
- Crying
- Father
- Angels



(ANSWERS)

Pop-up Card - He Is Risen



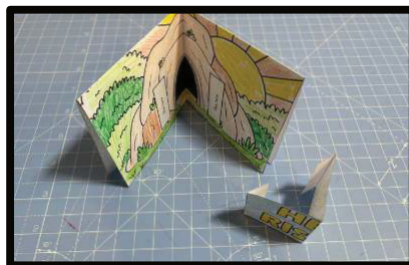
What you need:

- Template page
- Coloring equipment
- Scissors
- Glue

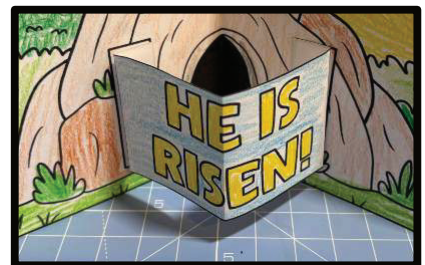
What to do:



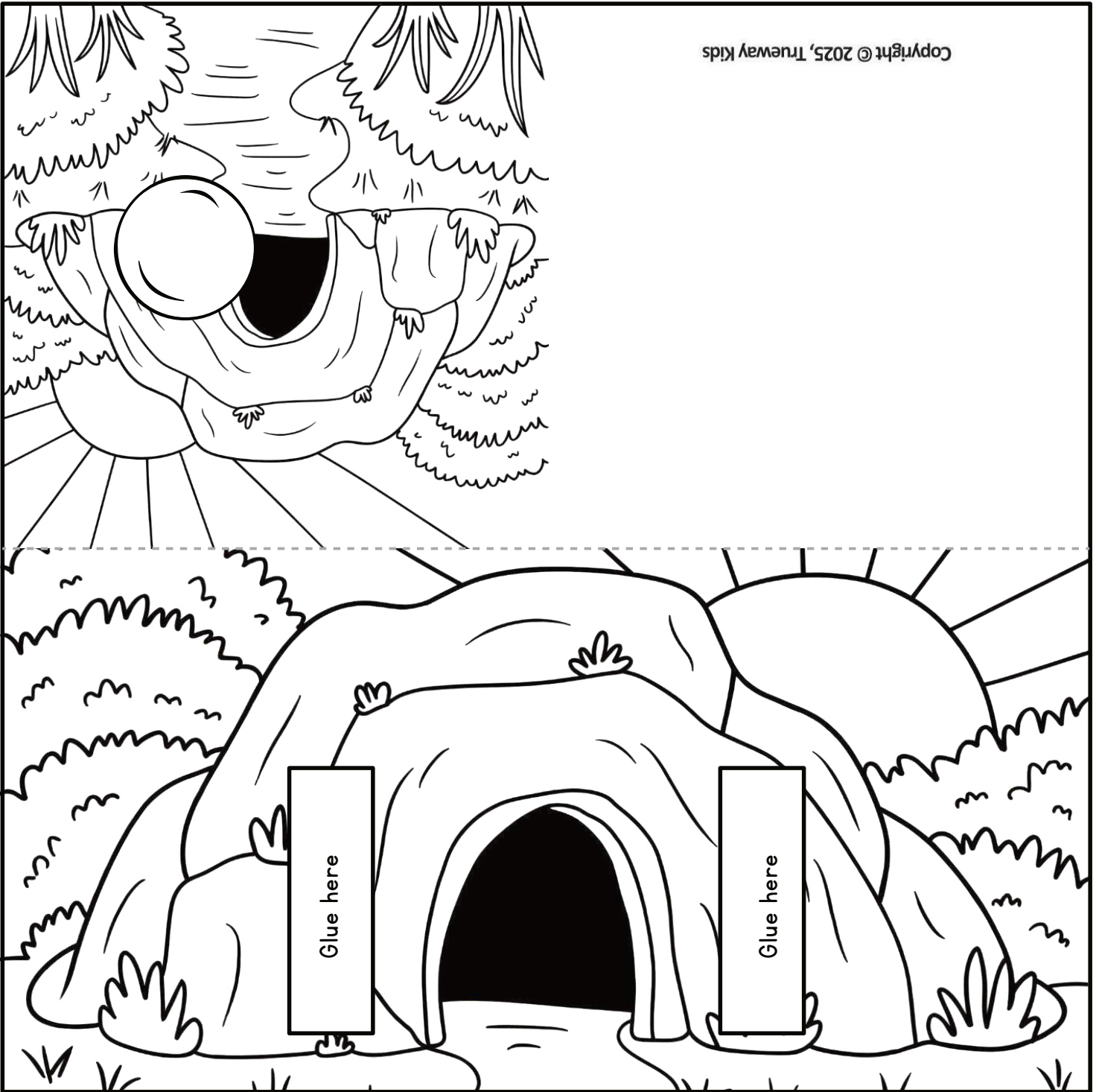
Color the template page.



Cut out all the pieces and fold the card.



Fold and glue the "He Is Risen" banner inside the card as marked to create the pop-up.



Color both
"Tomb"
Pictures
and the
"He is
Risen"
banner.

	<h1>HE IS RISEN!</h1>	
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Then cut
out the
banner
and glue
where
indicated.



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