



## **Make an Easter Representation**

Matthew 28; John 20

Create a beautiful scene representing the sepulcher in the garden on Easter. The teacher and children can work together to make all the parts of the scene. However, if you are short on time, prepare some of the scenery ahead of time.

### *Options:*

- Place different figures in the scene to act out the story on the days leading up to Easter.
- If you do not have figures, wait until Easter Sunday to add the flowers as a symbol of new life in celebration of the Lord's resurrection.

### **Supplies (available in craft stores or online):**

- Large bucket of gray or brown air-dry clay (read sepulcher directions below to decide how many items you want to make out of clay)
- River rocks (smooth rocks, not small pebbles)
- Plastic grasses (should come in a mat that helps the grass stand up, but will be cut into smaller sections, see photo):

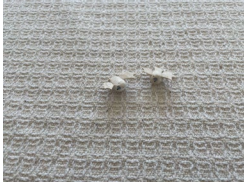


- Tiny artificial flowers with wire stems:



### Optional supplies:

- Miniature bird figures:



- Cloth/table runner/tablecloth to cover and protect the flat surface used for the scene
- White cloth to make grave cloths and/or dress human figures
- Human figures or supplies to make them
- A large rock to act as part of the sepulcher
- Sturdy cardboard paper plate with a rim, glue/stapler, brown/gray paint, coloring markers or pencils (see sepulcher options in directions)
- Potted plants or flowers (real or artificial)
- Cards/card stock and writing and coloring implements for verse cards

### Directions:

#### Sepulcher, Sepulcher Cave, and Tiles:

1. Knead the air-dry clay until it is flexible.
2. Take enough clay to make a sepulcher "rock" that will be about as tall as any human figures you are going to add to your scene. Make a round, thick, flat disk and then flatten one edge of it so that it can stand up on its side and represent the large rock that was rolled in front of the sepulcher.
3. Leave your sepulcher to dry and harden. If there are small cracks in the clay, try smoothing them out with water before they are fully dried. For further tips for working with air-dry clay, look online.



### *Additional Options*

- If you have enough air-dry clay, make a larger flat disk and bend it into a cave shape to place behind the “rock.”
- Make a rectangular block out of air-dry clay to place in the cave as a resting place on which you can place little folded-up white cloths to represent the grave cloths that were left in the sepulcher.
- Make a larger version of the clay rock to place behind the “rock” that is rolled away. Once it dries, paint the scene inside the sepulcher on the larger “rock”. If the dried surface is rough, paint a shining star-like light.
- Cut a piece of card stock the size of the larger block. Draw the interior of the sepulcher on the card stock and glue it to the larger disk. Include a resting place with folded grave cloths on it and/or two angels.



- Alternatively, make a sepulcher cave by cutting a sturdy cardboard paper plate in half. Draw the scene inside the cave on one half of the plate, being careful to use the part of the plate that will be visible on the inside of the cave. Place the two halves together with the rims touching, glue or staple the rims together as in the photo and paint it brown or gray.
- Place a larger real rock behind the clay “rock” to symbolize the cave.



### **Optional Clay tiles:**

Using the remaining air-dry clay, make rectangular flat tiles of the same width and thickness but of different lengths (see photo above). Stack the tiles to make garden walls on either side of the sepulcher and/or a garden path leading to the sepulcher. If you do not have extra clay, use river rocks.

### **Verses from the Word:**

- Invite children to choose key verse(s) from the story of Easter morning (Matthew 28; John 20). Carefully write the verse(s) on a card. Lay them next to the scene, attach to

the wall behind, or fold them in half so they stand up. *Optional:* draw flowers and leaves around the edges of each verse.

- If you have no human figures, make a verse with a picture for each part of the story. Place one card at a time in front of the scene in the days leading to Easter. The final Easter Sunday card can be larger and more beautifully illustrated.

### **Human Figures:**

1. To include human figures, decide which part(s) of the Easter morning story you will depict. Options include the women coming to the tomb, the angel rolling the stone away, the women seeing the stone rolled away, the women seeing the angels, Mary seeing the Lord and thinking at first that He was the gardener. See Matthew 28 and John 20.
2. Repurpose Christmas creche/representation figures, using cloth to add different clothing if necessary. Alternatively make clothespin dolls, or dolls with a piper cleaner body and a wooden bead head. Look online for Easter creche figurines.

### **Creating the Scene:**

1. Choose a flat surface. Cover the surface with a cloth/table runner/folded tablecloth if needed.
2. Place the sepulcher. Create garden walls on either side of the sepulcher using clay tiles and/or river rocks. Add garden paths, if desired.
3. Place the plastic grasses behind the garden walls to hide the base of the grasses. Anchor with river rocks.
4. Divide the miniature flowers into individual stems. Poke the stems into the grasses to look as if there are flowers growing in the grasses.
5. If you have miniature birds, perch them on a garden wall or on the grasses.
6. Place artificial or real plants behind the grasses and around the back of the scene.
7. Place the human figures. You may want to save some or all of the figures to place in the scene on Easter morning. You may want to have the children use the figures to act out the story or create each new scene from the story in the days leading up to Easter morning.
8. Discuss the story. Mention that the Lord's enemies and even His friends had seen Him die and thought that was the end of the story. They did not realize what the Lord was about to show them, that human beings live on after death. What happened in the garden on Easter morning showed us all that the Lord is stronger than death and that human beings live on after death in the spiritual world.