

GLOW IN THE DARK FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

**The Lord is my light
and my salvation —
whom shall I fear?**

Psalm 27:1a (NIV)



**JESUS DIED AND ROSE
AGAIN!**

John 20:1–18; 1 John 1:1–2:2

In this week's Bible story, we'll find out that Jesus was knocked down for a few days when he died on the cross — but it wasn't permanent. He would strike back in the most epic way!

Before we begin let's review all the different Scripture Spotlights we learned from this month.

- First, we learned that Jesus, God's son, had come to earth to tell everyone about God and shine God's light. He got really upset when he walked into the temple and saw that it resembled a marketplace more than a place to worship.
- Not long after that, Jesus and his buddies shared a "last supper" where he revealed that not only would he die soon, but one of his friends there would betray Jesus.
- It happened just as Jesus said it would. Jesus was arrested and had to stand trial in front of Pilate, who could clearly see that Jesus was innocent. He was pressured by the religious leaders and the crowd to release a criminal named Barabbas and to sentence Jesus to death.
- So Jesus was nailed to a cross between two other criminals. After much pain and sadness, Jesus died. His body was placed inside a tomb with a gigantic stone rolled in front of it.

Now if this is where the story ended, it would be super dark and sad. But let's check out what the Bible says happened on the third day of Jesus' death. Brace yourself . . . it's the greatest, most glow-rious thing to happen ever! (John 20:1–18)

So many weird things happened that morning. Mary, then Peter and John, thought they knew what to expect when they arrived at Jesus' tomb — I mean, dead people usually remain dead, but that is not what they saw. They were so confused at the empty tomb. They shouldn't have been. Jesus had told them before that he would come back to life after he died.

But they clearly had not believed those words.

Mary was so lost in her grief that it took two angels and Jesus himself to appear for it all to click. Of course, Jesus was alive! And they knew it wasn't some sort of trick. Everyone knew Jesus had been dead for three days, but there he was again, perfectly alive and well. This is why we celebrate Easter. We celebrate the day that Jesus kept his promise to come back to life and gave us a reason to tell others about this good news!

1 John 1:1–2:2 - Sin is everywhere, just like darkness is everywhere. Anytime we go to a place without light, we are in darkness. Anytime we make choices without God, we are in sin. Sin is choices that hurt us or others, or actions that harm our relationship with God or others. This passage tells us that when we sin, we walk away from God and instead walk with darkness. It's so easy to sin . . . we have to work hard to keep from disobeying God like that.

This Scripture also tells us that if and when we do sin, we have hope — Jesus!

Because Jesus paid the price for sin, we can seek God's forgiveness and walk in the light once more. It's not just about what Jesus did — it's also about what Jesus does now. He still fights for us and leads the way to God. He can only do that because Jesus died and rose again!



SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- What do you think Mary, Peter, and John expected to see at the tomb?
- What did they see instead?
- When did Mary realize that Jesus was alive again?
- Read 1 John 1:7
 - What do you think it means to walk in the light?
- What is something you can do to remind yourself to keep walking in the light rather than giving in to sin?
- Try telling the Easter story of Jesus in your own words.
- Who can you share this story with to spread the light of Jesus?



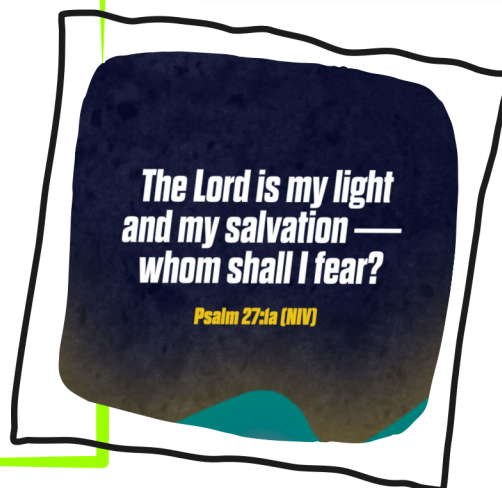
WORSHIP

"I Choose You"

Planetshakers

"He Is The Light"

Lifetree Kids



ELEMENTARY

The news that Jesus died and rose again isn't one we should keep to ourselves . . . we should be bouncing up and down to share this with someone!

Follow the tutorial to make your own glow-in-the-dark bouncy balls. Use ponchos or plastic bags to protect clothing and also airtight bags or containers that they can take their creations home in.

For a less messy option, pass out hardboiled eggs and have kids decorate using neon-colored markers and highlighters.



PRESCHOOL



Jesus died on the cross, but the story didn't end there. Jesus came back after three days. His tomb was empty.

Cover your surfaces with newspaper or a tarp. Use two halves of a coffee filter cut in half and decorate with bright watercolor paints. You can color with markers and spray it with water to run the colors. Leave to dry.

Use the printable (printed on cardstock) and fold along the dotted lines inward toward the center. Decorate the inside with crayons and stickers.

Glue the coffee filter halves to each of the outer flaps of the printable.

HAPPY EASTER!

**Jesus died and
rose again!**