

Diorama of Easter Morning at the Sepulcher

This is a three-dimensional Easter diorama which can be used to illustrate the Easter story from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Make figures for the people in the story and then make the sepulcher and nearby garden with an oatmeal box, rocks, live moss, and tiny plants.

Suggested Materials:

cardboard cylinder, such as an oatmeal box (can also use a long shoe box)
figures of the Lord, Mary Magdalene, Peter and others (see attached figures to color and cut out)
crayons, colored pencils, *etc.*
rocks, live moss, tiny plants, *etc.*

Procedure:

1. Lay the oatmeal box (with the lid removed) on its side to make a long “cave” to be the sepulcher. (You may want to cover the outside of the box with paint or paper.) When setting the box into position, steady it with rocks so it doesn’t roll.
(Note: If you don’t have an oatmeal box, you can use a long shoebox a large hole cut in one end. Or roll a piece of heavy paper to make a cylinder and fasten it with tape.)
2. Set rocks, live moss and little plants around the tomb.
3. Choose which Easter story you want to depict with the diorama and make figures for the people in that story. (See below for a list of people needed for each story.)
4. Print the attached figures on heavy paper (such as cover or card stock). Make as many figures as are needed for the story you are depicting. Or make extra figures so that you can use the diorama to depict all of the Easter stories.
5. Color the figures and cut them out. Be sure to cut around the stand at the bottom of the figure. Fold the stand at the dotted line to help the figures stand up.
6. Use a real rock to cover the opening of the sepulcher. On Easter morning, move the rock aside to show that the tomb is empty. Show the Lord appearing to Mary Magdalene.
7. Use the figures of Mary Magdalene and Peter to retell the story from Luke 24. Mary Magdalene and the other women tell the disciples that the Lord is risen, and they don’t believe them. But Peter runs to see for himself and finds the empty tomb with linen cloths.

Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down,
he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves;
and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.
(Luke 24:9-12)

8. Show the Lord appearing to Mary at the tomb.

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, Rabboni!”
Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord....
(John 20:16,18)

Figures needed for the Easter stories given in the gospels:

Matthew 28:1-10—Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, an angel, Jesus

Mark 16—Mary Magdalene, angel, Jesus, 2 disciples (*optional: the other Mary, Salome, more disciples*)

Luke 24—2 angels, Mary Magdalene, Peter, two other disciples, Jesus (*optional: Joanna, the other Mary*)

John 20 Mary Magdalene, Peter, John, two angels, Jesus (*optional: other disciples*)

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Figures to be printed or photocopies onto heavy paper, colored, and cut out for the diorama.

