

## A Word on the Resurrection

Type: An Easter Skit for Youth (*Based on the Gospel of John 20:1-30*)

Overview: All of our hope as Christians hangs on the Resurrection. The Apostle Paul said “*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*” (1 Corinthians 15:17) The Apostle John tells the story of the Resurrection from the perspective of someone who was actually at the empty tomb, and as someone who actually saw the Risen Christ. His words echo down to us through the passing years. We hear him saying to us, along with Mary Magdalene, “**I have seen the Lord!**” And now there is no doubt; we have hope and we have a future.

Synopsis: Starting with a chilling description of what life must have been like for His followers immediately after the death of Jesus, Narrators 1 and 2 lead the audience through a re-telling of the events of Easter Sunday and the following week, which proved to even the doubting disciple, Thomas, that **Jesus is alive!**

Based on the words of the disciple John (John 20:1-30) the majority of the skit is simply a re-enactment of the scriptures describing biblical events from the finding of the empty tomb to the appearances of Jesus to His Disciples. The Introductory and Closing Words are optional, but will add a sense of entrance and closure to the well known Bible story. Add two or three songs sung by the actors and/or other choirs and produce your own Easter Pageant! (*Song options are provided.*)

Speaking Parts: Narrator #1  
Narrator #2  
Mary Magdalene  
Two Angels  
Jesus  
Thomas

Other Parts: Simon Peter  
John  
Other Disciples (8) and various other followers of Jesus (*men and women*)

Setting: The Empty Tomb is depicted onstage.

Props: Optional items: blanket for Disciples to sit on, food or drink items

Director's Notes:

Staging may be the most exciting part of this skit. You will need to decide (*perhaps with your students*) things like how best to depict the empty tomb, or where the angels will sit, or how and when Jesus will appear. Decide on mood: Will it be somber and grow gradually lighter? When Peter and John are running to the tomb, would it be fun to have them race through the sanctuary? Depict the passage of time by having actors move around onstage, or by bringing props onstage, such as a blanket to sit upon or food items as if having a meal. *Enjoy doing the skit and pray that God will use it to present the truth of the Easter Story and to reach lost souls for Christ!*

A Word on the Resurrection  
*An Easter Skit for Youth*  
By Sharon Chatwell  
Based on The Gospel of John 20:1-30

**SKIT OPENS**

**[SPOTLIGHT on Narrators.]**

*[NARRATORS #1 and #2 ENTER and address audience.]*

**INTRODUCTORY WORDS**

**Narrator #1**

Imagine yourself in the worst of all possible situations. Imagine yourself as one of the disciples...

**Narrator #2**

...or as one of the women who followed Jesus...

**Narrator #1**

Imagine that He is no longer among you because He is dead.

**Narrator #2**

You saw Him die. You saw them bury Him in the tomb.

**Narrator #1**

There is no doubt.

**Narrator #2**

There is no hope.

**Narrator #1**

There is no future.

**Narrator #2**

You huddle together behind a locked door, fearing that those who tortured and killed Him will come and find you next. What will happen to you? To your family? To your friends?

**Narrator #1**

There is no doubt.

**Narrator #2**

There is no hope.

**Narrator #1**

There is no future.

**Narrator #2**

You heard Him say when He was alive that “The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

**Narrator #1**

But you have forgotten those words... or at least they hold no hope for you now.

**Narrator #2**

The horror of the Crucifixion is still fresh in your mind. You see and hear Him in agony there, dying right in front of you... when there was nothing you could do.

**Narrator #1**

You think about your part in all of it, and wonder what you could have done differently.

**Narrator #2**

You have been frightened and hiding for days... but now... it is Sunday.

*[Optional Easter Song – [Up from the Grave He Arose](#) – First verse and chorus]*

**[LIGHTS UP FULL.]**

## **JOHN 20:1-30**

*[At STAGE LEFT there is a replica of the empty tomb. The stone is rolled away from the entrance.]*

*[SIMON PETER and JOHN are seated at STAGE RIGHT. On cue, MARY MAGDALENE ENTERS from STAGE LEFT and rushes in to talk to them.]*

### **Narrator #1**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said...

### **Mary Magdalene**

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

*[SIMON PETER and JOHN start towards the tomb: they may take a circuitous route through the audience (or across the front of the sanctuary) to get there. JOHN arrives at the empty tomb first!]*

*[MARY MAGDALENE returns to the tomb at STAGE LEFT by simply walking across the stage.]*

### **Narrator #2**

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

*[JOHN bends over and looks in the tomb but does not go in. SIMON PETER arrives and goes right in.]*

### **Narrator #1**

Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

**Narrator #2**

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

*[JOHN and SIMON PETER return to STAGE RIGHT and are seated.  
MARY MAGDALENE walks forward in front of empty tomb.]*

**Narrator #1**

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her...

*[TWO ANGELS appear and speak to MARY MAGDALENE.]*

**Two Angels**

"Woman, why are you crying?"

**Mary Magdalene**

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

*[JESUS ENTERS from behind MARY MAGDALENE and speaks to her when she turns around.]*

**Narrator #1**

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

He asked her...

**Jesus**

"Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

**Narrator #1**

Thinking he was the gardener, she said...

**Mary Magdalene**

“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

**Jesus**

“Mary.”

*[MARY MAGDALENE turns toward JESUS and cries out...]*

**Mary**

“Rabboni!”

**Narrator #1**

In Aramaic the word Rabboni means “Teacher”

*[MARY MAGDALENE falls down in front of JESUS, clasping His feet. JESUS gently helps her up to her feet as He speaks to her.]*

**Jesus**

“Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

*[JESUS and TWO ANGELS EXIT. MARY MAGDALENE hurries back to the disciples at STAGE RIGHT.]*

**Narrator #1**

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news...

**Mary Magdalene**

*(very excitedly)* “I have seen the Lord!”

**Narrator #1**

And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*[Optional Easter Song – [Christ the Lord is Risen Today](#) verses 1 and 2]*

*[To denote passage of time, ALL DISCIPLES (except for Thomas) move to CENTERSTAGE FRONT and are seated. JESUS ENTERS.]*

**Narrator #2**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said...

**Jesus**

“Peace be with you!”

**Narrator #2**

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said...

**Jesus**

“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

**Narrator #2**

And with that he breathed on them and said...

**Jesus**

“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

*[JESUS EXITS and then, just afterwards, THOMAS ENTERS.]*

**Narrator #2**

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus, meaning “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him...

**Disciples**

“We have seen the Lord!”

**Thomas**

*(Shaking his head in disbelief)* “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

*[To denote passage of time, ALL DISCIPLES change position onstage somewhat. JESUS ENTERS.]*

**Narrator #2**

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said...

**Jesus**

*(Speaking to all Disciples)* “Peace be with you!”

*(Speaking just to Thomas)* “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

**Thomas**

“My Lord and my God!”

*[THOMAS falls down to worship Jesus. JESUS raises Thomas gently to his feet as He speaks to him.]*

**Jesus**

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**Narrator #1**

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

*[Optional Easter Song – [I Serve a Risen Savior](#) – First verse and chorus]*

*[While NARRATORS are speaking, ALL CAST moves onstage.]*

**CLOSING WORDS**

**Narrator #2**

Imagine yourself in the best of all possible situations! The Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was dead, is now alive again!

**Narrator #1**

By the power of the Living God, Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is alive forever!

**Narrator #2**

The terror of yesterday is gone, and the fear of tomorrow has vanished!

**Narrator #1**

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, mankind can be forgiven of sin.

**Narrator #2**

And because He has been raised from the dead, mankind can live forever!

**Narrator #1**

There is no doubt.

**Narrator #2**

We have a hope.

**Narrator #1**

We have a future.

**Narrators #1 and #2**

God bless you and Happy Easter!

**ALL CAST**

Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!

*[CURTAIN CALL.]*

**[LIGHTS OUT.]**

**THE END**