

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD

for Children



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Alive Forevermore! Alive Forevermore!

Luke 23 and 24

The Jewish leaders did not like the things that Jesus was teaching and preaching. They decided that He must die and they plotted to kill Him. Jesus was arrested, put on trial and sentenced to death. He was led outside the city of Jerusalem. A great crowd of people followed and the women were crying and mourning. Jesus told them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me!" When they reached the place called Calvary, Jesus was crucified there. A sign written in Greek and Hebrew and Latin was placed over Him. It read: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." Jesus prayed for those who were putting Him to death, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Some of them gambled to see who would get His clothes. The people stood by watching, but the rulers said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He's really the Chosen One of God." The soldiers made fun of Him, offering Him sour wine to drink and saying, "If you're the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

Two criminals were crucified with Jesus, one on each side of Him. One of the criminals yelled at Jesus, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other one said, "Don't you fear God? We're being punished fairly because we did wrong, but this Man has done nothing wrong!" Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus told him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and the whole land became dark until three o'clock in the afternoon, because the sun did not give its light. The veil of the temple was torn in two, opening the Most Holy Place to everyone. Jesus called with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." After He said this, Jesus stopped breathing and died. When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

All the crowds who had come to see the spectacle, when they saw what had happened, struck their chests (a way of expressing great emotion) and returned home, but the women who had followed Him from Galilee and those who knew Jesus stood at a distance and watched.

Spring 2012

A man named Joseph, a member of the Jewish Council, was a good and righteous man who didn't agree with the decision to put Jesus to death. He was looking for the kingdom of God. Joseph went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning at sunset. Jesus' body needed to be buried quickly. He took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped Him in linen cloth, and buried Him in a brand-new stone tomb, and placed a large stone over the opening.

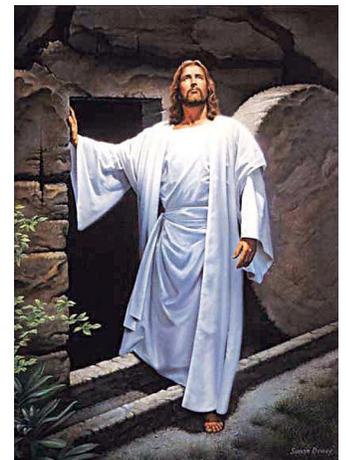
The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed. They saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid. Then they returned home and prepared spices and ointments for Jesus, as they planned to return after the Sabbath to finish a proper burial for Jesus. They rested on the Sabbath, according to Jewish Law.

Very early on Sunday morning, the women went back to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the opening of the tomb, but when they went inside, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling about this, two men stood near them dressed in shining white clothing. The women were frightened and bowed down to the ground on their faces, but the men said, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, when He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified and rise again on the third day." Then the women remembered Jesus' words. They returned from the tomb and told the disciples, who did not believe the women because it sounded like a story.

It was not a story, though. Jesus really did rise from the dead on the third day and He will never die again! He told the Apostle John:

Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen.

Revelation 1:17-18



Toddlers

Through Three Years



See how the letter "H" is formed in sign language? It looks like it's pointing. Point your toddler to the resurrection, using the "H" sign.

When Mary and her friends went to the tomb early Easter morning, the stone had been rolled away. An angel met them there, dressed in shining white clothes. He told the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus, who was crucified." Then he said:

He is not here:

for he is risen, as he said.

Matthew 28:6

"Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples He is risen."

Tots

Four-Six Years

Early on Easter morning, two women came to Jesus' tomb. There had been a great earthquake, because an angel had come and rolled the stone away.

He was sitting down on it. The angel looked like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. The women were afraid, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here for He is risen as He said. Come and see where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples He has risen from the dead and is going to Galilee. You will see Him there."

The women quickly left, still afraid but very happy, and ran to tell His disciples. Jesus met them and said hello to them. They came and hugged His feet and worshipped Him. Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I'm going to Galilee. They will see Me there."

Why did the angel roll the stone away? Was it so that Jesus could get out? No, Jesus didn't need anyone to move the stone for Him. Maybe it wasn't so Jesus could get out, but so the women could get IN! They were able to go inside and see that Jesus wasn't there. Then they saw Him, so they could tell everyone

the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive!



Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten

Jesus is sometimes called "The Great I AM." This is why:

God spoke to Moses. He told Moses He was going to deliver the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and bring them to a good land flowing with milk and honey. Moses asked God, "When I come to the children of Israel and say that the God of your fathers sent me, and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I say?"

God said, "I AM THAT I AM. Tell them I AM has sent me to you."

God always existed and always will exist. He was, is and will be forever. He is I AM, present continually.

Jesus calls Himself the I AM (John 8). Jesus told the Jewish people, "Abraham saw My day and was glad." They said, "You aren't even 50 years old. Have You seen Abraham?" (Abraham had been dead for many years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.) Jesus answered, "Truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Jesus always existed and always will exist. He was, is and will be forever. He is I AM, present continually.

God and Jesus are One, the same Being, always existing, present continually. Jesus came to earth and took on a human body, but He still is the Great I AM, existing forever, present continually. He is worthy of praise!

**Hallelujah to the King of Kings;
Hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of Lords;
Who is the great I AM.**

~Twila Paris

יהוה

This is what God's Name looks like in the Hebrew Bible. It is pronounced "yah-weh" and read backward, from right to left.

Tweens

Eleven-Twelve Years



What is a "cunningly devised fable"? It's a cleverly made-up story. The story of the tortoise and the hare is a fable.

The stories of gods and goddesses in Greek and Roman mythology are fables. They are not true. They didn't really happen.

Is the story of Jesus true or a fable? Was He really born of a virgin, with the Holy Spirit as His Father? That sounds pretty unbelievable. Did He really die on a cross and rise again from the dead? That also sounds pretty fantastic.

No matter how unbelievable it sounds, Jesus really was born of a virgin (Luke 1:27, 34) and He really did rise from death (Luke 24:6). The Bible says it and we believe it. We believe it by FAITH.

When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John (Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9), His glory was shown to them. The honor and glory of God that had been hidden in a normal-looking human body for over thirty years was revealed, and God spoke from heaven. Peter, James and John saw it with their own eyes and heard it with their own ears. Later, Peter wrote:

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

2 Peter 1:16-18

The story of Jesus isn't a "cunningly devised fable." It is true; it really happened. Peter, James and John saw it and told people. It isn't a secret. You can tell people, too. Anyone who believes in Jesus—that He lived, died and rose again to save them from sin and death—will live forever. We are made into new people. Through faith in Christ we become the children of God. That's Good News, better than any fairy tale you've ever heard.

Teens

The Samaritans and the Jews were not friends. Most Jewish people wouldn't even enter Samaria. Rather than take the direct route from Judea to Galilee, they would walk far out of their way to avoid Samaria. Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee, and He went right through Samaria. He came to the well of Jacob and, being tired, Jesus stopped to rest. The disciples went into a nearby town to buy some food.

While they were gone, a woman from Samaria came to the well to get water (no indoor plumbing), and Jesus asked her for a drink and talked to her about God. This was unheard of! Jewish men did not talk to foreign women. They did not drink from their "unclean" water vessels. And they certainly did not discuss theology (things about God) with them. Jesus was breaking many Jewish rules by interacting with her in this way.

Why did Jesus do it?

He knew the woman; He knew her need. He didn't see her only as a Samaritan or a woman, but as someone who needed what He wanted to give. She was a sinner in need of a Savior.



Jesus told the woman about Living Water. She asked where He would get this Living Water, because the well was deep and He didn't have any way to draw water from the well. After talking with her for a while, Jesus told her plainly that He was Messiah, the Christ (John 4:25-26).

Just then, the disciples came back and were very surprised to find Jesus talking to a woman, but they didn't ask Him why. The woman left her water jar and hurried into town to tell the people about Jesus. Many Samaritans came to Jesus and believed on Him because of the testimony of the woman. They begged Jesus to stay with them and He did, for two days. Many more believed on Jesus because of His Word, not only because of the testimony of the woman.

Physical water only quenches physical thirst temporarily. Living water quenches spiritual thirst forever. Living water becomes a well of water springing up to eternal life. (see John 4:14)

Jesus calls Himself by different titles. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says:

- ♦ "I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst."
- ♦ "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
- ♦ "I am the Door of the sheep. If anyone comes into the sheepfold by Me, he will be saved."
- ♦ "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me."
- ♦ "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
- ♦ "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- ♦ "I am the True Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. You are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing."

Do you see the progression in the statements of Jesus? The Bread of Life will satisfy our hunger. Everyone is hungry for God, whether they know it or not. Jesus is the Light of the whole world. The Light keeps us from stumbling around in the dark and gives us abundant life. The Door is the entrance into the sheepfold—God's kingdom—and when we enter through Jesus we are saved. The reason we can be saved is that the Good Shepherd has given His life for us. Jesus knows us and we know Him. Whoever lives and believes in the Resurrection and the Life will never die eternally, even though his physical body will die. Jesus is the only Way to the Father, and Truth and Life are found only in Jesus. The True Vine nourishes the branches. If a branch is cut off from the Vine, it withers and dies, but when a branch lives in the Vine it bears much fruit. When we live in Jesus and He lives in us we will bear fruit for God, Who is the Vinedresser, but without Jesus we can't do anything. We depend on Him for everything. He is our Life, our Light, our Joy, our Song!

the True Vine
 the Door the Good Shepherd
 the Way the Truth and the Life
 I AM THAT I AM the Living Water the Light of the World
 the Resurrection and the Life
 the Bread of Life

Jesus is Eternal God.

**I am Alpha
 and Omega,
 the beginning
 and the end,
 the first
 and the last.**

Revelation 22:13

Α "Alpha" is the first letter in the Greek alphabet.

Ω "Omega" is the last letter in the Greek alphabet.

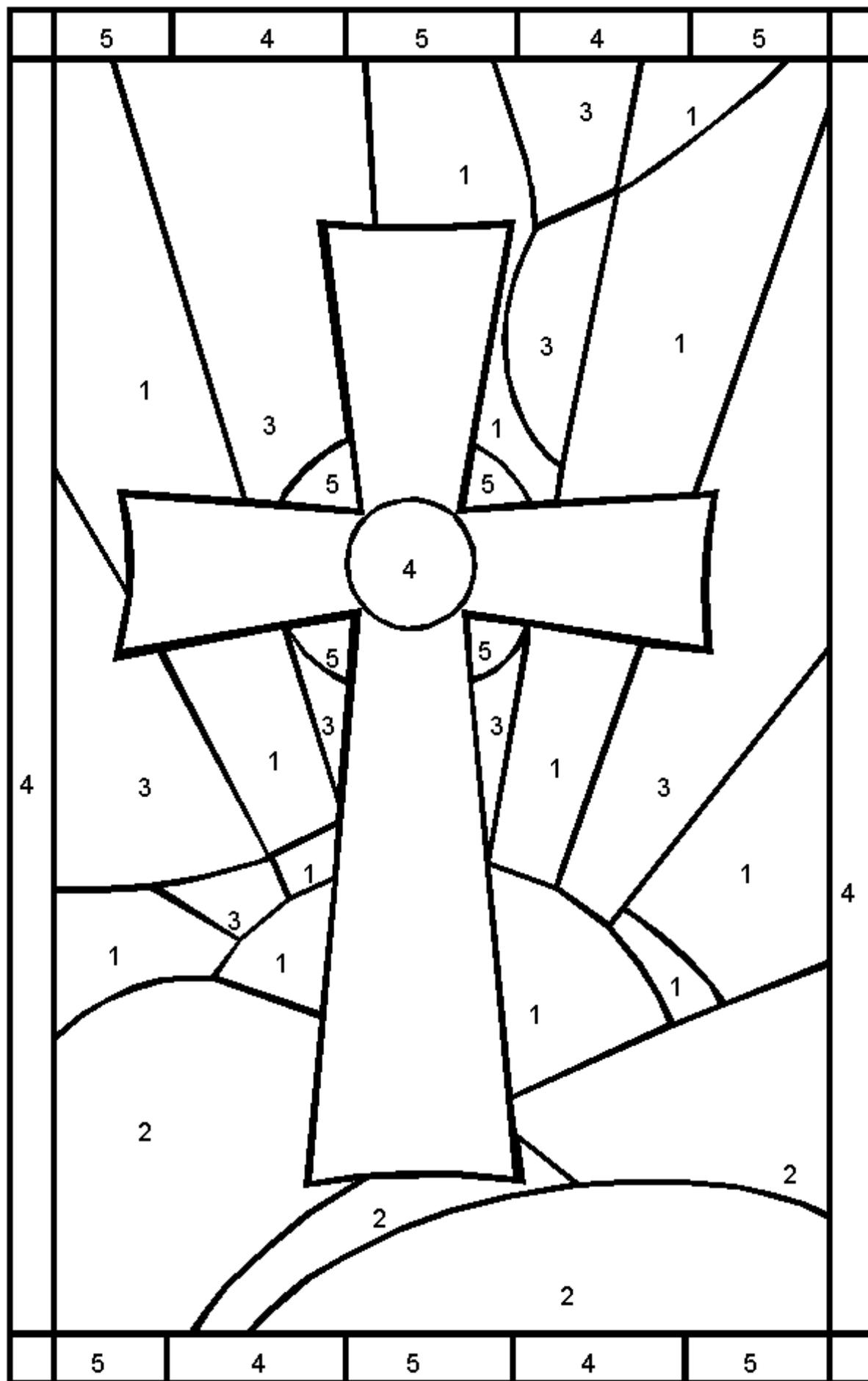
If we used our English alphabet, we would say Jesus is A and Z. He is the beginning and the end. He is from everlasting to everlasting. He created everything and He will bring everything to an end. He is eternal God.

By the way...

β "Beta" is the second letter in the Greek alphabet. Our word "alphabet" comes from these first two letters.

Alive, Alive, Alive Forevermore

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols (F, C7, Bb) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "A-live, a-live, a - live for-ev-er-more. My Je-sus is a-live, a - live for-ev-er-more. A - live, a-live, a - live for-ev-er-more. My Je - sus is a - live! Sing hal-le - lu-jah! Sing hal-le - lu-jah! My Je - sus is a - live for-ev-er-more. Sing hal-le - lu-jah! Sing hal-le - lu-jah! My Je-sus is a - live!"



**BECAUSE
OF
YOU,
JESUS
ENDURED
THE
CROSS.**

**BECAUSE
OF
YOU,
JESUS
DESPISED
THE
SHAME.**

**YOU
ARE THE
JOY
THAT
WAS SET
BEFORE
HIM.**

**HEBREWS
12:2**

**USE THE
CHART TO
COLOR THE
STAINED GLASS
WINDOW:**

- 1 — YELLOW**
- 2 — GREEN**
- 3 — BLUE**
- 4 — PURPLE**
- 5 — RED**

Dear God,

Thank You, Father, for Easter time when we can remember and think about Jesus dying on the cross to save us from sin, and His victory over death when He rose again from the dead. He is alive forever and we thank You that through Jesus, we also live forever.

Thank You, Father, for the glorious spring time. We can see the trees begin to bud and the flowers begin to grow and know that winter is passing. You have promised in Your Word that as long as the earth remains, planting and harvest, summer and winter, and day and night will never stop. Thank You for Your care for Your creation, that You have brought the seasons at their proper time. As we see the snow melt and the little streams flow harder and faster in the spring, remind us of the Living Water that You have given, so that we never will be thirsty again.

Thank You for Your Word that is true. We know that we don't believe in a fairy tale, but we believe in a real and living and powerful Word. Thank You that it is able to save us from sin and death and the devil, and that You have given us the privilege of telling others so that they can believe and be saved too. Help us always reflect Your grace and love to the people we meet.

Teach us Your way, Father, and give us hearts that are willing to learn. Give us hearts willing to share what we've learned with the cold and hurting world. Let us love one another as Jesus has loved us. Let us be like the flowers in spring, bringing joy to every heart.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Gardening

The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. (Matthew 13:24)

"Hey, Grandpa! Look they're already plowing the field," Granddaughter said as we drove along the road.

Grandpa pulled his truck over to the side of the road, rolled down the window, and shut off the motor. "I just love to watch plowing," he said as they watched the huge tractor come around and down the side of the hill. "Just look at the beautiful patterns it makes following the highs and lows of the land, turning under the old dead crop and bringing up the new earth for planting."



"Grandpa, are we going to plant a garden together again this year?" she asked.

"I certainly hope so," he answered. "It's a funny thing, though. When I was younger, what I planted in the garden was really important to me, but now it hardly makes any difference at all what I plant. Now it seems more important who I plant with and especially who I tend the garden with."

"Do you remember the story that Jesus told about planting the seeds and how important it is that we are the right kind of ground for seeds to grow in?" Grandpa asked.

"Sure I remember. Everyone knows that story, Grandpa."

"OK, my very smart little flower. Did you know that you are a plant in my garden? I think Jesus gave me the job of keeping you sprinkled with love, maybe watered with the truth of God's Word, and maybe even trying to keep the weeds and gophers away from you."

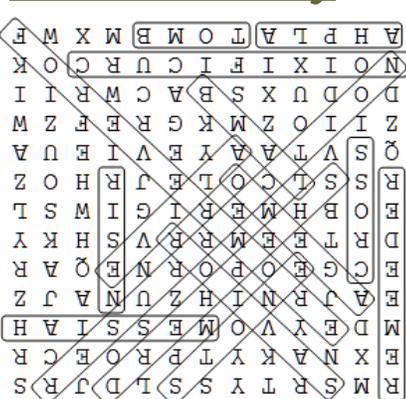
"How can you keep the weeds and gophers away?" she asked.

"I pray for you! Each day I talk to God about keeping a fence between you and trouble so that you can grow strong and straight and be a glory to Him. I ask Him to send angels to keep you from harm while you are growing."

Both Granddaughter and Grandpa smiled as they watched the tractor plow the ground, getting it ready for the new crop.

"I'm sure thankful that your mom and dad let me help with their garden," Grandpa said, as he gave her arm a squeeze and started the truck.~

Puzzle Answer Key



This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

I AM THAT I AM. Exodus 3:14

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For Parents:

Easter has been taken over, in many respects, by the secular world with its bunnies and baskets, egg hunts and candy sales. While none of these in themselves are wrong, except that the Easter bunny is a fable (see *Tweens*, page 3), as parents we need to keep the focus of Easter on the important, real event that took place on Easter morning. The Man who had died on the cross on Friday was resurrected to life on the third day, never to die again. This was truly no ordinary event. Christians, especially Christian children, love the Easter story, and it's not difficult to understand why.

There is power implicit in the victory of the Christ over death. Jesus was given power from His Father to lay His life down and to take it up again. This is vastly different than Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. At the awe-inspiring resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus was there and alive and working. His power was the catalyst that brought Lazarus back to life. Now Jesus is dead, and dead men don't do anything. Dead men—even dead God-men—can't raise themselves from death according to our rational thought. But God can do ANYTHING, even bring Himself back from death.

Help your children see the amazement of the disciples when confronted with the resurrected Lord. Thomas was not present at the time of Jesus' first appearance to His disciples. He stated that he would never believe Jesus was alive unless he saw and touched the marks of the nails and placed his hand into the hole in Jesus' side. Eight days later, when Jesus came to Thomas and told Him to stretch out his hand and touch the nail-prints, to put his hand in Jesus' side, and to believe, Thomas was only able to say, "My Lord and my God!" There is wonder in the resurrection of Jesus.

The power and wonder of the resurrection are not only for the moment. Jesus is alive forevermore! And He gives us life forevermore when we trust Him to save us from sin and death. We live in eternity now, although this physical body will die. Help your children to understand that life eternal is only in Jesus, and in the power of His resurrection.

Let us carefully and prayerfully teach our children of faith in the ever-living One; let us instill in them the true doctrine of Christ. May our prayer always be that they would believe and, with Thomas, say,

"My Lord and my God!"

