

# Easter Family Lesson

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**Objective:** Today we will read the story of the Resurrection and wonder about what those first visitors experienced, and our own experience

**Opening Prayer** – Living Lord, we celebrate the victory you have won for us over sin and death in the resurrection of Jesus. Be with us now as we remember the women who first found the empty tomb. Fill us with excitement and wonder on this special day. Amen.

**Feasting on the Word** - John 20:1-18 (The Message)

*Resurrection!*

*20<sup>1-2</sup> Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, “They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.”*

*3-10 Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.*

*11-13 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been laid. They said to her, “Woman, why do you weep?”*

*13-14 “They took my Master,” she said, “and I don’t know where they put him.” After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.*

*15 Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?”*

*She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, “Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.”*

*16 Jesus said, “Mary.”*

*Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” meaning “Teacher!”*

*17 Jesus said, “Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’”*

*18 Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: “I saw the Master!” And she told them everything he said to her.*

### Family Discussion:

- Have you ever misplaced something you love?
  - How did you feel when you couldn't find it?
- How do you think Mary felt when she saw that the tomb, grave, that Jesus had been placed in was empty?
  - Did someone steal, take without permission, Jesus?
- What reaction did Peter have when he saw that the grave was empty?
- How do you think Mary felt once she saw Jesus?
- How would you have felt if you saw Jesus after knowing he had died?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is alive?

### Activity: Flowering the Cross

Flowering the Cross is a tradition of covering a blank cross in fresh, beautiful flowers. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from our sadness on Good Friday to the celebration on Easter; from meditating on the death of Jesus to the very joyful celebration of his resurrection. The tradition of flowering the cross transforms an empty cross, our reminder of Jesus' sacrificial death, into an Easter symbol of

life. The once bare cross is covered in fresh, living flowers. The cross covered in beautiful flowers not only reminds us of Jesus' resurrection but also reminds us of the continuing presence of Jesus Christ among us today. Sometimes, homemade, decorative butterflies are also added to the cross.

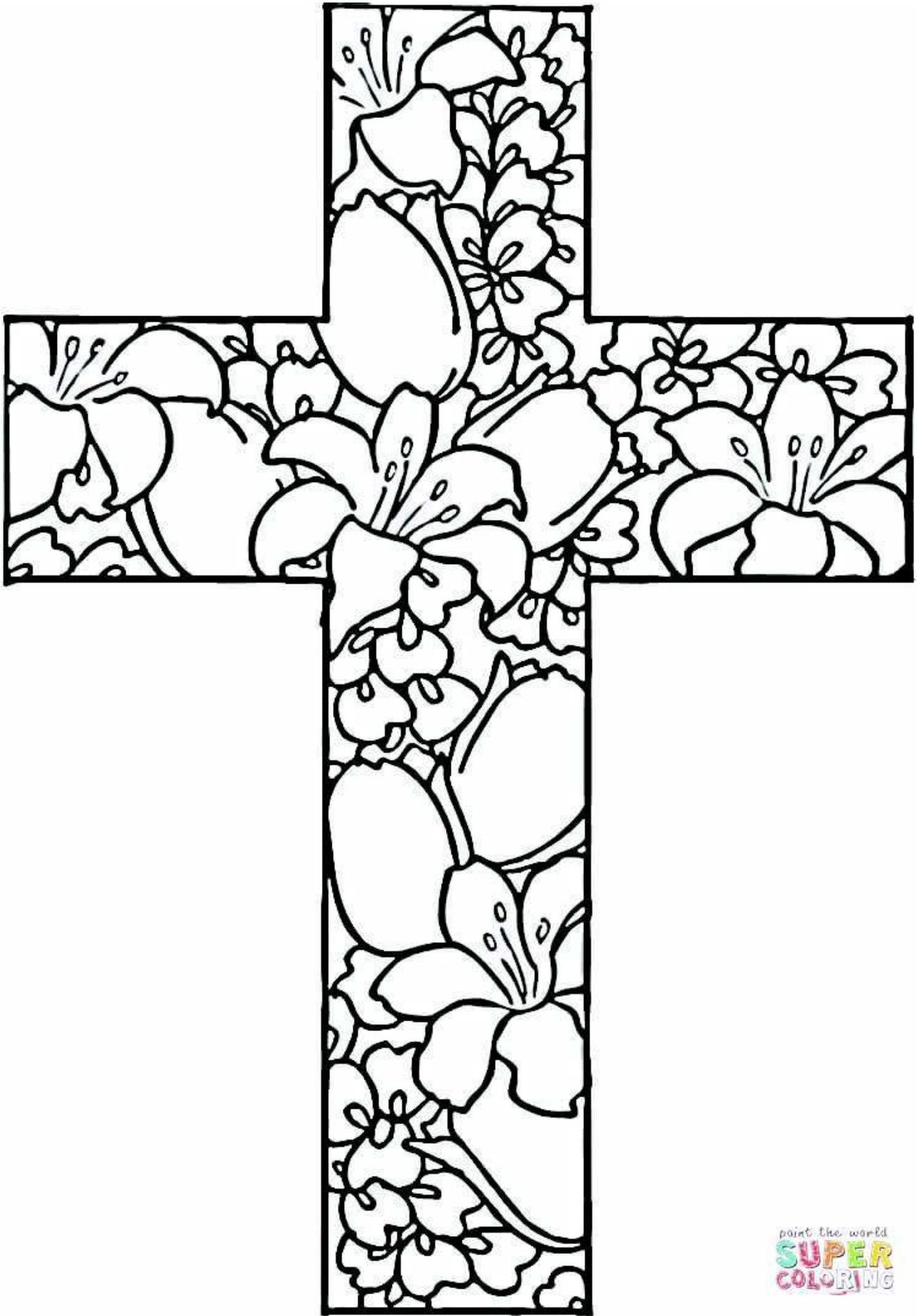
**Option 1:** Cut out a cross, and create flowers to decorate it with. Using brown construction paper, create a simple cross. Then draw and cut out a variety of flowers and attach, with glue or tape, the flowers to the cross.

**Option 2:** Print and color the flowered cross coloring sheets that have been included at the end of the lesson.

Enjoy and hang at home or on your doors to celebrate the Resurrection and new life we have in Jesus Christ!

**Closing prayer:** Dear God, we thank you so much for the gift of Jesus' resurrection. WE thank you for the new life we have because of it. You make our sadness and turn it into celebration. Help us to always remember the love you have for us. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.





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