Saint Mary Magdalene: Witness of Easter

Loved, called by name, and sent

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:45 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Mary Magdalene follows Jesus through suffering and becomes a witness who announces the risen Lord.

Learning goals Children will recall Mary at the tomb, explain how Jesus's call changes her sorrow, and share Easter hope kindly.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: How does being called by your name show care? Watch what happens when Jesus speaks Mary's name at the tomb.

Watch and notice

Notice Mary following and serving Jesus, remaining near the Cross, finding the empty tomb, and recognizing the risen Lord.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Mary follow Jesus?
She traveled with him and served with other women, remaining close during suffering.

2. Why was she grieving at the tomb?
Jesus had died and she did not yet understand the empty tomb.

3. What helped her recognize Jesus?
He called her by name; her sorrow turned toward joy.

4. What did Jesus send her to do?
Tell his followers the news that she had seen the risen Lord.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw Mary recognizing Jesus, then a kind way to share hope.

Read & Write Recall the tomb encounter, identify her message, and plan encouragement.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: focus on Mary's name and the joy of Easter.

Ages 9-11: read John 20:11-18 and separate the text from imagined inner thoughts.

A message of hope | Optional 4 minutes

Create a card celebrating that Jesus is risen. Add a kind sentence for someone who needs encouragement. Share it with an adult's guidance; do not promise that sadness will disappear or force a grieving person to feel cheerful.

Look for understanding Children recall Mary's mission and speak of hope without dismissing grief or labeling illness spiritually.

Closing prayer Risen Jesus, thank you for calling us with love. Comfort sorrowful hearts and help us share your hope. Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us. Amen.

At home Read John 20:11-18 with an adult and offer a kind word to someone who needs care.

Handout answer notes Sorrow: Jesus died and she did not yet understand. Call: Jesus spoke her name. Mission: she had seen the risen Lord.

Teach with care

Preview references to evil spirits, the Cross, and grief. Do not equate illness or distress with evil spirits; let children pass and seek trusted support. The story draws on Luke 8 and John 19-20 with dramatized inner thoughts and simplified scenes. The Bible does not identify Mary Magdalene as a prostitute. Evil spirits in the biblical account do not justify labeling a child's illness or distress. Faithful love never requires remaining in an unsafe situation.

Words to explain Disciple: a follower who learns from Jesus. Resurrection: Jesus rising from the dead. Witness: someone who tells what they have seen or know.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English subtitle

Scripture: Mary and the women following Jesus: Luke 8 - USCCB

Scripture: Mary meets the risen Lord: John 20 - USCCB