

THE EMPTY TOMB



Message: The empty tomb is God's gift to us

Scripture: Luke 24:6 "He is not here; he has risen!" (NIV)

Prop: An empty box (preferably gift-wrapped)

Do you like presents? As you can see, I brought a gift today. It's something really special, and there's enough in here for everybody. I'll bet you're wondering what's in here, right? Well, I'm trying to decide whether to open it now or wait until after the Children's Message. What do you think? (*Note: You could even take a vote.*) OK, I'll open it now.

(Begin opening box) Wait until you see it! You're going to be so excited! *(Finish opening box and show children: they'll exclaim that it's empty)* You're right; It's empty! That's what is so special about it!

I guess I'd better explain what I mean. After Jesus was crucified and died on the cross, they put him in a tomb. Then they rolled a big stone over the doorway so no one could get in or out. Three days later the disciples went back to the tomb and discovered that Jesus was no longer there. An angel said to them, "He is not here; he has risen." So just like this box, the tomb was empty. It was empty because God had raised Jesus from the dead. And because He lives, we can live.

So that tomb was a very special gift from God – because it was empty.

Let's thank Him for it now: Father God, thank you so much for that empty tomb. We thank you that your Son, Jesus was raised from the dead so that we may live, too. We pray this in his holy name. Amen.