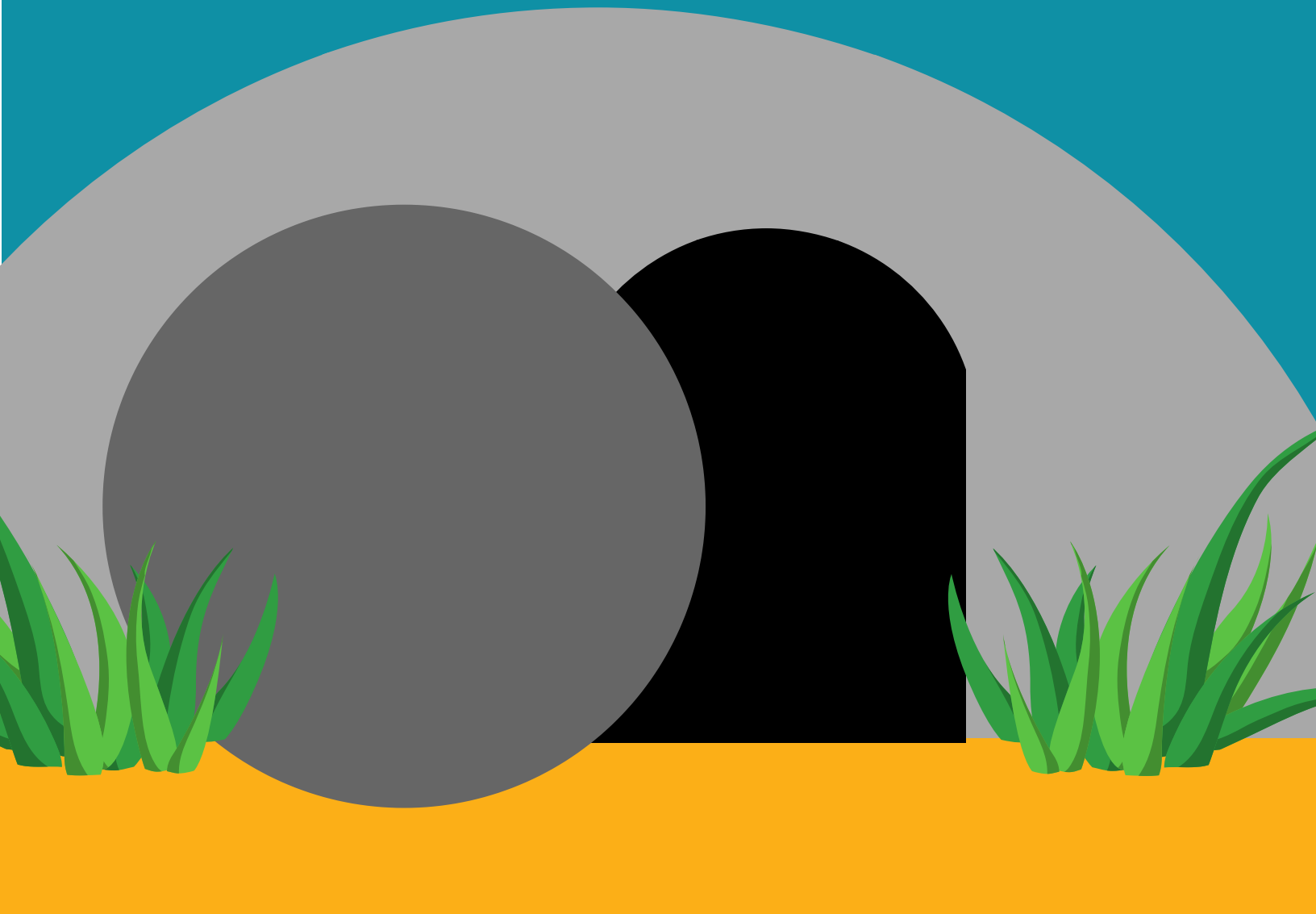


I Can Trust Jesus Christ

An Easter Bible Study for Kids by

Every Generation
MINISTRIES



Every Generation Ministries helps churches in 15 countries minister to children. This lesson is an example of the life-changing resources our national ministries offer in Argentina, Belarus, Chile, DR Congo, Egypt, Hungary, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a suggested donation of \$15 (or any amount) to support global children's ministry. Make a donation at egmworld.org/give

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Lesson Aim

I can trust Jesus Christ can change my life.

Basic Idea

Mary Magdalene's life was completely transformed when she put her trust in Jesus. When Mary became His disciple, she began to change and experience a new life full of hope and goodness. Just like Mary Magdalene experienced, when we trust Jesus, He can change our lives as well.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:17, Mark 15:40, 47, Mark 16:1, 9, Matthew 27:56, 61, Luke 8:2, Luke 24:10, John 19:25, John 20:1, 11, 18.

Devotional

Every Generation Ministries believes that transformation in the life of your child begins with transformation in your life. Before you teach this lesson to your children, take a moment to reflect on this lesson aim in your own life. Read this devotional and ask yourself if you really believe that, "I can trust Jesus Christ can change my life."

God is at work every day changing lives in big and small ways. These changes can taking place within our hearts even if our outward circumstances aren't changing. The change can be as small and simple as changing your attitude, waking up earlier to spend more time with God before you start your day or writing a kind note to a lonely relative. By contrast, it can be as big and amazing as God healing you from a serious illness, helping you overcome a difficult trial (such a enduring a quarantine), or empowering you to forgive someone you have been angry with for years.

Before you meet with your children, spend time thinking and praying about how Jesus has changed your life in big and little ways. Think about how you first came to faith in Christ and what happened after you gave your life to Him. Think of recent examples of God's power at work in your life on a daily basis. Ask God to help you be prepared to share with the children one or two brief, specific ways that He has changed your life.

We also encourage you to take time to think about areas that you would like to trust Jesus to change, whether they are big or small. Once you have identified them, ask God to help you to make those changes.

Bible Background

Mary is probably called "The Magdalene" because she was from Magdala, a thriving fishing town on the coast of Galilee. Magdala is walking distance from Capernaum, where Jesus was based at the start of his ministry.

The most important thing to know about Mary is the depth of her devotion to Jesus. The gospel writers are specific in noting that Mary and a number of other women had followed Jesus from Galilee (Matthew 27:55). The first mention of her is in Luke 8:2-3, so we know that she was with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry. The last mention is in John 20, where we find Jesus appearing to her at the empty tomb. Mary left her home and all that she had to follow Jesus for most of his three-year public ministry. She supported Jesus by giving her material possessions or by sharing her economic means. During His ministry, Jesus cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2-3).

Amidst the obscurity of her life, one fact is certain, her life radically changed upon meeting Jesus of Nazareth. So much so that she followed Him to the foot of the cross (John 19:25) when many of his closest followers fled in fear.

Lesson Aim Note

The Lesson Aim is mentioned many times throughout the course of this lesson. To make it noticeable, it is underlined. It is critical to repeat and explain it numerous times. The goal is for the children to not only learn the Lesson Aim but to understand it well enough to be able to apply it to their daily lives.

Supplies Needed

This is a comprehensive list of all supplies you will need to complete this lesson for up to 4 children (increase as needed).

- 1/2 Cup water
 - 1/2 Cup whole milk
 - 2 Plain white large plates (not paper - plastic is fine)
 - 8 Q-Tips
 - A cup that holds 1/8 cup dish soap
 - Food coloring
 - A plastic table cloth (or other material to cover the table for the experiential activity)
 - Paper towels for children to clean their hands
 - 1 Bible costume for Mary Magdalene (simple robe and head scarf)
 - Paper hearts cutout sheet (3-4 hearts per child) - you can find this in the "Response" section of this lesson.
 - "My Changed Life" worksheet (1 per child) - you can find this in the "Response" section of this lesson.
 - Colored pencils and pens
 - Pre-cut squares of tissue paper (optional - children can color with pencils instead)
 - Glue for tissue paper (optional)
 - Tape
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Relationship

Every Generation Ministries believes that a relationship that reflects the love of God is a crucial element of transformation in a child's life. The life of Christ, particularly His love, flows through our relationship with our children (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). Relational activities can be fun, sincere, humorous... The purpose is to learn something new about each other and to grow in relationship.

Parent Says: Let's share one sentence about how life was different when we were babies. We'll go around several times, sharing how things were different then. You can tell how you behaved, what you liked to eat, what clothes you wore, what you could do or not do, what toys you liked to play with, or your favorite things. Think of something new that nobody else has shared. Then, we will go around the circle again and talk about what we were like when we were preschoolers.

Experience

Every Generation Ministries believes that experience is a key element of learning. Transformation is not just a cognitive exercise. We learn by integrating God's Word into the everyday "experiences" of life. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Supplies Needed (for up to 4 children):

- 1/2 Cup water
 - 1/2 Cup whole milk
 - 2 Plain white plates (not paper)
 - 8 Q-Tips
 - 1/8 Cup dish or laundry soap
 - Food coloring
 - Plastic tablecloth
 - Paper towels
-

Cover the surface where you will be conducting this activity and have paper towels ready for children to wipe their hands if needed.

Pour the water onto the plate. Then each child may have a turn to put one or two drops of food coloring onto the water in the middle of the plate. Watch to see what happens. Then, one at a time, each child may dip a Q-Tip into the soap, wiping it on the side of the cup to keep it from dripping. Then they will put the soapy end into one of the colors dropped onto the water. They should not swirl the Q tip around, but rather, keep it very still. Watch what happens. You will notice that the first child who puts the soapy end of their Q tip into the color will see the colors move dramatically and the other children will see small to no changes.

Next, do the same activity, but this time use the whole milk, with all other procedures the same. Watch to see what happens differently and what changes occur. Allow each child the opportunity to put their soapy Q tip into one of the colors on the milk. Have them hold it in place for 10 seconds and each child will see how the color that they choose continues to change.

If desired, look up a video online by searching "milk, food coloring and soap" to see what happens when whole milk (because of the fat) is used.

Connecting Questions:

1. Let's take a minute to look at both plates and think about this activity. How would you describe the color changes that took place on the first plate? How would you describe the color changes that took place on the second plate?

2. Describe the small changes you saw. Describe the big changes you saw.

Connecting Statement:

When we put the drops of color into the water and milk and dipped the Q tip into it, we saw the colors change. At times we saw small changes at at other times, we saw bigger changes. In this activity, we experienced colors changing. Today we are going to learn about a woman in the Bible who Jesus changed in big ways. Let's find out who she was and how Jesus changed her life.

Truth

Every Generation Ministries believes that the Word of God needs to be "impressed" on our children. It is the Bible truth that we are teaching and is the core of the lesson. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Parent Note: It's important that your children understand that the story you are about to teach is from God's Word, the Bible. We want them to understand that the stories are all true and they help us to understand who God is and how He wants us to live. We recommend having a Bible in hand.

Supplies Needed:

- Bible
- Costume for Mary Magdalene (ideally, a female family member (mom, aunt, older sister, etc.) will wear the costume and read her monologue to the children.)

Scripture: Mark 15:40, 47, Mark 16:1, 9, Matthew 27:56, 61, Luke 8:2, Luke 24:10, John 19:25, John 20:1, 11, 18.

Monologue by Mary Magdalene

Hello friends. My name is Mary Magdalene. I am called Magdalene because I am from the town of Magdala, a village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

The story that I am going to share with you about my life can be found in the New Testament of the Bible in the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Since we know that the Bible is God's word and is true, what I am going to tell you about isn't a made up story, it really happened!

Today, I am going to tell you about what happened on Easter and how the Lord Jesus Christ changed my life. Whenever you hear a version of the word **CHANGE like CHANGES, CHANGED or CHANGING** I want you to hold up your hands and wiggle your fingers to look like bright, flashing stars in the sky. Let's try it right now. *(Demonstrate and have everyone imitate you.)*

I am so excited to tell you about how Jesus **changed** my life. (Make sure children remember to wiggle fingers.)

I met Jesus when He first started His ministry work. I saw Jesus do many miracles and help lots of people. Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. His twelve disciples were with Him, and some other women. There was Mary, the mother of Jesus, Joanna, Susanna, Mary, mother of James and others. The people who were with Jesus saw the way He was helping others and also experienced Him **changing** parts of their own lives.

When I first met Jesus, I was a very troubled woman. I had many problems. I made lots of bad decisions and I was not a healthy person. But then, I trusted in God and He **changed** my life. Jesus healed me.

He freed me from the guilt of sin that I carried from the bad things I had done. It was incredible. I felt so free! From this point on, my life was totally different. I started making good choices. One of the best **changes** I made was trusting and following Jesus.

Sadly, I was there when Jesus was crucified. (To be crucified means that they nail a person to a cross to die). His mother, Mary, and some other women were there, too. We saw the people mocking and yelling at Jesus. Roman soldiers were so cruel to Him! They nailed him to a wooden cross. Some of us stayed nearby and wept as we watched our Lord suffer and die on that sad Friday. How could they do these terrible things to someone who had healed and helped people? Jesus had already **changed** so many people's lives for the good.

When they saw that Jesus was dead, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus got permission to take his body down from the cross. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb so no one could enter and went away. Jesus' mother, Mary, and I saw where they lay him and we stayed there grieving. We were so sad that the soldiers had killed him! Because it was the Sabbath, we were not allowed to prepare his body with herbs and spices as we had hoped to do.

Right after dawn the next morning, which was Sunday, I came back to the tomb with some of the other women to prepare his body with herbs and spices according to our custom. We started talking about how we would get inside because of the big stone, but when we looked up, we saw that something had **changed**--the stone had been rolled away. When we went inside, the body of the Lord Jesus was not there! Suddenly, two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside us.

They were angels. We were frightened, so we bowed down with our faces to the ground, but the men said to us, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where they lay Him." Then we remembered that Jesus said he would rise on the third day and it was the third day!

We hurried away to tell the disciples. They didn't believe us and thought we were speaking nonsense, but Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. John got there first, but Peter ran ahead and went inside. He saw that something had **changed**. He found that the tomb was empty and saw Jesus' grave clothes lying there. They ran back to tell the others, but I stayed nearby crying. I still did not truly understand what had happened to my Lord. How could he be alive? How was this possible?

Then I 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 me, "Woman, why are you crying?"

I sobbed, "They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him." At this, I turned around and saw a man standing there; I thought it was the gardener.

He asked me, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" I said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him."

But then, something happened. The man said to me, "Mary." When I heard Him call me by name, I realized that it was Jesus, my Lord! I turned to Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus had **changed** my whole life and now I was seeing Him face to face. I knelt down and held onto His feet. I was thrilled to see Him!

I have shared with you how Jesus **changed** my life and I want you to know that if you trust in Jesus Christ, He can **change** yours too! The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can **change** you in small and big ways! He can **change** the way you act and think. He can **change** the words you speak. He can **change** the way you feel about yourself and others. He can **change** fear that you feel and replace it with peace. He can comfort you and help you through moments when you feel sad. He can help you to forgive people who have hurt you and take away your guilt, just like He did for me.

Remember when you experienced the colors making small and big **changes** in the activity we just did? God can make small and big **changes** in your life as well. Since God has the power to raise Jesus from the dead, there is nothing He can't do!

Discussion

Every Generation Ministries makes a big deal out of "talk about them," believing that it is crucial to talk about the Bible Truth above and connect it to the real lives of children. Talk about how to connect God's Word to your child's real life. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

1. What are some things you learned about Mary Magdalene as you listened to the Bible story?
 2. When Mary Magdalene decided to follow God and trust that Jesus Christ could change her life, what things did God change in her life?
 3. Let's look at two stories of children who decided to trust in Jesus Christ and see how He changed something in their life.
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a. Daniela was scared to go to the dentist because when she turned 6, she got an infection in her tooth. She remembered the bad experience she had when she was younger and was nervous to go to the dentist because she knew she had to get her tooth removed. When the dentist was numbing her mouth, she remembered what she learned in her Sunday school class the week before and she prayed this prayer, "Jesus, if you are the way, help this doctor not to hurt me and for me not to be scared." When she woke up, she asked the doctor if he had removed the tooth because she hadn't felt anything. She was surprised when he said that he had! After her appointment, she told her Mom, "I know that Jesus helped me and I can always trust in my friend, Jesus."

- How did Daniela feel before she went to the dentist and how did she feel after?*
- What change did God make in Daniela's life?*

b. Jonathan is 4 years old. His father was an alcoholic. Jonathan and his siblings starting going to church and learning about the Bible. Their father noticed that they were acting differently and asking if they could start praying before they ate or slept. The father decided that he wanted to make changes in his life as well. He said that he did not want to be a bad example to them. That day, he made a decision to follow Jesus Christ.

- What change did God make in the lives of Jonathan and his siblings?*
- What changes do you think God might have made in the life of their Dad as he began to follow Jesus?*

4. How has Jesus changed your life? Please share with us some examples of how your life is different.

5. What are some areas that you would like Jesus to change in your life?

Response

Every Generation Ministries believes that responding to God from a transformed heart is the ultimate goal of our time here on earth. Children are encouraged to respond to God's Word in thought and action, immediately and on into the future. (Deuteronomy 6:8-9)

Supplies Needed:

- Paper hearts cutout sheet (3-4 hearts per child) - you can find this at the end of this section of the lesson.
- "My Changed Life" worksheet (1 per child) - you can find this at the end of this section of the lesson.
- Colored pencils and pens
- Pre-cut squares of tissue paper (optional - children can color with pencils instead)
- Glue mixed with a bit of water for tissue paper (optional)

Respond Now:

Have your child fill in their name on the worksheet below where it says, "I, _____, can trust that Jesus Christ can change my life."

Then have them pray and identify specific ways that they would like Jesus to change their lives and have them write or draw each idea on a heart. (Alternately, more mature children can pray and ask God to identify areas He would like to change in their lives). Once this is completed, have them color, or glue tissue paper on their cross. Once completed, children can stick their hearts to the foot of the cross. (see sample on the next page)

The final step is to have a prayer time with your kids and to give them the opportunity to pray to God and ask Him to help them make the desired changes.

Keep Responding:

Hang the cross somewhere you will see it every day. Encourage your children to pray every day and ask God to change the areas in their life that they identified. When they see God changing one of those areas, have them move the heart up to the top section of the paper and either place it inside or near to the cross.

Every time they move a heart, encourage them to thank God for helping them to make this change in their life.



I, _____, can trust Jesus
Christ can change my life.

