

ALIVE! (Easter - Mary and Thomas)

Passage: John 20: 11-18, 24-29

Theme: Christians believe that with God all things are possible

Resources : Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts.
Black cloth for tomb; 'Stone'; Angel outfit; 2 robes.

Person 1 - Introduction, Mary, Questions

Person 2 - Jesus, Prayer

Person 3 - Angel/Thomas, Talk

Introduction:

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! We are _____
(insert church/organisation name), I am _____, and this is _____ (introduce rest of the team).

Today we are going to be thinking about things that seem unbelievable. Sometimes some things seem unbelievable, but they are in fact true. So, I've got a game for us to play, I am going to tell you some facts and you need to decide whether they are true or false. If you think it's false (not true) you need to put your thumbs down and if you think it's true you need to put your thumbs up. [Test run thumbs up, thumbs down] Ok, first statement:

- An ant can lift up to 50 times it's own weight (that's the same as me lifting about 3 minis). True or false? (True)
- A man once surfed a 100 foot wave, that's the same height as a 10 story building True or false? (True)
- A Koala sleeps for around 22 hours a day. True or False (True)

- Astronauts come back to earth taller. True or false (True)

How did you do? Did you guess them all right?

Some things are really unbelievable but still true. In our story from the Bible today, Jesus had died on a cross three days before [hold up 3 fingers], and everyone is really sad. One of Jesus' friends, Mary, goes early in the morning to the tomb where Jesus was laid. But when she gets there, she sees the tomb is open and Jesus' body is nowhere to be seen...

Story/Drama:

[Mary looks inside tomb.]

Angel 1: Why are you crying?

Mary: *(Crying and looking sad)* They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him.

[Enter Jesus, but Mary doesn't recognize him. Exit angel.]

Jesus: Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?

Mary: Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.

Jesus: Mary.

Mary: *(Looks shocked)* Jesus!!

[Mary runs to him and clings to him]

Jesus: Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my followers and tell them, I have risen!

(Exit Jesus. Thomas walks on. Mary runs to Thomas.)

Mary: I have seen the Lord!

Thomas: What? No, don't be silly, he's dead.

Mary: No, he isn't anymore, he's alive, he has RISEN!

Thomas: I don't believe it. Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.

(Enter Jesus.)

Jesus: Peace be with you! Thomas, put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.

Thomas: [Looking shocked and kneeling] My Lord and my God!

Jesus: Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

[Freeze and exit]

Talk:

There are some times in our lives when things have gone so badly wrong that we think things can never get better. It was like that for Jesus' friends.

In our story from the Bible today, Jesus has died on a cross and his body has been laid in a tomb. Early in the morning, three days later, Mary, one of Jesus' friends, arrives at the tomb. But when she arrives, the stone that was in front of the tomb has been rolled away and the body has gone!

Mary starts to cry. Her friend Jesus had been killed and now his body is gone! First, an angel appears and then, a person appears in the garden and Mary thinks it is a gardener. But then he says her name, she realises (pause) it is Jesus. But how? She runs to him and holds tightly to him. He is definitely there.

Mary runs off to tell Jesus' disciples, but one of them - Thomas - doesn't believe it.

Some of the facts at the start of our assembly sounded unbelievable, but they are true.

Before seeing Jesus, Thomas doubts that Jesus had really come back to life. He wants to see him with his own eyes, and put his finger in the nail marks in his hands. Until that point he would not believe. It sounds unbelievable but it's true - Jesus appears to Thomas and shows him the nail marks in his hands.

Sometimes there are things that are really hard to believe, especially if we can't see them - just like a man surfing a 100 foot wave or Jesus rising from the dead. But Christians believe that with God all things are possible.

At Easter time, Christians celebrate Jesus coming back to life. Christians believe that with God all things are possible. So when you feel that things have gone so badly wrong that they can't ever get better, maybe you can remember this story from the Bible about Jesus rising from the dead and remember that Christians believe that with God all things are possible.

Song: Who is this man?

[Introduce actions and get the children stood up ready to join in]

Questions:

Great actions everybody, well done! I am now going to ask you all some questions so that you can show me how well you have been listening. Now, I'm not going to be able to hear your answers, so what you could do is either talk to the person next to you about what you think the answer could be, or call out what you think the right answer is, or teachers, you could pause the video, chat about the answer, then press play again.

1. Who was the first person to see Jesus? (*Mary*)
2. Who didn't believe Mary when she told him Jesus was alive? (*Thomas*)
3. What have we learnt today about what Christians believe? (*Christians believe that with God all things are possible*)

Prayer:

To finish our assembly I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So if you can please close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you agree with what I say, you can join in with "amen" at the end.

Dear God, thank you so much for _____ (*insert school name*). Thank you that we have learnt from this story, that Christians believe that with you all things are possible. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you for having us today. We hope you have a lovely Easter and we will see you again soon.