

**Lesson #4-R1*****Good News in the Garden***

John 20:1-18

**Key Verse:**

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."  
John 20:18

**The Point:**

Death has not won; Christ is risen and calls his disciples by name!

**Unit Theme (April 1 - April 22):**

Good News Spreads

***He Is Not Here***

*Respond to the resurrection story.*

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet

*Instructions:*

1. **Now we are going to hear the story from the Bible about the empty tomb. Many different people went to see Jesus at the tomb after he had died. The story is found in the Book of John in the New Testament.** Show students where the story is in your Bible.
2. **We are going to use a script today to respond to the story. I am going to need your help. When I say, "someone looked at the tomb..." shield your**

**eyes with your hand as if you are looking inside. Later in the story I will need you to stand up, raise your arms above your head, and shout, "He is not here!" Let's practice.**

3. Begin reading the story from the activity sheet. Note that the story ends with the students shouting, "Here I am!" Use the script on the activity sheet to introduce this change to the students.
4. Repeat the story as time is available.



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# He Is Not Here

*Respond to the resurrection story.*

Early in the morning Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. The stone had been rolled away! She looked at the tomb...

**He is not here!**

Mary went and told two of Jesus' disciples that someone had taken Jesus out of the tomb. So Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved ran towards the tomb. First the disciple looked in the tomb...

**He is not here!**

Simon Peter came. He saw the linen cloths lying there where Jesus had been. He looked in the tomb...

**He is not here!**

Mary stood crying outside of the tomb. She saw two angels sitting where Jesus' body had been. They asked why she was so sad. She said, "I looked in the tomb..."

**He is not here!**

Then Mary heard someone behind her. He looked like a gardener. She begged him to tell her where Jesus had gone. But he was not a gardener! He was Jesus. He looked at Mary and said, "Here I am!" Now say it with me:

**Here I am!**