

## Interactive lesson



picture from

<https://www.amazon.com/Metallic-Birthday-Noisemaker-Blowouts-Whistles/dp/B07MP92J6T>

<Pass out noisemakers> What are these?

<Let them respond>

What do you use them for? <Let them respond>

After a birthday party or New Year's celebration, do we keep tooting them in the days that follow? What do we do with them? <Let them respond>

Should we use them today? Why/why not?

<Let them respond>

How do you think people would react if we took them with us everywhere, sounding them off?

<Let them respond>

Would they listen to the Gospel message if we tooted at them first to get their attention?

<Let them respond>

How should we approach people about Jesus on non-festival days? <Let them respond>

Today is different. Today is Easter! Today is the day we can shout with joy and celebrate, tooting our horns and having fun with all of the party trimmings!

Do not be shy today of all days about Jesus rising from the dead, about God having power over all things!

Now here is a request for you: As I read the Gospel story, I want you to toot your horns every time you hear about something we should celebrate.

## Gospel lesson

We resume reading from the Gospel of Mark where the Tenebrae service left off, after Jesus was laid in the tomb and the Sabbath day passed.



picture from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-alive/>

### Mark 16:1-8

(NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

<sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

<sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

<sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

<sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

<sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

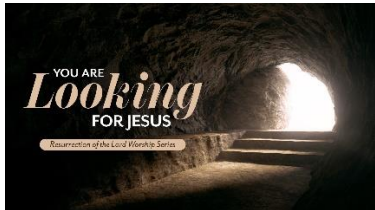
<sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

*The word of God for the people of God*

<Hymn "Christ Has Risen"

TFWS #2115

## Message: You Are Looking for Jesus



picture from

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/you-are-looking-for-jesus/easter-sunday-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/easter-sunday-year-b-graphics>

Please pray with me?

Awesome living Lord Jesus,

as we take time now to further consider today's scriptures, please

- speak Your words through my mouth,
- open our ears to hear Your message, and
- abide in our hearts,

That we may celebrate fully the incredible gift of Your life and resurrection for us. Amen.

Happy Easter!

“Easter Sunday is here. [Let’s b]ring our very best, adorn the sanctuary in flowers and signs of new life, be {amazed and amazing, declaring the good news of the Resurrection}, [and] sing our hearts out with songs of joy and new life!”

Everybody has their own story. Everyone has their own journey of searching for and encountering God:

- † in a momentous, overwhelming, sudden occurrence whose date and time they can point to, or
- † over a long period of slowly growing aware of the amazing love of God wrapping them throughout every step of their lives, with no specific event to which they can point, or
- † in some mix of growing awareness and littler Spirit encounters, the kind that do not overwhelm but definitely leave you knowing that God is real and with you.

I would love to hear your story, and what you are doing in celebration of God moving forward.

Today we heard various biblical folks telling of their experiences:

- † The psalmist describing how God lifted up those who cried for help, restoring life and turning mourning

into dancing.

\*Look for Jesus in your life and think of where God has helped you through tragedy and restored joy.

- † The women who went to the tomb were shocked and awed upon finding an angel instead of Jesus there, stunned by fear into staying silent instead of shouting the good news they had heard as they ran from the tomb.

\*Look for Jesus in your life and think of when you have been too scared to speak of Him, too afraid to talk about God working in your life. Are you passing the Word on to those who need to hear it?

- † Peter described how Jesus appeared after the resurrection: to him and to the other disciples, eating and drinking with them, and telling them to proclaim the good news of forgiveness in His name.  
\*Look for Jesus in your life and think of when you have been nourished in body, mind, and soul – who was involved in that with you, and whom have you told about the grace of our Savior since then?

- † Paul wrote to the Corinthians about how our Savior's grace was given even to someone who persecuted the church, and how it was so transformative that he became the most hardworking apostle in Jesus' name.

\*Look for Jesus in your life and think of who has been most adversarial about our faith, and what has contributed to their outlook. How is God calling you to act in their lives, that they may encounter

the transformative power of Jesus' love and accept the Holy Spirit into their lives?

Every day we need to be looking for Jesus in our lives. Today, we celebrate that He is! In the most powerful and unexpected way, Jesus lives and blesses each of us, in a very personal and yet at the same time a universal way, bringing all into restored relationship with God. Look around in your life and see the Holy Spirit at work!

Let me hear those noisemakers again, as loud as you can, to celebrate the glory of our Lord, our risen Savior, the Son of God, Jesus! Alleluia!