Act It!

POINT ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

SAY: **➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** Open the Bible to John 20, and show children the words. **We're going to act out what God's special book, the Bible, says about Jesus being alive!** Assign roles of Jesus, Mary, Peter, John, and two angels. Assign remaining children to play roles of Jesus' other friends.

SAY: **Mary went to the tomb, or cave, where Jesus was buried.** Direct Mary to walk to a pretend "tomb." **She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the opening of the tomb.** Direct Mary to act surprised. **She told Peter and John someone had taken Jesus away.** Direct Mary to walk away from the tomb to talk to Peter and John. **Peter and John ran to the tomb.** Direct Peter and John to run. **Peter went inside and saw that the cloths Jesus was buried in were still there, but Jesus was gone!** Direct Peter to pretend to pick up cloths, look for Jesus, and then return with John to the other friends. **Mary cried and then noticed two angels sitting in the tomb.** Direct Mary to turn toward the angels while crying. **They asked why she was crying. She said, "Because they have taken away my Lord."** Direct Jesus to "sneak up" behind Mary. **Jesus came up behind her and asked, "Who are you looking for?" Mary turned around but didn't recognize Jesus at first. Once she did, she ran off to tell Jesus' other friends that Jesus was alive!** Direct Mary to run and tell all the other friends about Jesus. Have them jump up and down.

SAY: **Because Jesus is alive, God can always forgive us, so ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

ASK: **Tell about a time you couldn't find something that was special to you.**

What do you do when you find something you've lost?

SAY: **Mary thought Jesus was missing. But then she found out he was alive! She was so excited, and we can be, too. Because Jesus is alive, ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

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Sculpt It!

POINT ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

Give each child a small lump of *Rainbow Clay*. SAY: **The stone was rolled away from the tomb where Jesus was buried. Jesus came back to life, and because Jesus is alive, we can be forgiven. ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. Let's use our clay to make things that remind us that Jesus died but is alive again.**

Help children sculpt a cross. SAY: **The cross reminds us that Jesus died on a cross to forgive us from our sins.**

Help children sculpt a tomb by forming a deep, bowl-like shape and then turning it upside down. SAY: **The tomb reminds us where Jesus was buried.**

Have children sculpt a round ball to be a stone. Have them put the stone on a table and roll it. SAY: **The stone rolled away, and it reminds us that Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He is alive!**

ASK: **What are other things that remind you of Jesus coming back to life?**

Why is it important to remember that Jesus came back to life?

SAY: **Because Jesus is alive, God can forgive us. ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

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Sing It!

POINT ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

SAY: **When Mary saw that the stone in front of Jesus' tomb was gone, she was very upset. She thought someone had taken Jesus away! Peter and John didn't know what to think, but they ran to the tomb to look. Everyone was probably thinking different things when they saw that the stone was gone.**

Let's sing a song to celebrate that wonderful day when Jesus came out of his tomb alive! Have children sing the words below to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" (instrumental) (track 7) on the *CD*. Lead kids in doing the motions together as they sing.

SING:

The stone's been rolled away. *(push both hands away from your body)*
The stone's been rolled away. *(push both hands away from your body)*
Jesus is alive! *(jump up with hands high)*
The stone's been rolled away. *(push both hands away from your body)*

(Repeat.)

SAY: **The stone in front of the tomb was really heavy. There was no person strong enough to roll it out of the way. But God was strong enough to move the stone, and he's strong enough to take away the wrong things we've done.**

ASK: **What's the heaviest thing you think you could push?**

Tell about the strongest person you know.

What makes God strong?

SAY: **God wants us to believe that Jesus came back to life. Even though we weren't there to see that the stone was rolled away, we can still believe. By believing, ➡ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

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Tag It!

POINT ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

SAY: **Let's play a game of Everyone's It Tag. You'll all be trying to tag each other. And when you tag someone, you have to shout out "Jesus is alive!" When someone tags you, you'll jump up to celebrate.** Have kids play for a few minutes.

Afterward, SAY: **Good job telling everyone the good news! Remember,** ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. Because we're forgiven, we can be like Mary and tell others that Jesus is alive!**

ASK: **How did this game remind you of Mary, Peter, and John spreading the news?**

Who can you tell this week that Jesus is alive? What will you say to that person?

SAY: **Let's practice saying "Jesus is alive!" some more.** Repeat this with kids several times at varying volumes and in different fun voices.

SAY: **Jesus died and came back to life because he loves us so much. He took the punishment for our sins when he died, and now he's alive and part of our lives!** ➡ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

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Self Smart

Roll It!

POINT ➪ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

Get the *Bubble Ball* and have the children sit with you on the floor in a circle. Sing ● "God Forgives" (track 8) on the *CD* to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." Play the *CD* track through two times, wiping your hands on the word *forgives* and hugging yourself on the word *loves.*

SING:

God forgives and always loves us.
God forgives and always loves us.
God forgives and always loves us.
The Bible tells me so. *(hold out your hands like a Bible)*
(Repeat.)

SAY: **Our song says that God forgives us and loves us, so ➪ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. We learned that when Mary went to Jesus' tomb, it was empty—he'd come back to life! Because of this, God is able to forgive us. It's God's gift to us.**

When someone rolls the ball to you, say one thing you're glad God can forgive you for, like acting mean to a friend or not doing something your parents asked you to do. Roll the *Bubble Ball* to a child. Once that child has responded, he or she will roll the ball to another child who will also tell one thing, and so on.

After each child has had a chance to respond, begin again. SAY: **This time when the ball is rolled to you, say one thing that you can forgive someone else for. We can pass God's forgiveness on to others just like we pass the ball. When you pass the ball, say, "Forgiven!"** After this round, put the *Bubble Ball* away.

ASK: **Why is it sometimes hard to forgive others?**

Why do we need to forgive others?

SAY: ➪ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. Aren't you glad God doesn't have a hard time forgiving us? That's why he sent Jesus to die and come back to life. When you go home today, remember God's gift of forgiveness and pass it on to someone else!**

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