

# How to make an Easter Garden at home



## You will need:

- \* A shallow tray or dish
- \* Moss, cut grass or sand
- \* Sewing thread
- \* Flat stone large enough to cover the mouth of the pot
- \* White tissues/ cloth or paper
- \* Egg cups (or small containers)
- \* Lego/playmobil figures or something to make small figures from the Easter story such as pipecleaners
- \* Garden soil or potting compost
- \* Dried twigs
- \* Small pot/ jar
- \* Gravel
- \* Small flowers

## To Make:

1. Fill the tray with soil or potting compost.
2. Arrange it to make a hill on one side of the tray.
3. Cover the soil with moss, grass or sand.
4. Make three crosses with dried twigs tied together with sewing thread and place on the hilltop.
5. Press the small pot into the hillside to make a cave like the garden tomb. Place white grave clothes in the tomb and the stone over the mouth of the tomb. Use the Easter Story to check out the items needed in your garden.
6. Press egg-cups full of water into the soil around the garden and fill with flowers.
7. Make a path coming from the tomb with gravel, to show how the disciples ran to the tomb on Easter morning.

## The Easter Story

After you have made the garden, tell this Story and move back the stone from the tomb showing that it is empty....



What an awfully sad day it had been for the friends of Jesus! They had stood watching sorrowfully, as Jesus hung on the cross dying. They didn't fully understand why it had to happen. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they remembered how He had healed the sick and made blind people see. He was such a good, kind man; why did He have to die?

Just before the sun was beginning to sink into the west, Joseph, one of Jesus' friends, noticed that Jesus was no longer breathing. He hurriedly went to ask Pilate if he could have the body of Jesus so he could bury Him. When Pilate agreed, Joseph and Nicodemus (another friend) carefully wrapped Jesus' body in clean cloths. Then they took Him to a tomb to bury Him. The next day, the *Pharisees* started thinking about Jesus. They were the people that had wanted to kill Jesus. They remembered how He had taught them, saying that He would rise again after three days. They were worried that it might be true! They also thought that Jesus' disciples would remember and might try to steal the body from the tomb just so they could say that Jesus rose again. They went to Pilate, suggesting that the tomb be closed up with a huge stone and that guards be placed all around the tomb.

Just before daylight the next day, the most *amazing* thing happened! There was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE! An ANGEL from the Lord came down from heaven, moved the gigantic stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it. The guards began to shake with fear! They fell down to the ground as if they were dead!

Mary and some other women had decided to get up very early in the morning and go to visit the tomb where Jesus was placed. While walking down the road, they were discussing how they were going to get inside the tomb. They had brought along some spices and perfume that they wanted to place on Jesus' body. They knew the huge stone had been placed in the doorway and they had no idea how they were going to move it.



What a SURPRISE they found when they reached the tomb! The stone had *already* been moved! And . . . there was an ANGEL sitting on the stone! The women were quite afraid, but the angel spoke gently to them: "Don't be afraid. I know that you have come to see Jesus. He is not here; for he is risen just as he said. Come inside and see the place where he lay." The women went inside the tomb and found it empty, just as the angel had told them. Jesus was alive – and it wasn't long before they were to see Him!