

AN EASTER REPRESENTATION



Make a miniature garden scene with the great stone rolled away from the sepulcher. To illustrate the Easter story in chapter 20 of the gospel of John, you will need figures to represent the Lord, two angels, Mary Magdalene, and perhaps Peter and John. The whole family can help form the figures with salt ceramic, beeswax, or an oil-based modeling compound such as Plasticine. Or make the figures by dressing clothespin figures or people made of pipe cleaners. (The figures pictured above are made with pipe cleaners, cloth being used to make a face over the loop at the head.) Another option is to adapt figures from a Christmas representation, perhaps making an angel by covering a shepherd with white fabric, *etc.*

Build the scene on a sturdy base such as a tray or cookie sheet. Add soil or sand for ground and a hill mounded toward the rear. The sepulcher is a cave built into this hill, reinforced with a small box or thin pieces of wood. Try to cover the cave with soil and moss so that it is part of the hill. Set up small branched twigs as “trees,” make paths with pebbles or moss and add some other gathered treasures. Then use the figures and a large rock (which can be rolled away from the tomb) to illustrate the joyous story of Easter morning!

Possible Materials for Easter Representations:

For the base—Large tray, cookie sheet, or shallow box lined with foil

For the figures—Beeswax, Plasticine, salt ceramic, clothespins, or pipe cleaners

Clothing for figures—White fabric for the Lord and the angels, colored fabric for the others

Large rock to cover the “mouth” of the tomb, soil, more rocks and pebbles

Small branched twigs for “trees”, moss, dried weeds, small plants and flowers

Small pieces of white linen (or cotton), scented with cinnamon mixed with olive oil

(to represent the burial cloths left neatly folded in the tomb)

Small flower blossoms, scattered around the garden OR small potted flowering plants

Using the Easter Representation

As you read portions of the Easter story you can place the appropriate figures into the representation. One possibility is to keep the large stone in front of the cave until Easter morning. Then on Easter morning roll it aside. If the cave is large enough to put two angels inside (as in John 20), let the children discover the angels there on Easter morning. Parents may want to put little pieces of linen into the tomb as well. You may want to dab the cloths with olive oil mixed with spices to suggest the spices (myrrh and aloes) used by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea as they prepared the body of Jesus for burial (see John 19:39). On Easter morning, the children can add small flowers (real or artificial) to the representation.