



## Supplies

- plastic tablecloths
- disposable pie pans (1 per child)
- potting soil
- 3 ounce cups (1 per child)
- grass seed
- slender twigs (a total of about 20-inches per child)
- string
- scissors
- pebbles
- rocks the size of the cup opening (1 per child)
- fake greenery (optional)
- sturdy disposable plates (optional)

## Easy Prep

- Cover your craft table with plastic tablecloths. This craft can be messy!
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Make a Garden

Give each child a disposable pie pan, and set out the remaining supplies. Have kids follow these steps.

- Fill the pie pan about half full with potting soil.
- Lay the cup on its side in the middle of the pan. This will be the empty tomb.
- Put a little dirt inside the cup and press down to help it stay in place.
- Cover the cup with potting soil, pressing it down to make a firm mound. (Have preschoolers skip this step.)
- Sprinkle the mound of dirt with grass seed. (Preschoolers can just sprinkle the dirt around the tomb.)
- Press it into the soil and top with more soil. Pat down.
- Break the twigs into three tall pieces and three shorter pieces. (Have preschoolers skip this step and instead decorate their dirt with pebbles and fake greenery.)
- To make crosses, pair each tall twig piece with a shorter piece. Wrap string diagonally around both twig pieces to hold them together, and then tie to hold the cross pieces in place. (Have preschoolers skip this step.)
- Stick the three crosses into the dirt behind the tomb. (Have preschoolers skip this step.)

- Set a rock to the side of the tomb entrance to represent the stone that was rolled away.
- Use pebbles to make a path in front of the tomb.
- If fake greenery is available, add it around the scene to further decorate.

### **Clean Up**

Take kids to a sink to wash their hands. Wet wipes won't be enough to get the dirt off their hands.

Also, show kids how to carefully pick up and carry their gardens. They'll need to have one hand centered underneath the pie pan rather than holding it by the sides. You might prefer to have parents carry the gardens. Better yet, kids can place them on sturdy disposable plates for extra support.

### **Talk About It**

Ask: • **Close your eyes and picture Jesus' empty tomb. How does your garden look like that? How is it different?**

Say: **When you take your gardens home and water them, you'll see grass start to grow in a week or two. That grass can remind you that Jesus is alive. Jesus came back to life so we can live forever. The grass won't live forever, but you will when you believe in Jesus.**

Have kids take their crafts home and use them to tell their friends and family about Jesus' resurrection and why we celebrate Easter.