

Week of February 5-11

SHOW AND TELL

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew chapter 28

A highlight of most kindergartners' lives is the weekly or monthly "show and tell" in the classroom. With great care, students choose a favorite stuffed animal, a photo, a keepsake, etc. to take to school to show off to their classmates and about which they will make a brief presentation. Such activities provide a wonderful opportunity for these young children to become comfortable learning to share in front of a crowd.

In our chapter reading today (which happens to be the last chapter of this first gospel), we have an opportunity to sit in the classroom while Matthew provides us with his "show and tell." He spends the first half of the chapter showing and telling us the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. He tells us about the women visiting the tomb, about the earthquake, about the angel rolling back the stone and the response of the guards. He announces with great joy and excitement the declaration of the angel to the women, *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'"* You can almost hear Matthew's excitement as he shares with us his "show and tell." "JESUS IS ALIVE!!! He was dead and buried but now he is alive and well."

At the end of the chapter, Jesus himself gets in on the "show and tell" by appearing to his disciples in his resurrected body. He shows them that he is alive and then tells them to spread the news of the gospel to the nations: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Now, it's our turn to "show and tell." For those of us who have responded to the call of King Jesus to enter the kingdom, it's our turn to **show** through our lives the work of God and to serve as salt and light, living as a community of believers like a city set on a hill. It's also our turn to **tell** the good news of the gospel and to make disciples of all nations. Jesus has charged us with his authority to carry out the Great Commission and he has assured us of his presence throughout the process. Let's go show and tell. We're up!

Action Step: If you're doing this devotional with your family, take a few moments today to do some "show and tell" about something special that happened to you this past month as you worked your way through the book of Matthew.

Prayer Focus: That the Lord would empower you to share the good news of Jesus whenever he opens the door as freely as children share their "show and tell" with their classmates.

Take-a-way: *Looking for a great show and tell? Try the resurrection of Jesus and the Great Commission.*