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Excerpted and adapted from *The Way of the Cross: Creative Activities for Teaching the Passion* (LearningCycles series).

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# The Way of the Cross: Kitchen Workshop

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## Bible Reference for the Cycle:

Luke 23 & John 19

## Main Verse for the Cycle:

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. – John 20:8

## Key Concepts and Life Application:

- Easter is a wonderful mystery – new life for Jesus, but new life for all of us too.
- Because of Jesus' death, we are forever restored to right relationship with God

## Summary of Class Plans:

**Theme for this Workshop:** Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Children will talk about Jesus' body being prepared for burial and then laid in the tomb. They will also bake Resurrection Rolls.

## Materials Needed:

- Newspaper or disposable tablecloths to protect tables
- Ingredients for Resurrection Rolls:
  - One triangle of refrigerated crescent roll dough per child (8 triangles per can)
  - One large marshmallow per child
  - Melted butter
  - Ground Cinnamon
  - Dash of ground cloves
  - Sugar
- Small bowl to mix sugar and spices together
- Baking Sheet
- Oven mitts
- Bibles
- Paper plates & napkins – one for each child
- Milk or something else to drink
- Pencils and/or pens
- Sentence Starter: “**I wish that...**” (written on aboard or small pieces of paper)

## Materials Needed for Filler Activity:

- Paper
- Crayons or markers



- **DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING RESURRECTION ROLLS:**

1. Give each child one triangle-shaped piece of crescent roll. (There are 8 pieces per package.) This will be their “tomb”.
  2. Give each child a marshmallow. This will represent Jesus’ body.
  3. Have each child dip their marshmallow into the melted butter and then roll it in a mixture of cinnamon and sugar. As they do this, explain to the class that in Jesus’ time, people used oils and spices to prepare a body for burial.
  4. Ask children to carefully lay their marshmallow on the dough and wrap the marshmallow completely inside. Tell them not to roll this up like a traditional crescent roll, but to pinch together all the seams so that you can’t see the marshmallow anywhere. As you do this, talk about how the body was wrapped up in pieces of cloth and then the tomb was sealed up with a large stone and protected by soldiers so that no one could get to the body.
  5. Have children place their roll onto a baking sheet and bake all the rolls according to the directions on the package.
  6. While the rolls bake, pass out Bibles and read John 19:38 – John 20:2, which tells about preparing Jesus’ body for burial and how Mary Magdalene found the empty tomb, but stops before the disciples realize that Jesus is alive again.
- When the rolls are cooked and have cooled a little bit, pass them back out. Have everyone wait until all the rolls are passed out. When everyone has their roll in front of them, ask them to break open their rolls (We did this on the very loud count of 3!)
  - When they break open their rolls, the marshmallow should have melted away!
  - As everyone eats their treat, talk about how God raised Jesus from the dead and that’s why Mary Magdalene couldn’t find the body in the tomb. Ask some questions such as:
    - How do you think things happened on Easter Sunday morning?
    - How do you think the women were feeling on their way to the tomb?
    - What do you think Mary Magdalene thought when she saw the tomb?
    - What did she do?
    - How would you have felt?
  - **OUR PRAYER:**

O powerful, listening God, you make impossible things happen. Strengthen us, O God, to have faith in your wishes and dreams so that we might help your dream of Love come true. Thank you for Jesus’ loving example. In the name of the One who made all things good. Amen.

