

RAISING THE ALLELUIA

INTRO

As you enter into the joy and surprise of Easter with the children, talk with them about a big surprise you received that was good. How did you feel?

QUESTIONS

- I wonder if you can think of a really special surprise that was so happy and big it changed your life?
- What kinds of changes have you noticed in our worship and life together during Lent as the "Alleluia" was buried away? Did things feel different at all for you?
- What are some things you've seen come to life or receive new life?

WRAP-UP

Tell the children how on this special Easter day, we celebrate Christ's victory and the gift of new life. Talk together about how we've eagerly waited for this day, knowing hope and celebration would again come. But share with the kids how Jesus' first followers were utterly shocked when Jesus rose to life. Unlike us, they were living the story in real-time and didn't know this would happen—it was the surprise of their lives! A surprise bringing life-changing praise and joy! Share how we rejoice in Jesus' new life as well as the new life our spirits, faith, and someday bodies, too, will receive! Explain that as a tangible way to celebrate God's powerful gift of new life, we will raise our Alleluia illustrations to life as well. This physical act is a way to celebrate the power of new life we experience today—Jesus rising to new life, our faith experiencing new life, and our praise coming to new life. Remind the children of the experience you shared before the first week of Lent when you "buried" the Alleluia together. Remember together the literal meaning of Alleluia ("Praise the Lord"), and the reason we buried it for the season of Lent (to focus on our need for God's forgiveness, grace, and help). Invite the children to then move with you to the area of the sanctuary where you will "raise" the Alleluia together. After pulling the Alleluia illustration(s) out, invite the children to raise up the Alleluia illustration(s), and say together, "Alleluia!" You might want to do a call and response with the congregation where the children say, "Alleluia!" and the congregation responds, "Praise the Lord!"

PRAYER

Dear God, Alleluia! We praise and thank you for being the Good Giver of new life! With you, the last word is always life, joy, and hope! We give you our hearts of praise, and we love you!

Amen.