Date: 3/31/18

Title: I have Seen the Lord

Theme: You too can see the Lord if you look for Him in God’s word.

Object: Negative image of Jesus. When stared at and then eyes closed, an image of Jesus appears.

Text: John 20:18 (NIV) 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that He had said these things to her.

How many are looking forward to Easter tomorrow?

Maybe you’re thinking of chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs with candy inside.

But the real story of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus.

We celebrate Easter because Jesus rose from the dead and came back to life on that Sunday morning.

In fact, I much prefer to call Easter “Resurrection Day”.

How do you think Jesus’ disciples felt when they saw Him crucified on the cross on Friday?

Do you think they were sad? (Yeah)

Even though Jesus had told them that He was going to come back to life after 3 days, they didn’t remember His words.

So early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and other women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried in order to put more spices on His dead body.

What a shock to see the giant stone in front of the tomb rolled away, and the tomb was empty! The body of Jesus wasn’t inside.

Mary thought someone had taken the body of Jesus and buried it somewhere else.

So she ran to tell Peter and John.

Peter and John ran to the tomb and looked inside, and they saw the graveclothes there.

They saw the strips of linen that they had wound around Jesus’ body and the handkerchief that was over His face.

The handkerchief was folded up and laying in a place by itself.

And the Bible says that when John saw that He believed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Peter and John went back home, but Mary stayed near the tomb crying.

And who do you think she saw there at the tomb? It was Jesus!!

At first she thought it was the gardener, but when He said her name, “Mary,” she knew it was Jesus.

And she looked up into His face and saw the Lord.

Do you think she was happy? (She must have jumped for joy!)

She ran back and told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord, He’s alive!”

Would you like to see Jesus? How many would like to see Jesus this morning?

I have this special image here that will allow you to catch a glimpse of Jesus.

[Explain how it works. Do you know how to stare? Find the four little black dots between the two black hearts and stare at them for 15 sec. Then close your eyes and see if you can see an image of Jesus.]

How many were able to see Jesus?

Lots of people would like to see Jesus, but they’re not looking in the right place.

Where should we look if we really want to see what Jesus is like? (The Bible.)

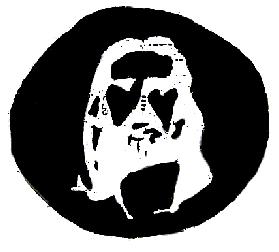
Instead of looking at four black dots, we need to be looking at the four gospels in the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Bible doesn’t tell us what Jesus looked like, but it does tell us what kind of a person He is.

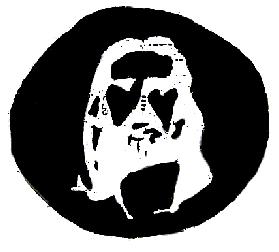
The Bible tells us that Jesus loves us…He really, really loves us, and He died for our sins.

But the good news is that He defeated death. He’s alive. And He’s coming back again.

How many would like to say they love Jesus today? Let’s thank Him for what He’s done for us!



Stare at the four black dots in the center of this picture for about 15 seconds.  
Close your eyes and keep them closed until an image appears.  
What did you see?



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