

What's Inside?

Get prepared box:

- What do you think is in it?
 - someone up to hold it, shake it, how heavy...
 - you can get whatever is in the box... **hold the box, and I'll take the lid off...**
- What's inside?
 - **nothing!!**
 - how do you feel? How does anyone else feel?
 - disappointed?

Get Piggy Bank/money box

- What do think is in this?
 - again, get someone up...
 - shake it...
 - open it and take money out...
 - can you go over to the shops with that?

Tomb

- Talk about the women coming to the tomb
 - how would they have felt, coming to the tomb expecting Jesus' body to be there...
 - ... and finding it empty?
- Sometimes our first reactions, whilst natural and understandable, are wrong!
 - show hidden **£££ note** in the box lid
 - give it to person who opened the box!
 - how does hindsight change our initial reaction?
 - how might hindsight have changed the women's initial reaction to the empty tomb?

Happy and Sad

- Give out Happy/Sad faces
- Talk about the contrasting feelings on that first resurrection Sunday...
 - sadness over losing Jesus...
 - happiness at finding him alive...

In uncertain times

- There are times in our lives when things are uncertain and upset
 - bereavement, relationships forming or breaking down, new stages, new jobs, jobs ending, retirement, new challenges...
 - (include children - what are their uncertain times?)
 - what did it feel like?
 - which of the faces you have best expresses that?
- Has anyone been in an earthquake? Or a storm at sea?
 - what did it feel like?
- God's people had known stormy times in the past, but at their best had clung onto God and known his help:
 - cf Psalm 46 that we read earlier
- Disciples stormy time was Jesus dying:
 - what might they have expected?
 - they knew about some people in the Old Testament who came back from death, eg boy raised by Elisha in 2 Kings 4:32-36
 - they'd seen Jesus raised from death - eg Lazarus
 - but they weren't expecting Jesus himself to come back from death
- *(Compare with our reaction to the foreign coins in the piggy bank...)*
- It was into that disappointment and sadness that the angels appears, with three key words for the women and for us:

Don't be afraid

- Angels, messengers of God, signifiers of his presence, seem to inspire fear:
 - for God is a holy God, and instinctively in his presence we feel our sin and unworthiness
 - don't be afraid, the angel is able to say, for the reason for our fear of God's judgement is gone, dealt with by Jesus on the Cross

He isn't here

- He is alive!
 - total transformation, incredible new reality
 - this is our joy filled foundation for faith
 - this is the hope we hold out to others

Go and tell

- Pass it on, share what you have received!