

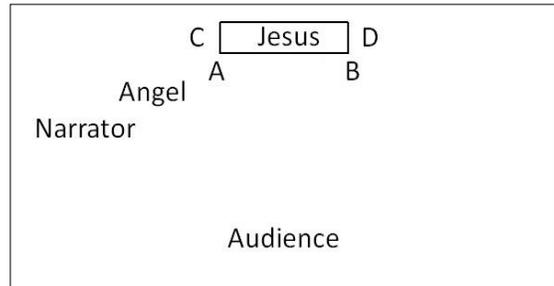
## Not a Resuscitation! A dramatic reflection on the moment of Jesus' resurrection

Simple Easter skit. No practice needed—all actions are cued by Narrator's script. Need 8 persons: **Narrator**; **A** and **B** - relatively tall persons; **Jesus** - young boy; **C** and **D** - strong enough to carry Jesus on a board; **Angel**; **disciple**. Assumes group knows call & response: "Christ is risen!" "Christ is risen indeed!"

*[Narrator reads.]*

Several persons are going to present a little skit — or "dramatic representation" — of the moment of Jesus' resurrection.

Let's assemble the various parts of this "dramatic representation."



*[The introductions can be a bit "over the top," a bit like the football team being introduced at a school pep rally.]*

First, we have the two *front walls* of the *actual* tomb of Christ!

*[A and B come and take their places (see diagram). They stand facing each other, leaning in toward each other, joining their inside hands. They stand as far apart as they can while still joining one set of hands comfortably. (They are making the tomb opening.) A is holding the blanket used for the stone.]*

And, we have the *stone that covers the entrance* to the tomb!

*[A and B hold the blanket so it covers the opening between their bodies.]*

And, we have the two *more walls of the tomb*, one carrying the *shelf* on which Jesus' body lay.

*[C and D come and take their places. Set the board (on which Jesus will lay and then ride) down close to A and B's legs (the closer to them the more Jesus will be visible to the audience.)]*

And, of course, no Easter tomb is complete without *the angel!*

*[Angel comes.]*

She is the one who *rolled the stone* away.

*[Angel tugs or pushes the blanket toward one side. As the blanket moves, A and B keep it stretched tight initially. When the "doorway" is open, the blanket is dropped on the ground in a heap.]*

And *sat* on it!

*[Angel sits on blanket.]*

And last, but not least, we must have, of course, the *actual* body of Jesus!

*[Jesus comes, wrapped like a mummy in a white sheet, and lays down on board.]*

Okay. Let's assemble the scene, with the stone on the tomb.

*[Angel gets up and stands behind Narrator. A and B again hold the blanket over the opening.]*

Now we are ready for two "dramatic representations" of the resurrection of Jesus.

One is the wrong way — the way it *didn't* happen. One is *[still a bit "over the top"]* the *actual* way that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, *rose from the grave!*

The *first* way.

We often think that the angel rolled the stone away so that Jesus could get out.

*[Angel pushes blanket until A & B drop it; sits on it.]*

We think that if we had been there at the moment of Jesus' resurrection we would have seen Jesus stir, and open his eyes.

*[Jesus mimics that.]*

Is that what we would have seen?

We think we would have seen Jesus sit up, and begin to struggle with the bandages.

*[Jesus mimics that, but stays in the sheet. Narrator waits until he's done struggling.]*

No. That would have been a resuscitation, not a resurrection. That would be as if Jesus was recovering from a swoon. That is us picturing the risen Jesus with a natural body rather than a resurrected body.

We need to assemble the scene again and *[again, a bit "over the top"]* show the *actual* way that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, *rose from the grave!*

*[Angel moves to stand behind Narrator. A and B again hold the blanket over the opening. Jesus, staying out of sight, begins getting out of the sheet.]*

*Christ is risen!* [Congregation responds: "Christ is risen indeed!"]

If we had been present at the moment of the resurrection, we would have seen the body of Jesus doing *this*.

*[Jesus places his sheet on the ground, and stands on the board with his hands partially raised. C and D pick up the board and lift it up as high as they safely can, and carry him away (like he's floating through the ceiling and wall of the tomb!) to the back of the audience (so he is no longer the focus). Angel goes back and folds up the sheet; stays there out of sight.]*

Yes, Jesus' body would have passed through the stone walls, out of the sealed tomb — even as his body would later pass through closed doors. (On Easter evening Jesus entered the place the disciples were — even though the doors were locked.)

At the moment of Jesus' resurrection, his body was "transmuted into something new and different and wonderful" (Stott, *Basic Christianity*) — a resurrected body that could *eat*, and *touch* and *be touched*, but a body that did not need doorways to leave or enter a place.

So *why* did the angel come out and roll the stone away??

*[Angel comes and pushes blanket until A drops it; and again sits on it.]*

The stone was *not* rolled away to let Jesus *out*. It was rolled away ... to let *others* *[gesture to audience]* ... look *in* and see that ...

*[When narrator gestures to the audience, saying "others," a disciple with robe flapping (bathrobe) comes running up from a back corner of audience, peers into tomb entrance. Narrator times "and see that..." with when disciple is looking in tomb. Then disciple looks at Narrator, and both say in unison:]*

*Christ is risen!* [Congregation responds: "Christ is risen indeed!"]