Marta stepped off the bus and started to run home. She had such good news to tell her mom!

“Hi Marta!” said Mrs. Hendley, the neighbor down the street. “Did you have a good day at school?”

“I did!” said Marta. “And guess what? My teacher is going to have a baby, in the spring!”

“Wow!” said Mrs. Hendley. “That’s good news!”

Marta slowed her running to a skip. She felt light and happy.

“Hey, Marta!” called out Hannah, her neighbor across the street. “Can you come play?”

“Maybe after I do my homework,” said Marta. “Guess what, Hannah? My teacher is going to have a baby!”

“A baby! Just like we have at our house!” said Hannah. “I know!” Marta said.

Marta ran up her driveway and the front steps. She dropped her backpack on the porch and burst through the front door.

“My goodness!” said her mom. “You look excited!”

“I am! Guess what? Mrs. Nugent is going to have a baby! In the spring! We’ll have a sub for a few weeks at the end of school but she promised to bring the baby to school so we can see it. Maybe I’ll get to hold her—or him! I guess we don’t know yet!”

“Well, that is good news!” said Mom. “Did you tell everyone you saw on the way home?!”

“I did! Is Dad in the backyard? I’m going to go tell him, too!”
Below are the 10 verses in the story of the Empty Tomb. See if you can fill in the blanks. Remember, if you need help, all you have to do is look in Matthew 28:1-10.

Memory Verse

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!”

Matthew 28:5-6a

After the __________, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the __________ went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great __________: for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the __________ and sat on it. His appearance was like __________, and his clothing white as __________. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the __________, “Do not be __________; I know that you are looking for __________ who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been __________, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and __________ his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the __________, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; here you will __________ him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with __________ and great __________, and ran to tell his __________. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “__________!” And they came to him, took hold of his __________, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to __________ them, “Do not be __________; go and tell my brothers to go to __________; there they will __________ me.”
Fun Facts

In all of the Gospels, the **women** are the first to learn that Jesus was raised.

The **tomb** Jesus was placed in was a small cave. A large stone would have been rolled across the entrance to close it.

A rich man named **Joseph** put Jesus in his own tomb.

Some of the religious authorities were afraid someone would try to **steal** Jesus’ body and fool people into thinking Jesus had been raised from the dead. But he really was!

The word **angel** means “messenger.”

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Cut out the Easter Eggs. Each egg contains a summary of one of the verses from today’s story. See if you can put them in order.
Cut out and give your banner design to someone.
Decorate some paper napkins or place mats with the words “Go and Tell!” and “Good News!” and “Jesus Is Risen!” for your Easter dinner table.

Retell the Easter story to someone younger than you.
Read the Easter stories in the other three Gospels.

Ask other people you know celebrate Easter what their traditions are.