

Day Camp Activity Guide: The First Messenger

Target Audience: Children's Day Camp Facilitators & Counselors

Duration: 30 Minutes

Theme: St. Mary Magdalene as the "Apostle to the Apostles"

Part 1: The Warm-Up "Telephone" Game (5 Minutes)

Facilitator Goal: Get the campers energized and introduce the concept of being a messenger.

- **Action:** Have the campers sit in a large circle.
- **The Game:** Whisper a message into the ear of the first camper (e.g., "*Jesus is alive and we are going to Rome!*"). They must whisper it to the next person, all the way around the circle. Have the last person say the message out loud to see how much it changed.
- **The Pivot:** "In our game, the message got a little mixed up! But today, we are going to learn about a saint who got the most important message in the history of the world directly from Jesus. Her name is St. Mary Magdalene, and she had to be incredibly **courageous** to make sure the message was delivered perfectly to everyone!"

Part 2: Video Screening & Snack Time (15 Minutes)

Facilitator Goal: Keep the kids focused on the story while they rest.

- **The Setup:** As the kids are settling down (perfect time for a water break or camp snack), introduce the video.
- **What to Say:** "We are going to watch a short cartoon about Mary Magdalene. I want you to watch for two big moments: First, watch how fast she runs when she finds out Jesus is alive—that is called **Zeal**! Second, look for the moment she holds up an egg in front of a scary Emperor. That takes big **Faith**!"
- **Play the Video:** Play the full animation (00:00 – 13:13).

Part 3: The "Red Egg Relay" Active Game (8 Minutes)

Facilitator Goal: Burn off energy while physically acting out Mary Magdalene's virtues of **Perseverance** and **Zeal**.

- **Supplies Needed:** Plastic Easter eggs (preferably red, or any color you have), and two spoons.
- **The Setup:** Divide the campers into two teams for a classic egg-and-spoon relay race. Set a starting line and a turnaround point (use a cone or a counselor).
- **The Rules:**
 1. Each camper must balance the "Red Egg" on their spoon and walk/run to the turnaround point and back.
 2. Tell them the turnaround point is "Rome" and they are acting like Mary Magdalene taking the message to the Emperor!
 3. If they drop the egg, they have to pick it up and keep going.
- **The Lesson:** "If you dropped your egg, you had to pick it up and keep trying, right? That is exactly what Mary Magdalene did when people didn't believe her. She used **Perseverance** to never give up on her mission!"

Part 4: Cool Down & Camp Cheer (2 Minutes)

Facilitator Goal: Calm the group down and solidify the core takeaway before sending them to their next camp activity.

- **Quick Recap:**
 - "Who was the first person to see Jesus after He rose from the dead?" (*Campers shout: Mary Magdalene!*)
 - "What did the egg turn into when she showed the Emperor?" (*Campers shout: Red!*)
- **Closing Camp Cheer/Prayer:** Have the campers repeat after you in a loud, enthusiastic camp-style call-and-response:
 - *Counselor:* When I say Mary, you say Brave!
 - *Counselor:* MARY!
 - *Campers:* BRAVE!
 - *Counselor:* We thank you Jesus for this day!
 - *Campers:* We thank you Jesus for this day!
 - *Counselor:* Help us share the truth and play!
 - *Campers:* Help us share the truth and play!
 - *Counselor:* Amen!