

30-Minute Sunday School Lesson: The First Witness

Target Audience: Kids Ages 10–12 (Pre-teens/Tweens)

Duration: 30 Minutes

Focus: St. Mary Magdalene's unique role as the "Apostle to the Apostles" and her virtues of Courage and Faith.

Part 1: The "Breaking News" Hook (5 Minutes)

Teacher Script & Quick Interaction:

"Imagine you just found out the most amazing, world-changing news—like a cure for all diseases was just discovered, or we finally made contact with alien life. Raise your hand if you would tell your best friend first? What about your parents? How fast would you run to tell them?"

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus chose one specific person to deliver the greatest 'breaking news' in history: that He had risen from the dead. He didn't pick Peter or John to be the first witness; He picked a woman named Mary Magdalene. Because she was the one who told the Apostles that Jesus was alive, the Church gives her a very special title: the 'Apostle to the Apostles.' Today, we are going to watch her amazing story."

Part 2: Full Video Screening (14 Minutes)

Since you have a full 30 minutes, you can play the entire story.

- **Teacher Intro:** "As we watch this animation, I want you to look for two things: First, watch how she reacts when she finds the empty tomb. Second, pay close attention to what happens when she travels all the way to Rome to stand in front of the Emperor. Look for moments where she shows incredible **Faith** and **Courage**."
- **Play the Full Video:** (00:00 – 13:13).
- **Facilitator Tip:** If you have a diverse class or students who are ESL, turning on the Traditional Chinese or English subtitles is a great way to ensure everyone can follow the theological concepts and dialogue seamlessly.

Part 3: The "Red Egg" Object Lesson & Discussion (8 Minutes)

Props Needed: Bring a single red egg (a dyed hardboiled egg or a plastic red Easter egg) to hold up during this discussion.

Teacher Script & Discussion Questions:

(Hold up the red egg)

"When Mary Magdalene traveled to Rome to stand in front of Emperor Tiberius Caesar, she didn't bring him gold, silver, or expensive jewels as a gift. She brought a box of eggs as a tribute! Mary used this precious symbol of rebirth to bravely explain to the most powerful man in the world that Jesus had risen from the dead! Let's talk about the virtues she showed."

Ask the Class:

1. **Courage:** "It takes a lot of guts to stand up to a Roman Emperor who could have her thrown in prison. For us today, who are the intimidating 'Emperors' we face? (Examples:

bullies at school, peer pressure online, fear of being made fun of). How can we practice Mary's courage this week?"

2. **Faith:** "Mary didn't bring an army to Rome; she just brought her faith and a box of eggs, trusting God to do the rest. Have you ever felt like you didn't have enough talent, words, or popularity to make a difference? How does Mary's story prove that God only needs our willingness to try?"

Part 4: "My Red Egg" Mini-Activity & Prayer (3 Minutes)

Props Needed: Small paper cutouts in the shape of an egg (or sticky notes) and pens for each student.

The Activity (2 Minutes):

- Pass out the paper eggs and pens.
- **Teacher Script:** "On your egg, I want you to write down one brave thing you are going to do this week to share your faith or stand up for what is right. It could be inviting someone sitting alone to sit with you, or praying before your lunch in the cafeteria. Keep this egg in your backpack or Bible as a reminder of Mary Magdalene's courage."

Closing Prayer (1 Minute):

"Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible example of St. Mary Magdalene. Give us her faith to trust that You will take care of everything. Give us her Courage to stand up for what is right, even when it is intimidating. Help us to be Your messengers in our schools and in our homes this week. Amen."