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As preschool parents, we are often confronted with moments of failure, whether it is more light-hearted, like not being able to find our child's favorite shirt, or harder things like failing to keep patient in a tough moment. But there is hope bigger than any failure, and Easter is a great time to spend some time thinking about this.

Failure to do right on our own is actually part of the Christian story. In Romans 5:8, a verse your child might have already learned this year, we see this truth in bright lights. The apostle Paul writes, *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* Romans 5:8 (NLT) Our sense of helplessness shows us that we can never be enough, but this verse in Romans shows us we don't have to be enough. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This is the hope inherent in the Easter story. When we accept and believe this truth, whether for the first time or the thousandth time, He offers us freedom to be in right relationship with Him and others.

So what about how we live each day? In Romans, Paul goes on to say, *"So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."* Romans 5:11 (NLT) This friendship with God gives you hope every day. As you walk the journey of faith by seeking Him in prayer (talking to God) and His Word (reading the Bible), you can see beyond failure. Hope is found as you treat your circumstances as opportunities to live out rejoicing in your wonderful relationship with God. This is the great adventure of the life He has given us, thanks to Jesus and the truth of Easter!



## KIDS AND FAILURE

The following are some ideas that might be helpful when children are upset over something they feel unable to do.

### Empathize

Tell them that you notice what they are struggling with. As they are able, have them tell you more about what they are feeling, and help them feel heard.

### Introduce the word yet

If a child exclaims, "I can't do it," help adjust this statement. Saying "I can't do it yet" helps state what's true while feeling like there's room to grow.

### Reframe what's possible

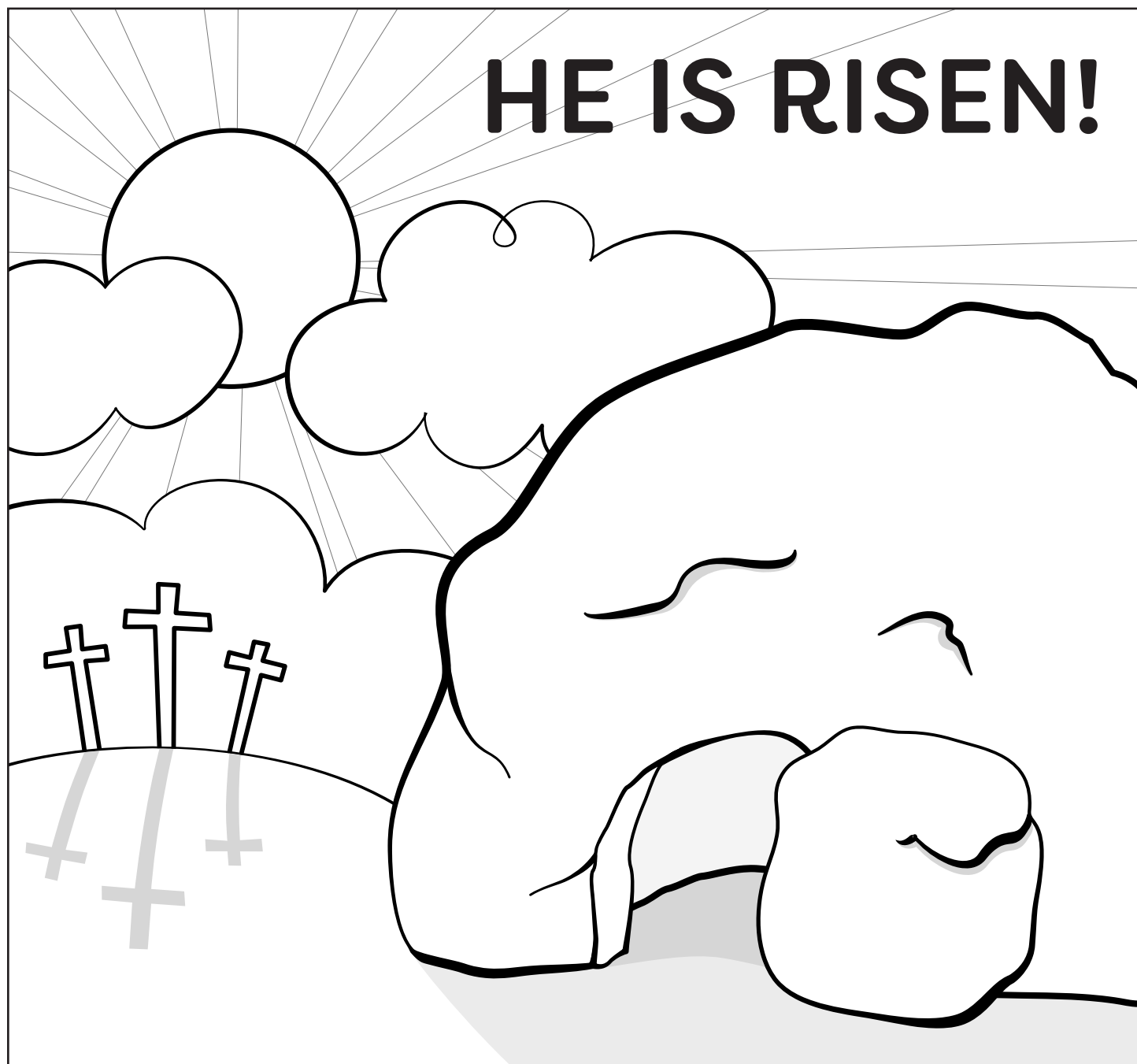
If the goal is something achievable to work towards, talk together about ways to work towards it. If not, then try to reframe it into something that is possible to do.

### Remind them they are loved

Kids also need reminders that they are loved just as they are. Talk with them about how God made them and they are loved by Him, and by you too!

**Challenge:** While you color this picture with your child, explain the Easter story in your own words. Talk about Jesus' death, resurrection, and the empty tomb.

**Bonus Challenge:** Pray with your child and thank God together for the hope He gave us in Jesus' death and resurrection.



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