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Jesus Is Risen!

BACKGROUND

The Paschal Mystery

The whole purpose of the Incarnation—the Son of God taking on flesh and becoming one of us in all things but sin—is the fulfillment of God’s loving plan of Salvation.

He who is the “image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), is himself the perfect man who has restored in the children of Adam that likeness to God which had been disfigured ever since the first sin.

*Pastoral Constitution of the Church
in the Modern World [Gaudium et Spes], 22*



Christ’s Sacrifice

Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, embraced suffering. He did so not without fear, not without sharing his inner “sorrow and distress” with his disciples and then with his Father. Seeking their presence and comfort, he said to his disciples:

“My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.” He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:38–39

The sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross was a true sacrifice. It was Christ’s free surrendering of his fears and distress and his very life, out of love for the Father who sent him and for those for whom he was sent. It was a full and true human expression of the depth of the Incarnate Son of God’s love for God and for humanity.

Christ Embraces the Cross

Though Jesus was without sin, he suffered willingly for all sinners. In embracing his Death on the Cross, Jesus placed his life in complete conformity to the divine plan.

In so doing, he gave glory to his Father and was in turn glorified by God, the Father.

“Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you. . . .

I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.”

John 17:1, 4–5

New Life in Christ

Through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, we are freed from the bondage of sin and evil. The doors to eternal life have been opened. We shall rise on the last day when Christ comes again in glory. For Christ has restored us to our place as sons and daughters of God. We are reconciled to God and to one another through his Paschal Mystery.

For Reflection

What experiences have I had that have made me aware that I share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ?
How can I be more ready to remain with and keep watch with others during times of their suffering?

Teacher to Teacher

The Heart of the Gospel

This week's lesson presents the heart of the Gospel message—the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Jesus' trust in his Father's love is so complete that goodness triumphs over sin and death. In being raised from the dead, Jesus passes over from darkness to light, from death to new and glorious life.

A Message of Hope

Even though third graders cannot understand the deepest meaning of the Paschal Mystery, they can appreciate the message of hope that is at the heart of this central mystery of our faith in Christ. Even at the young ages of eight and nine, students are very aware of the suffering and violence that are part of our world. In teaching about Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, you can share a much needed message of hope with the class. Help the students to know and trust in God's ever-present, infinite love and his promise of eternal life.

The Church Teaches...

Because the Gospels narrate the life of Jesus and the mystery of our redemption after Christ and the Reign of God that he proclaimed, catechesis will also be centered on Christ if the Gospels occupy a pivotal place within it" (*National Directory for Catechesis 25A*).

Sharing the Gospel and one's faith in Jesus is a fundamental responsibility of all the baptized. You can help the students grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus, the Savior and Redeemer. Encourage the students to read the Bible and talk about Jesus Christ with their family and friends.

Further Reading and Reflection

For more about related teachings of the Catholic Church on the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599-655, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 89-100.

Teacher Prayer

God, our loving Father,
you sent your Son,
Jesus, your Promised
One and Messiah.
Send the Holy Spirit to
help us prepare for
the coming of the kingdom
Jesus announced.
Amen.

Lesson Planner

Chapter 5 Jesus Is Risen!

Focus To learn the meaning of the Paschal Mystery

LESSON PART	PROCESS	MATERIALS and RESOURCES
DAY 1 EXPLORE Focus To learn about the Stations of the Cross Pages 65–67	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Proclaim and discuss Psalm 33:22 (We have put our hope in you).▶ Read about the story of Veronica and Simon. Disciple Power: Hope Activity: Act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross.	Bible Pencils Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Making Stations of the Cross Dioramas
DAY 2 DISCOVER Focus To discover that the Paschal Mystery includes the suffering and Death of Jesus Christ Pages 68–69	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Identify Jesus' Death on the Cross as a sacrifice. Faith Vocabulary: Sacrifice Scripture: Jesus on the Cross (Luke 23:44, 46). Catholics Believe: The Apostles' Creed Activity: Write a prayer to Jesus.	Crayons or markers Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Literature Connection <i>If Jesus Came to My House</i>
DAY 3 DISCOVER Focus To learn about the Paschal Mystery, especially the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ Pages 70–71	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn about the Resurrection and the Ascension. Scripture: The Resurrection (Matthew 27:59–60; 28: 1, 5–7); the Ascension (Luke 24:50–51). Faith-Filled People: Saint Joseph of Arimathea Faith Vocabulary: Paschal Mystery Activity: Write about seeing a person you care about again.	Pencils Crayons or markers Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Reenacting Events of the Paschal Mystery
DAY 4 DECIDE Focus To decide on a way to share the hope of the Paschal Mystery Pages 72–73	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn about the Paschal Candle. Activity: Design of a Banner of Hope. My Faith Choice: Decide how to show you are a person of hope.	Additional Activities Booklet: Activities 5a and 5b or see BeMyDisciples.com
DAY 5 CONCLUDE Focus To learn that in a prayer of adoration we acknowledge that God shares his life and love with us Pages 74–76	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ REVIEW Review concepts: Recall, Reflect, and Share.▶ PRAY Prayer of Adoration▶ Preview the With My Family page and the theme of the next chapter.	Bible, cross, candle for prayer space, pencils Grade 3 Music CD Assessment Tools Booklet: Assessments 5a and 5b

Assign online Chapter Review
and Interactive Chapter Test
at BeMyDisciples.com

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit will help you to:



EXPLORE how two people helped Jesus before he was crucified.



DISCOVER the meaning of the Paschal Mystery.



MODEL to live as a person of hope.

CHAPTER
5

Jesus Is Risen!

- 2 When things are not going so well, what do you do?

This Bible verse helps you know what to do.

*May your kindness, Lord, be upon us;
we have put our hope in you.*

PSALM 33:22

- 2 Why can we place our hope in God?

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LITURGY CONNECTION

Memorial Acclamation. In this chapter, the students will learn about the Paschal Mystery. As you discuss Jesus' Death and Resurrection, recall that the acclamation that follows the consecration at Mass is called the Memorial Acclamation. Explain that in this prayer we profess faith in the Paschal Mystery. Encourage the students to memorize one or more of these acclamations.

- ▶ We proclaim your Death, O Lord, / and profess your Resurrection / until you come again.
- ▶ When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, / we proclaim your Death, O Lord, / until you come again.
- ▶ Save us, Savior of the world, / for by your Cross and Resurrection / you have set us free.

Pray

- ▶ Remind the class that Jesus is the Son of God. Tell them that they will learn more about Jesus in this chapter.
- ▶ Invite the students to prayer by quieting them down, and begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Recite one of the Memorial Acclamations from the Mass (shown below). Have the students repeat the Memorial Acclamation after you.

Reflect

- ▶ Ask the students to think of a time when things were not going so well. Then ask them to share what they did to handle it.
- ▶ Ask the students to close their eyes as you read Psalm 33:22 aloud.
- ▶ Ask what stories they remember in the Bible that tell about God's kindness and hope.

Focus

- ▶ Point out the Looking Ahead box. Show the students a crucifix and tell them they will discover Jesus' love through his Death on a cross.
- ▶ Tell them they are going learn more about hope and meet two people who helped Jesus.

Introduce

- ▶ Read Disciple Power aloud to the class and talk with them about virtue of hope.
- ▶ Explain that hope is a virtue that helps us trust that God is with us, even when things go wrong.
- ▶ Remind the students of how Jesus carried his Cross, and tell them about the Stations of the Cross.
- ▶ Observe that people who saw Jesus carrying his Cross would give up hope. Tell the class that they are going to hear about two people who kept on hoping and trusting in God.
- ▶ Have volunteers take turns reading Veronica and Simon. Emphasize how Simon of Cyrene and Veronica helped Jesus.
- ▶ If it is feasible, take the class to church to look at the Stations and find Veronica and Simon at the Fifth and Sixth Stations.

Reinforce

Have the students look at the illustration(s) on the page. Ask the students to imagine they are in the crowd as Jesus carried his Cross. Have them imagine the details of this experience and the feelings Jesus must have been experiencing.

Connect

Direct the class to the reflection question. Ask them to share their thoughts about how Veronica and Simon helped Jesus. Invite them to share how they could have helped Jesus.



Disciple Power

Hope

When we hope, we place our trust in God. We know that God always keeps his Word. God always keeps his promises.



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The Church Follows Jesus

Veronica and Simon

Do you remember the story of Jesus carrying his Cross? The story is retold prayerfully in the Stations of the Cross. Look for the Stations of the Cross in your parish Church. Here is part of that story.

As Jesus walked up the hilly streets of Jerusalem, he stumbled and fell to the ground three times. There was a man named Simon in the crowd who saw Jesus fall. He reached down, picked up the heavy Cross, and helped Jesus carry it. Simon was from Cyrene, a northern city in Africa. He had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Veronica and other women disciples of Jesus were there. As Jesus walked by, Veronica offered Jesus a cloth to wipe the sweat and blood from his face. Jesus saw that she and the other women were worried about him. He told the women not to worry. Jesus' words to the women gave them hope. We remember Simon and Veronica for their acts of kindness to Jesus.

❓ How could you have helped Jesus on his way to the Cross?



DISCIPLE POWER

Hope. The stories of Simon of Cyrene and Veronica remind us that the help of other people in times of difficulty can keep us hoping and trusting in God. Simon and Veronica ministered to Jesus in very practical ways. Invite the students to think of people they know of who are having a difficult time in life right now. These might include a family member who is ill, a new student trying to make friends, an elderly neighbor, or the victims of natural disasters. Have the class suggest practical ways they can be signs of God's hope to those they named.

The Stations of the Cross

Three hundred years after Jesus lived, the mother of the Emperor became a Christian. Helena and other Christians went to Jerusalem to find the holy places where Jesus died and was buried. They walked through the narrow, rocky streets up to the hill of Calvary. They marked holy places, or stations, along the way where they stopped to pray. These places became the Stations of the Cross.

Many Christians who could not travel to Jerusalem marked stations on their church walls. Walking along and praying the Stations of the Cross became a popular devotion.

Today, especially during Lent, many Catholics gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. They remember Jesus' great love for us.

- 2** Why do the Stations of the Cross help us remember Jesus' love for us?

Constantine holding the cross and St. Helena, c. 1459-1517



Activity

Look on page 373 in your book and read the Stations of the Cross. With your classmates, act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross. First, think about these questions:

- What words might Simon say to Jesus?
- How might Jesus answer?
- What words might Veronica say to Jesus?
- How might Jesus answer her?

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Act of Caring. The first step toward helping another person or improving a situation is to care. Simon of Cyrene and Veronica were only two of many people who lined the streets as Jesus walked to Calvary. The difference is that they did something helpful to show Jesus that they cared about him. The action of caring for another person provides hope for the persons involved in difficult situations. Through their simple acts of caring, Simon and Veronica shared hope with Jesus by placing their trust in God.

Introduce

- ▶ Explain that many years later, people wanted to walk with Jesus to the Cross. Read The Stations of the Cross to the class.
- ▶ Have the students read the last paragraph on their own. Look at the pictures and discuss how people pray the Stations of the Cross. Ask if they have prayed the Stations of the Cross at their parish.

Reinforce

List numbers 1, 2, and 3 on the board. Ask the students to recall how the Stations of the Cross developed. List the steps as the students remember them. (1) Jesus carried his Cross to Calvary. (2) Disciples of Jesus marked places on the road Jesus walked. They prayed at these places, or stations. (3) Christians marked the stations in their own churches.

Connect

Direct the class to the activity. Begin by discussing the four questions as a class. Then ask volunteers to take the roles of the main characters in the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross. All of the students should be the crowd that gathered along the road.

Pray

Ask the students to pray the Sign of the Cross without saying the words. Invite them to think about the Cross of Jesus.

Lead the class in praying the Glory Be quietly and reverently.

Key Concept

The Paschal Mystery of Jesus is the greatest expression of God's love for us.

Pray

Invite the class to join you in saying or singing this Memorial Acclamation.

Save us, Savior of the world, / for
by your Cross and Resurrection /
you have set us free.

Teach

- ▶ Read the Faith Focus question aloud to the class.
- ▶ Point out that the Paschal Mystery begins with the Death of Jesus. Tell the students they are going to find out what happened to Jesus on the day he died.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to read aloud pages of The Paschal Mystery and Jesus Dies on the Cross.
- ▶ Emphasize that the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the Cross was a free offering to God the Father for our sins. Jesus did this out of love for us.
- ▶ Point out the Faith Vocabulary. Invite a volunteer to read it aloud. Ask the students to give examples of sacrifices in their lives.

Faith Focus

Why is Jesus' dying on a cross called "the sacrifice of the Cross"?

Faith Vocabulary

sacrifice
To give something that we value to God out of love.

The Paschal Mystery

Jesus' last meal with his disciples was the Passover meal. We call this meal the Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus told the Apostles that one of them would betray him. They all said, "Not I, Lord."

After the meal ended, Jesus and the Apostles went to a garden on a hillside near Jerusalem to pray. There Judas, one of the Apostles, betrayed Jesus. Judas brought the leaders of the Jewish community and Temple guards to the garden. Judas kissed Jesus. This signaled the guards to arrest Jesus.

The leaders took Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus but could not find Jesus guilty of any crime. But Pilate ordered that Jesus be put to death on a cross because the crowds demanded it.

Q Why do you think Jesus was betrayed?



Night Prayer. Jesus praying in the garden

HUMAN METHODOLOGIES

Learning by Human Experience. The *National Directory for Catechesis* observes that human experiences enable people to make meaning of their life experiences in relation to the Gospel (NDC 29A). Bring to class a variety of crosses or illustrations of different types of crosses to show the students as they learn about Jesus' Death. Emphasize that for Christians, the image of the cross is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for all people. Invite the students to make small, personal crosses using clay, braided palm fronds, or twigs and yarn. Encourage them to display their crosses in a place at home where they will see them often and remember Jesus' love for them.

Jesus Dies on the Cross

The soldiers mocked Jesus. They placed a crown of thorny branches on his head. After the soldiers beat him, they led Jesus out of Jerusalem to a place called Golgotha. There they nailed Jesus onto a cross.

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. . . . Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Lucas 23:44, 46

Jesus' Death on the Cross is called the Crucifixion. Jesus freely made a **sacrifice** of his life to save all people from their sin.

P Why do we call Jesus' dying on a cross "the sacrifice of the Cross"?

Activity

Look at the picture of Jesus praying in the garden. Tell Jesus how you feel about his sacrifice. Write your prayer to Jesus.

Catholics Believe

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed passes on to us the faith of the Apostles. In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Jesus descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven.



Reinforce

- ▶ Ask: What do we call the Death of Jesus on the Cross? (*the Crucifixion*)
- ▶ Ask volunteers to tell two things that Jesus said on the Cross. (*"Father, forgive them" and "Father, I now give myself to you."*)
- ▶ Ask the students why we call Jesus' dying on a cross "the sacrifice of the Cross." (*because he offered himself to God out of love*)
- ▶ Ask the class: What does the Paschal Mystery of Jesus tell us about God's love? (*It is the greatest expression of God's love for us.*)
- ▶ Point out the Catholics Believe feature about the Apostles' Creed.

Connect

- ▶ Ask the students to share times when it is hard to forgive. Why is it hard? Remind the class that Jesus forgave Judas, who betrayed him. He forgave the soldiers who beat him and nailed him to the Cross. Most of all, Jesus died so that we could be forgiven.
- ▶ Ask the class to look at the activity. Read the directions and ask if there are any questions. Give the students some quiet time write their prayers.
- ▶ Have the students make word cards for *sacrifice*.

Pray

Lead the class in praying the Glory Be quietly and reverently.

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Drama. The Last Supper was an important part of the Jewish feast of Passover. It was a celebration of God's saving actions in liberating the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Have the students act out these two scenes of "passing over" from death to life: Encourage the students to create drama using action, imagination, and feeling. Moses leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt and God allowing the people to pass through the waters of the Red Sea safely, while the Egyptian soldiers in pursuit drown.

Key Concept

God the Father raised Jesus from the dead to a new life.

Pray

Lead the class in praying the Glory Be.

Teach

- ▶ Ask the students to think of a family member, friend, or pet who has died. Ask them to recall the sadness they felt.
- ▶ Emphasize that Jesus' friends also felt very sad. They did not yet know that Jesus would not be gone forever.
- ▶ Proclaim the Scripture based on Matthew 27:59–60; 28:1, 5–7.
- ▶ Emphasize that Jesus shares with all of us the same new life that God the Father gave to him when he was raised from the dead.
- ▶ Ask the class to read Faith-Filled People. Who was Saint Joseph of Arimathea? What did he do after Jesus died?

Reinforce

In their books, have the students find and circle the name of the people who first discovered Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Connect

Point out the reflection question. Encourage the students to think beyond their first thought. Then ask each to tell a partner what they could do.

Faith Focus

Why does the Paschal Mystery of Jesus give us hope?

Faith Vocabulary

Paschal Mystery
The Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ is known as the Paschal Mystery.

Jesus Rises to New Life

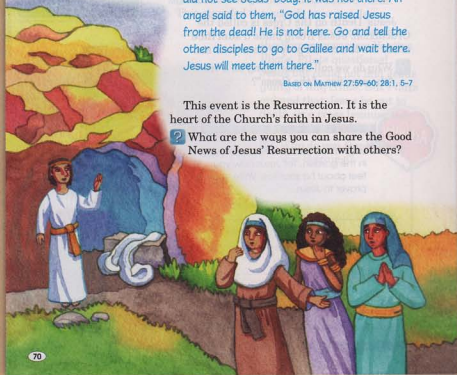
After Jesus died and was buried, his disciples thought they had lost him forever. Three days later, they heard some amazing news. They learned that Jesus was alive. He had risen from the dead. Here is what Matthew's Gospel describes:

Three days later, some women who were disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where the body of Jesus was placed. When the women arrived at the tomb and looked into it, they did not see Jesus' body. It was not there. An angel said to them, "God has raised Jesus from the dead! He is not here. Go and tell the other disciples to go to Galilee and wait there. Jesus will meet them there."

Based on Matthew 27:59–60; 28:1, 5–7

This event is the Resurrection. It is the heart of the Church's faith in Jesus.

- 2 What are the ways you can share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others?

**THE TASKS OF CATECHESIS**

Promoting Knowledge of the Faith. The story of Jesus' Death and Resurrection is a source of hope and consolation for all. Young children need to hear about the Risen Jesus walking and talking and spending time with his friends after his Resurrection. This will help them come to know that death is not the end of life, but rather it is the beginning of a new and better life—an eternal life of happiness with God and with all the Saints.

Jesus Returns to His Father

The Risen Jesus stayed with his disciples for forty days. During that time, he appeared to his disciples many times. When it was time for him to return to his Father in Heaven,

[Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

Luke 24:50-51

We call Jesus' return to his Father the Ascension. The word *ascension* means "a rising up."

The suffering or Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus is called the **Paschal Mystery**. The Paschal Mystery is Jesus' passing over from death to a new and glorified life.

Because of the Paschal Mystery, we hope in the promise of everlasting life. We can hope that after we die, we will live forever with God, the angels, Mary, and all the Saints in happiness with God.

- 2 How would you tell someone about Jesus' love for us?

Activity

Think about someone you care about who has moved away. What would it be like to see the person again? Write two sentences telling this person why you are so glad to see him or her.

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Faith-Filled People

Saint Joseph of Arimathea

Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus. After Jesus died, he asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph helped place Jesus' body in a newly made tomb in the side of a mountain. It was a tomb Joseph had made for himself.

Key Concept

The Paschal Mystery gives hope in the promise of everlasting life.

Teach

- ▶ Invite volunteers to read aloud Jesus Returns to His Father.
- ▶ Ask: What did Jesus do before he returned to his Father? (*He blessed the disciples and sent them to share the Good News with the whole world.*)
- ▶ Explain that the Paschal Mystery refers to Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension as one reality. It is through the Paschal Mystery that we can live with God forever.
- ▶ Point out that we can never fully understand the Paschal Mystery. At the same time, it fills us with wonder and awe.

Reinforce

- ▶ Ask the students to look at the meaning of the *Paschal Mystery* in Faith Vocabulary. Have the class read the definition aloud together.
- ▶ Ask the students to make words for *Paschal Mystery*.

Connect

Direct the students to the activity. Allow them to share their messages.

Pray

Re-read the adaptation of Luke 24:50–51 from the student page. Pause a second and have the students answer "Amen."

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE

Saint Joseph of Arimathea. The story of Joseph of Arimathea is told in all four Gospels (see Matthew 27: 57–60; Mark 15: 43; Luke 23: 50–54; and John 19: 38–42). The times were dangerous for followers of Jesus. Joseph of Arimathea teaches us that courage and faith go together. Faith helps us make decisions to live as God wants us to. The Holy Spirit's gift of courage can help us to stand up for what is right. Joseph of Arimathea was brave to speak up and identify himself as a disciple of Jesus.

Pray

Gather in your prayer area. Darken the room. In silence, light a candle. Pray silently.

Teach

- ▶ Introduce the lesson in your own words or read the first paragraph. Review the focus of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- ▶ Explain that Easter is the greatest celebration of the Church.
- ▶ Ask the students if they have attended the Easter Vigil. If so, invite them to share what they remember. Call on volunteers to read the second paragraph.
- ▶ Direct the students to the picture of the Paschal Candle. Suggest that they put a finger on each part as you describe it. Read the third paragraph.
- ▶ Ask the students to read the last paragraph on their own. Mention that you will be asking a question about what it says.

Reinforce

- ▶ Ask the students to re-tell the meaning of the Paschal Candle without referring to the text.
- ▶ Discuss the reflection question as a class.

Connect

Invite the students to share one reason why Easter is the most important celebration of the Church.

Faith Focus

Why do we light the Paschal candle at Easter?

The Paschal Candle

Each year the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. On Holy Saturday evening, we celebrate the Easter Vigil. The church is in darkness. The priest blesses a new fire outdoors. He then uses the fire to light a special candle. It is the Paschal candle.

It is a symbol of Jesus, the Light of the world. It represents the light of Christ. From it, we light candles throughout the church. Our celebration of Easter has begun.

The Paschal candle tells a story. There are five red grains of incense on the candle. They remind us of the five wounds of Jesus—on his hands, his feet, and in his side. The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything. The numbers for the year tell us that Jesus is with us now.

We light the Paschal candle and place it near the altar during the Easter season. The Church also lights the Paschal candle for Baptism because it brings people into the light of Christ.

- 2 When you see the Paschal candle, what will it mean to you in your life?



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CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTION

Visual Arts: Symbols of Faith, Hope, and Love. Invite the children to think about why we use symbols to represent religious truths. The traditional symbol for faith is the Cross of Jesus. Discuss why the cross is a good symbol for faith. (*Faith helps us stay strong in our belief in Jesus.*) The traditional symbol of hope is an anchor. Ask the students how an anchor is used. (*It keeps a boat from being moved away by waves.*) Discuss why the anchor is a good symbol of hope. (*Hope helps us trust that God will be with us always and especially in difficult times.*) The traditional symbol for charity, or love, is a heart. Encourage the students to consider why the heart is a good symbol for charity. (*Charity means loving God with our whole hearts and opening our hearts to others.*)

At our Baptism, we were made sharers in the Paschal Mystery. We live in hope that Jesus' promises will come true. We hope to live forever in everlasting happiness with God.

I Follow Jesus

Activity

A Banner of Hope

Design a banner with pictures or words that tell about the Paschal Mystery.

My Faith Choice

This week, I will share my belief in the Paschal Mystery, by showing that I am a person of hope. I will



Pray, "Dear Jesus, I place my hope in you. I know that you are always with me. Amen."

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Reinforce

Remind the class that we share in the Paschal Mystery by our Baptism. We live in the hope that one day we will live in everlasting happiness with God.

Respond

- ▶ Invite the students to think of words or pictures for the Stations of the Cross, Death, Resurrection, or Ascension of Jesus.
- ▶ Let the students write their words and ideas on the board.
- ▶ Have them each design A Banner of Hope with their images or words.

Choose

- ▶ Ask the students to decide how they will act as a person of hope and live their belief in the Paschal Mystery. Have them write their choices under My Faith Choice and encourage the students to act on them this week.
- ▶ Encourage the students to live as persons of hope this week.

Pray

Invite the students to pray an act of hope. Ask them to talk with God about their hope in his promise of everlasting life. If they need help, they can read the psalm on page 65.

TEACHING TIP

The Paschal Mystery. Eight- and nine-year-olds are making the transition from literal and concrete thinking to a rational way of thinking. However, literal thinking still dominates this age group. Hence, their understanding of abstract and symbolic concepts will be limited. At this age, the goal is for them to learn the story of faith. Eight- and nine-year-olds cannot be expected to understand all the layers of meaning in a mystery as profound as the Paschal Mystery. But they can certainly understand that because of this event, they will live forever with God.

Pray

Ask the students to quiet themselves for prayer. Pray the Glory Be together to begin class.

Recall

- ▶ Write the words *Ascension*, *Resurrection*, and *Crucifixion* on the board. Ask a volunteer to rearrange the words in their correct sequence, as on a time line. Ask other students to describe what happened in each event.
- ▶ After they have finished, ask volunteers to read the statements from To Help You Remember that tell about the Paschal Mystery.
- ▶ Complete the four fill-in-the-blank sentences together as a class.

Reflect

- ▶ Help the students by discussing together the gifts of the Paschal Mystery. (*Because Jesus died, our sins are forgiven; because Jesus rose from the dead, we can have new life in him; Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven gives us hope that we will one day live in Heaven with God and the Saints, and so on.*)
- ▶ Review the directions with the students, and give them time to write their reflections.

Share

Direct the class to find the Apostles' Creed in Catholic Prayers and Practices in the back of their books. (*Appropriate responses include: [Jesus] was crucified, died and was buried . . . on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven. [I believe in] the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.*)

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross to save all people from their sins.
2. Three days after Jesus died and was buried, Jesus rose from the dead.
3. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he ascended, or returned, to his Father in Heaven.

Chapter Review

Recall

Complete each sentence using the words below.

Crucifixion Ascension tomb Paschal Mystery

1. The Death of Jesus on the Cross is called the _____
Crucifixion.
2. The women disciples went to the _____ *tomb* and learned that Jesus was not there.
3. The _____ *Paschal Mystery* is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
4. Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven is called the _____
Ascension.

Reflect

In what special way could you show Jesus that you are grateful for his gift of the Paschal Mystery?

Share

Read the Apostles' Creed with a partner. Find the words that say we hope to share in Jesus' Resurrection. Share with your class the words that you choose.

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TEACHING TIP

Asking Good Questions.

- ▶ Ask one question at a time.
- ▶ Avoid yes-or-no questions unless the next question is, "Why do you say that?"
- ▶ Ask the question before you call on a student. This way all students are engaged in learning.
- ▶ After you pose a question, wait. A good question makes students think. After four or five seconds, which may seem like forever, move on and come back to the question later. Try not to provide the answer yourself.
- ▶ If a particular question is giving a student trouble, restate it, ask leading questions, or let the students consult with another.

Prayer of Adoration

In a prayer of adoration, we acknowledge that God shares his life and love with us, now and forever.

Leader We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All Because by your Holy Cross you have saved the world.

Leader Your sacrifice shows your great love for all people.

All You are the Savior of the world.

Leader Your Resurrection is the source of our hope.

All You are the Savior of the world.

Leader We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All Because by your Holy Cross you have saved the world. Amen.



We Pray

- ▶ Explain that today they will pray a prayer of adoration that is similar to a prayer we pray during the Stations of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read the explanation of a prayer of adoration.
- ▶ Practice the responses with the class. Remind them that these are similar to the response we say during the Station of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask the students to find the words *We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your Holy Cross you have saved the world* in the prayer and mark them with a highlighter or underline them. Tell them that during today's prayer, when these words are spoken, they are to genuflect.
- ▶ Remind the students how to genuflect—with one knee touching the floor. Have them practice this action prayer.
- ▶ When they are ready, lead the class in the Prayer of Adoration.

TEACHING TIP

Teaching the Stations of the Cross. The first part of the Prayer of Adoration contains the common response recited when praying the Stations of the Cross. Before praying the prayer, become a storyteller and briefly retell the class the stories of Jesus' public life, Death, and Resurrection. Use your knowledge of the Scriptures and the Stations of the Cross to tell the story. Let the power of God's Word speak to the students. Play a recording of the spiritual "Were You There?" as you tell the story. Then lead the class in the Prayer of Adoration.

Preview

- ▶ Have the students carefully tear out pages 75 and 76 along the perforation.
- ▶ Encourage the students to share these pages with their families, and to complete the activities together.
- ▶ If they did not complete the review activity on page 74 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete it with their families at home.
- ▶ Point out the title and theme of the next lesson to the students.

Visit BeMyDisciples.com

- ▶ Take time with the students to explore the many activities and resources available at the *Be My Disciples* Web site.
- ▶ Encourage them to join with their families to discover the many resources available at the Web site.

Before Moving On ...

As you finish today's lesson, reflect on the following question before moving on to the next chapter.

What have I learned about the different gifts and talents of the students?

With My Family

This Week ...

- In Chapter 6, "Jesus Is Risen" your child learned:
- ▶ The Paschal Mystery is the suffering or Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. It is the source of our hope of eternalizing life and happiness with God.
 - ▶ At Baptism, we are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.
 - ▶ Jesus suffered and died on the Cross and was raised from the dead to save all people from sin. Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus returned, or ascended, to his Father.
 - ▶ When we practice the virtue of hope, we place our trust in God.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 599-655, and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 89-100.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Luke 23:24-46 and Luke 24:1-12, Luke's accounts of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Or read the adaptation of the story on pages 68-70. Talk about why Jesus' dying on the Cross is called the sacrifice of the Cross. What does this say about Jesus' love for your family?

We Live as Disciples

The **Christian home** and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own.

- ▶ Next Sunday when you are at church for Mass, look for the Stations of the Cross. Visit the Stations one by one. Talk about the story each Station tells of Jesus' great love for us.

- ▶ Use a lighted candle as part of your family mealtime prayer. Talk about how the lighted candle is a sign that Jesus rose from the dead and is always with your family as he promised.

Our Spiritual Journey

The **life journey** of a Christian is a journey of sacrifice and hope. We make sacrifices because of our love for God and for each other. These sacrifices profess our hope that Jesus' promise of a life of eternal happiness will be ours. We profess our faith that at the moment of death, life is changed, not ended. Let your prayer on page 75 with your family on this week.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit BeMyDisciples.com

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

The Sacrifice Bowl. In an e-mail or note to parents, invite them to place a bowl in the middle of their kitchen table and to place blank slips of paper and a pen or pencil next to the bowl. In your note, ask parents to invite all family members to use the paper to write down the sacrifices they see other family members make throughout the coming week. Suggest that the family gather together at the end of the week to read what is written on each slip of paper. Encourage families to conclude their sharing about sacrifices with a simple prayer thanking God for the many sacrifices of love shown in the past week. Note: This activity builds on an idea in the We Live as Disciples section of the With My Family page.

Enriching the Lesson

Making Stations of the Cross Dioramas

Purpose

To reinforce the Stations of the Cross (taught on pages 66–67)

Directions

- ▶ Divide the class into groups of two. Assign each set of partners one of the Stations of the Cross. Invite the students to create a diorama, or scenic representation, of this Station.
- ▶ Have the students color a background for the figures in their Station on paper and glue it to the inside back of a shoe box.
- ▶ Provide them with a variety of materials from which to create figures, such as clay, pipe cleaners, and colored paper, to show the action of the Station.
- ▶ When the dioramas are completed, display them around the classroom for the students to enjoy.

Materials

construction paper and colored paper
shoe boxes
clay
pipe cleaners
crayons

Reenacting Events of the Paschal Mystery

Purpose

To reinforce the events in the life of Jesus (taught on pages 69–71)

Directions

- ▶ Divide the class into four groups and assign one of the major Gospel events in the chapter to each group, namely, the Last Supper (page 68), the Crucifixion (page 69), the Resurrection (page 70), and the Ascension (page 71).
- ▶ Ask each small group to prepare a pantomime of their event and perform it for the class.

Materials

none

Literature Connection

Purpose

To reinforce that Jesus sacrificed his life for us (taught on page 69)

Directions

- ▶ The book *If Jesus Came to My House* by Joan Gale Thomas (Harper Collins Publishers, 1976) brings home the message of Jesus to young and old alike.
- ▶ Read the class this wonderful book that has been read by many generations.
- ▶ Have the students work with partners to write reviews of the book that would encourage others to read it.

Materials

If Jesus Came to My House, by Joan Gale Thomas