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# UNIT 2 We Believe

## Part Two

### Objectives

In this unit, the children will learn that:

- ▶ The Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus is called the Paschal Mystery.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is always with us as our advocate, teacher, and guide.
- ▶ At Baptism, we become members of the Church, the holy People of God.
- ▶ The Church is the Communion of Saints and the Body of Christ.

### Spiritual Insights

“When we speak of the Paschal Mystery, we refer to Christ’s death and Resurrection as one inseparable event. It is a mystery because it is a visible sign of an invisible act of God. It is paschal because it is Christ’s passing through death into new life. For us it means that we can now die to sin and its domination of our lives, and we pass over into divine life already here on earth and more completely in heaven” (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, page 93).

“Remain in me, as I remain in you . . . I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:4-5).

### Living the Six Tasks of Catechesis

Liturgical Education:  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821)



Elizabeth was raised in a wealthy Episcopalian family in New York. The family read the Scriptures and prayed together often. Her parents also encouraged Elizabeth to participate in charitable activities.

Elizabeth fell in love with and married Will Seton when she was nineteen. They had five children together. Then Will contracted tuberculosis. He was unable to work and

his successful business failed. Family friends in Italy invited the Seton family to stay with them while William recovered. They also wanted to help Elizabeth with the responsibility of caring for her children.

Elizabeth was deeply moved by her friends’ Catholic faith. She began to visit Catholic churches to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. She had no doubt that Jesus was truly present in the consecrated bread and wine at Mass. Elizabeth also felt drawn to our Blessed Mother, especially after Will died. She knew that Mary had suffered the loss of her beloved son, Jesus. As she knelt before the tabernacle, praying to Jesus and his mother, Elizabeth felt the Lord calling her to join the Catholic Church.

A year later, back in America, she professed her faith as a Catholic although many friends and family turned their backs on her. She decided that the best way she could support herself and her children was to open a Catholic boarding school for girls. In this way, she could provide both faith and education for the girls.

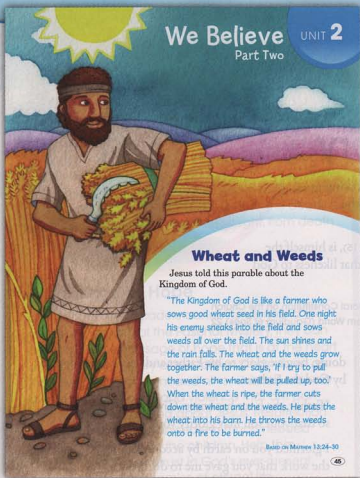
In time, Elizabeth formed a religious order for women called the American Sisters of Charity. With Elizabeth’s leadership, the nuns opened orphanages and schools for the poor. Mother Seton, as she became known, was one of the first to reach out to developmentally challenged children. Her nuns also worked in hospitals and homes for the elderly.

We honor Elizabeth Ann Seton as the first American-born saint. As catechists, we respond to the gift of Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Eucharist through our service to others, as Saint Elizabeth did.

### Sharing Your Faith

Find a partner to work with: a spouse, a friend, a fellow catechist. Come together at the beginning or end of each unit for shared prayer and discussion. Use the questions below as a starting point. As an alternative, record your thoughts in a personal journal.

- ▶ Why are the Cross and the Resurrection inseparable for us as Jesus’ disciples?
- ▶ Describe an experience of the Holy Spirit inspiring or encouraging you.
- ▶ How do you build up the Body of Christ, the Church?



### Wheat and Weeds

Jesus told this parable about the Kingdom of God.

"The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who sows good wheat seed in his field. One night his enemy sneaks into the field and sows weeds all over the field. The sun shines and the rain falls. The wheat and the weeds grow together. The farmer says, 'If I try to pull the weeds, the wheat will be pulled up, too!' When the wheat is ripe, the farmer cuts down the wheat and the weeds. He puts the wheat into his barn. He throws the weeds onto a fire to be burned."

Based on Matthew 13:24-30

## Unit 2 Opener

The Unit 2 opener pages assess the children's prior knowledge about the key faith concepts in the unit. Processing these pages should take no more than fifteen minutes.

### Opening Page

Invite the children to tell you what they see in the image on the page. Proclaim the Scripture story. Ask: "Why did the farmer not pull up the weeds the first time he noticed them?" Do not respond to their answers at this time.

### Getting Ready

This page continues the activation of prior knowledge. Do not correct the children's responses. You will invite them to return and correct themselves at the end of the unit.

- ▶ Invite the children to write their responses to the questions under What I Have Learned, Faith Words to Know, and Questions I Have.
- ▶ Tell them that you will return to their questions at the end of the unit and see what they have learned.
- ▶ Ask them to look at the next page and begin Chapter 5.

#### What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these two faith terms?

##### Paschal Mystery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

##### The Resurrection

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Faith Words to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know. Put a ? next to faith terms you need to learn more about.

##### Faith Words

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ Apostles                  | _____ Ascension           |
| _____ Fruits of the Holy Spirit | _____ Saints              |
| _____ Pentecost                 | _____ Communion of Saints |

#### Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Communion of Saints?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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 on 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?

## Catechist to Catechist

### The Heart of the Gospel

This week's lesson presents the heart of the Gospel message—the Paschal Mystery—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 a 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, children 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 children. Help the children 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 children grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus, the Savior and Redeemer. Encourage the children to read the Bible and talk about Jesus Christ with their family and friends.

### Further Reading and Reflection

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the mystery of Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 599–655. *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pp. 89–100.

### Catechist 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
<p><b>EXPLORE</b></p> <p><b>Focus</b> To explore the hope found in the Paschal Mystery</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <p>Pages 47–48</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Proclaim and discuss Psalm 33:22 (Lord, we hope in you).</li><li>▶ Read about the story of Veronica and Simon.</li></ul> <p><b>Disciple Power:</b> Hope</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>Pencils</p>
<p><b>DISCOVER</b></p> <p><b>Focus</b> To discover the Paschal Mystery as the suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ</p> <p>30 minutes</p> <p>Pages 49–51</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Identify Jesus' death on the cross as a sacrifice.</li><li>▶ Learn more about the Resurrection.</li></ul> <p><b>Activity:</b> Reflecting on greeting someone who has moved away and returned for a visit.<li>▶ Connect the Ascension to hope.</li></p>	<p>Index cards</p> <p>Pencils</p> <p>paper</p> <p><b>Additional Activities Booklet:</b> Activity 5a–5b, or see BeMyDisciples.com.</p>
<p><b>DECIDE</b></p> <p><b>Focus</b> To decide on a way to share the hope of the Paschal Mystery</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <p>Page 52</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Design a "Hope Banner"</li><li>▶ <b>My Faith Choice:</b> Decide how to share hope with another.</li></ul>	<p><b>Enriching the Lesson Activities:</b> Catechist Edition, page 107</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making Stations of the Cross Dioramas</li><li>• Reenacting Events of the Paschal Mystery</li><li>• Literature Connection</li></ul>

## Concluding the Lesson

10 minutes

### We Remember

Page 53

- ▶ Review concepts and do review activity.
- ▶ **Assessment Tools Booklet:** Chapter Test 5a–5b, or see BeMyDisciples.com.

### We Pray

- ▶ **Prayer:** a prayer of adoration
- Materials:** Bible, candle, cross for prayer center
- ▶ Grade 3 Music CD

### Preview

Point out resources for this chapter at

[www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)

- ▶ Preview the With My Family page and next week's lesson theme.

## Looking Ahead

In this chapter the Holy Spirit invites you to ►



**EXPLORE** how two people helped Jesus before he was crucified.



**DISCOVER** the meaning of the Paschal Mystery.



**DECIDE** 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.

*Lord, bless us with your kindness. We hope in you.*

BASED ON PSALM 33:22

- 2 Why can we place our hope in God?

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## LITURGY CONNECTION

**Memorial Acclamation.** In this chapter, the children 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 children to memorize several or all 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.

Roman Missal, Memorial Acclamations

## Pray

- Remind the children that Jesus is the Son God. Tell them that they will learn more about Jesus in this chapter.
- Invite the children to prayer by quieting them down. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.
- Recite one of the Memorial Acclamations from Mass shown below. Have the children repeat after you as their prayer.

## Reflect

- Ask the children 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 children 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 children 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 out loud to the children and talk with them about the 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 children of how Jesus carried his cross and tell them about the Stations of the Cross.
- ▶ Have volunteers take turns reading paragraphs about Veronica and Simon. Emphasize how Simon of Cyrene and Veronica helped Jesus.
- ▶ Invite them to look at the Stations in their own church and find Veronica and Simon at the Fifth and Sixth Stations.

## Reinforce

- ▶ Have the children look at the illustrations on the page. Ask the children 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 had.

## Connect

- ▶ Have the children act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask them to share if they might have helped Jesus on the Way of the cross.



### 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. You can find 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. Simon reached down, picked up the cross, and helped Jesus carry it. He had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Veronica and other women disciples of Jesus were there too. 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 them not to worry. Jesus' words to the women gave them hope.

#### Activity

With your classmates, act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross. Then share how you might have helped Jesus.



### 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 children 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 children suggest practical ways they can be signs of God's hope to those they named.



## The Paschal Mystery

Jesus' last meal with his disciples was the Passover meal. We call this meal the Last Supper.

After the meal ended, Jesus went to a garden near Jerusalem. There Judas, one of the Apostles, betrayed Jesus. He brought Jewish leaders and temple guards to Jesus. 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.

The soldiers mocked Jesus and placed a crown of thorny branches on his head. After the soldiers beat him, they led Jesus to a place called Golgotha. There they nailed him onto a cross. Before he died, Jesus said,

"Father, forgive them." At about three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus said in a loud voice, "Father, I now give myself to you."

BASED ON LUKE 23:26, 33-34, 44, 46

Jesus' death on the cross is called the Crucifixion. Jesus freely made a **sacrifice** of his life out of love to save all people from their sin.

- 2 Why do we call Jesus' dying on a cross "the Sacrifice of the Cross"?

### Faith Focus

What does the Paschal Mystery of Jesus tell us about God's love?

### Faith Vocabulary

#### sacrifice

To give to God out of love something that we value

#### Paschal Mystery

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



### Key Concept

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

## Teach

- ▶ Read the Faith Focus question aloud to the children. Then point out *Paschal Mystery* in the Faith Vocabulary section.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to read aloud the text on the page to find out what happened to Jesus on the day he died.
- ▶ Ask: "What do we call the death of Jesus on the cross?" (*Crucifixion*)
- ▶ 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.

## Reinforce

- ▶ Ask volunteers to tell two things that Jesus said on the cross.
- ▶ Ask the children why we call Jesus' dying on a cross "the Sacrifice of the Cross." (*Because he offered himself to God out of love.*)
- ▶ Have them make a word card for the word *sacrifice*.

## 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 (see NDC 29A). Bring to class a variety of crosses or illustrations of different types of crosses to show the children 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 children 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 it often and remember Jesus' love for them.

## Connect

Ask the children to share times when it is hard to forgive. Why is it hard? Remind the children that Jesus died so that we could be forgiven.

**Key Concept**

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

**Teach**

- ▶ Ask the children 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; 28:1–7.
- ▶ 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 children to read Faith-Filled People silently to learn about Joseph of Arimathea. Ask volunteers to share what they learned.

**Reinforce**

Ask a volunteer to re-read the Gospel story aloud. Invite all to respond, "This is the heart of our faith in Jesus."

**Connect**

- ▶ Ask the children to complete the activity.
- ▶ Help them think about someone they care about who has moved away. Tell them to write a letter about why they are so glad to see them.

**Faith-Filled People****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.

**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 called the Resurrection. It is the heart of the Church's faith in Jesus.

**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**

**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 one to stand up for what is right. Joseph of Arimathea was brave to speak up and identify himself as a disciple of Jesus.

## 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 blessed his disciples and sent them to share the Good News with the whole world. Then the Risen Jesus returned to Heaven.*

Based on Luke 24:50-51

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

The Suffering, 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.

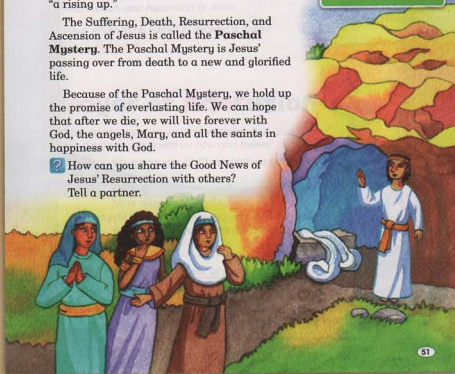
Because of the Paschal Mystery, we hold up the promise of everlasting life. We can hope that after we die, we will live forever with God, the angels, Mary, and all the saints in happiness with God.

- 2 How can you share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others? Tell a partner.

## 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.



## Key Concept

The Paschal Mystery offers us 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.*)
- ▶ Reinforce that we call Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension the Paschal Mystery.

## Reinforce

- ▶ Ask the children to read aloud the definition of the faith word *Paschal Mystery* in Faith Vocabulary on page 49.
- ▶ Have them find these words in the text, underline them, and make a word card for this term.

## Connect

Ask the children to name ways they 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.

## Reinforce

Remind the children that we are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery at our Baptism. We live in the hope that one day we will live in everlasting happiness with God.

## Respond

- ▶ Invite the children to think of words or pictures for the events that are part of the Paschal Mystery.
- ▶ Have them design a banner of hope with these images or words.

## Choose

- ▶ Ask the children to decide how they will act as a person of hope and live their belief in the Paschal Mystery.
- ▶ Have them write their idea under My Faith Choice and encourage them to act on it this week.
- ▶ Invite the children to pray words of hope silently. Ask them to talk with God about their hope in his promise of everlasting life.
- ▶ Encourage the children to live as a person of hope this week.

## Connect

- ▶ Ask the children to complete the activity.
- ▶ Help them think about someone they care about who has moved away. Tell them to write a letter about why they are so glad to see them.

## I Follow Jesus

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.

### 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

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

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## TEACHING TIP

**The Paschal Mystery.** Eight- and nine-year-olds are making the transition from literal and concrete thinking to a rational and abstract 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.

## Chapter Review

Complete each statement using the terms below.

**Crucifixion Ascension tomb Paschal Mystery**

- The death of Jesus on the cross is called the Crucifixion.
- The women disciples went to the tomb and learned that Jesus was not there.
- The Paschal Mystery is the Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
- Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven is called the Ascension.

### TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

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

## 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 praise you.

**All** Because of 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.



## We Remember

- 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 children to describe what happened in each event.
- Introduce the Chapter Review and have the children complete it.
- After they are done, ask volunteers to read the statement from the To Help You Remember section to reinforce what they learned.

## We Pray

- Gather with the children for prayer and explain that today they will pray a prayer of adoration that is part of the Stations of the Cross.
- Practice the responses with the children. When they are ready, lead them in this 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 children 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 children. Play a recording of the spiritual "Were You There?" as you tell the story. Then lead the children in the Prayer of Adoration.

## Preview

- ▶ Have the children carefully tear out pages 53 and 54 along the perforation.
- ▶ Encourage the children to share the pages with their families and to do the activities together.
- ▶ If they did not complete the Chapter Review on page 53 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete it with their families at home.
- ▶ Point out to the children the title and theme of next week's chapter.

Visit [www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)

- ▶ Share with the children the many activities on the *Be My Disciples* Web site.
- ▶ Encourage the children to visit [www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com).

## 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 children?*

## With My Family

### This Week...

In chapter 5, "Jesus is Risen," your child learned:

- ▶ The Paschal Mystery is the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. It is the source of our hope of everlasting 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.
- For more about related teachings of the Church, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 599-605, 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 on pages 49 and 50. Talk about why this is called the Sacrifice of the Cross. What does this say about his 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 time 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. Pray the prayer on page 53 together this week.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit [www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.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 sheet 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 Way of the Cross (taught on page 49)

### Directions

- ▶ Divide the children into groups of two. Assign each set of partners one of the Stations of the Cross. Invite the children to create a diorama, or scenic representation, of this station.
- ▶ Have the children 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 children 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 49–50)

### 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, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension.
- ▶ 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 50)

### 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 children this wonderful book that has been read by many generations.
- ▶ Have the children 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