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## 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

## 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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apostles                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ascension           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits of the Holy Spirit | <input type="checkbox"/> Saints              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pentecost                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Communion of Saints |

## Questions I Have

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Looking Ahead

In this chapter the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



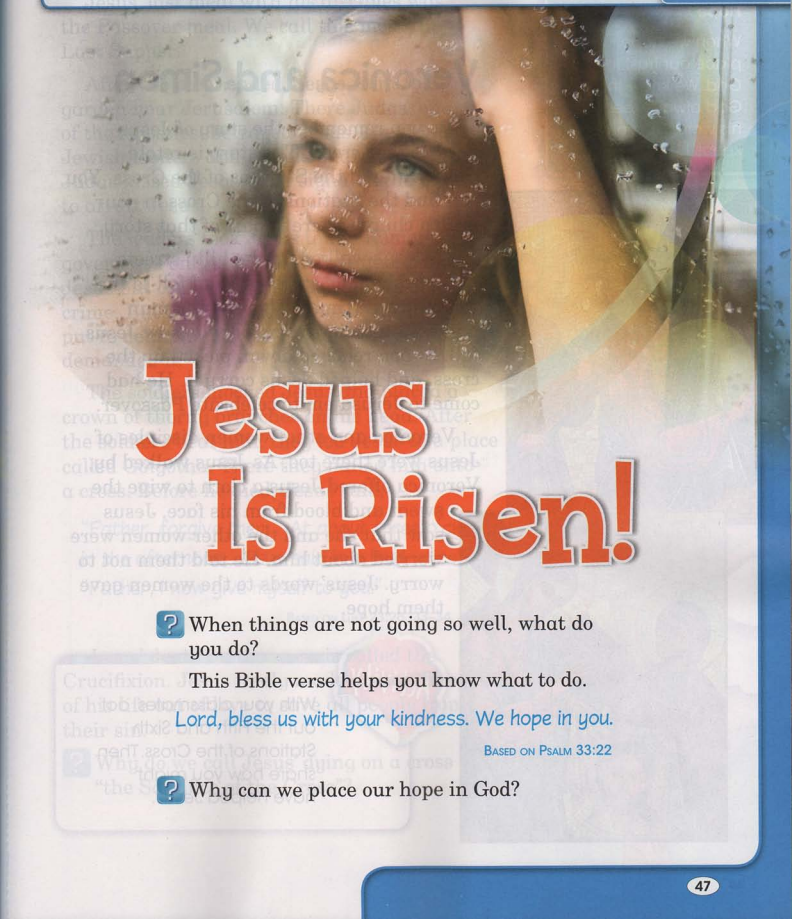
**EXPLORE** how two people helped Jesus before he was crucified.



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



**DECIDE** to live as a person of hope.



# Jesus Is Risen!

**?** 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

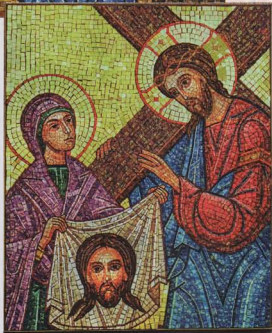
**?** Why can we place our hope in God?



## 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.



## 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.

# 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.

**?** 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.







## 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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## 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.

**?** 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.



# 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."

## Chapter Review

Complete each statement using the terms below.

Crucifixion Ascension tomb Paschal Mystery

1. The death of Jesus on the cross is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The women disciples went to the \_\_\_\_\_ and learned that Jesus was not there.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
4. Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 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.

## 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 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.**



# 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*, 599–655, 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 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)