

The Paschal Mystery

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 139, the Family + Faith page.

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Jesus offered the greatest sacrifice: he gave his life to save us from sin so we could have new life with God in Heaven
- Recall that the Resurrection is the event of Jesus being raised from Death to new life
- Define the Paschal Mystery as the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Examine how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in each of the Seven Sacraments

Parents, Consider This: *The Paschal Mystery is the suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. These four events together comprise the mystery of faith and give us hope that we, too, will rise from death to life. In the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, God has transformed defeat and death into victory and life. This is not an easy concept for a child to grasp. We are formed over time into an understanding. Point out, in the dark times anyone in your family experiences, that the Paschal Mystery of Christianity celebrates God's power to bring hope from despair, life from death, and saves us from our sin.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord
- Savior of the World

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 131, The Paschal Mystery

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that on the night before he died, Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples.

Say: Jesus wanted the Twelve to understand that, when you love someone, you are willing to sacrifice for them.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: On Good Friday, Jesus died on the Cross. He gave up his life because he loved his Father, and he loved us. He wanted to give us back what we had lost because of sin. Every time we receive a Sacrament, especially the Eucharist, Jesus offers his love to us again.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Jesus' love and life.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 132,
Being True to Our Promises

Read aloud the Catholic Faith Word definition for **sacrifice**.

Read the intro question and invite your child to respond. Then read aloud the first paragraph and the section on Lindsey's Promise.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 133,
Sacrifices Show Love

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask: What did Jesus sacrifice mean for the world? (*Because of Jesus' sacrifice, all people can have new life with God in Heaven.*)

Activity

Ask your child when they have made a sacrifice for someone? How did your sacrifice show love? Have your child write his or her answer in the Share Your Faith box. Share a time when you made a sacrifice for someone.

Parents, Consider This: Although children often make sacrifices, they may be unfamiliar with the term. Build the word, sacrifice, into your child's vocabulary by using it in everyday situations. Thank someone if they make a sacrifice, no matter how small. Take notice of sacrifices people make in daily life situations, such as a family member who helps another. Notice, for example, someone clearing the plates from the table to the sink after dinner without being asked, or an older child being generous with a younger child. Affirm these sacrifices.

Turn to Page 134,
Jesus Resurrection

Read the definition for **Resurrection** in the Catholic Faith Word box.

Read aloud the question and tell your child that the meaning of the Paschal Mystery will be explained in this lesson. Then read the first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story "The Appearance to Mary Magdalene."



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 135,
Christ's Saving Work

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Read the definitions for the words **Ascension** and **Paschal Mystery** in the Catholic Faith Word's box.

On a separate piece of paper, have your child make a cross. In each quadrant of the cross, have your child name one of the four events in Jesus life that make up the Paschal Mystery. (suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 136,
Our Catholic Life

Read the question and the paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: In a world where immediate gratification is the norm, it may take some effort to help your child come to value self-sacrifice and to embrace sacrifice as a way of life. However, learning about the life of Jesus, surrounding ourselves with other faithful Christians, especially in a parish community, and being open to ways to serve others will lead us to grow in our ability to follow Jesus' example and "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

Turn to Page 137,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Magdalene.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways you can be a follower of Jesus the way Mary Magdalene was.

Turn to Page 139,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.