



Scripture Background

In Sunday's Gospel, the Risen Jesus appears to his friends on Easter evening with a message of peace and forgiveness. They have spent the day in fear and confusion and at first they think he is a ghost. It's a sign of Jesus' great tenderness for his friends when he wishes them peace. Jesus eats food and lets them touch him, which helps them believe he is really there. We, too, believe in Jesus' Real Presence; that he is really with us in Holy Communion. This lesson includes a story about a pet who has died. You can ease into the lesson by sharing memories of pets and loved ones who have died. You may also want to share your belief in the Real Presence, and the comfort it brings you.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Jesus, help us listen well to the stories about you. Thank you for the many ways you are with us. Amen. Alleluia!"
- Cover Activity • Jesus Is with Us (page 1)** Look at the cover with your child. Read the title aloud, followed by the question at the bottom of the page. *Signs of Jesus being present among us at Mass include: The bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood; the Gospel tells his story; the cross shows Jesus' love; the Easter candle celebrates his Resurrection, the tabernacle holds the consecrated hosts from an earlier Mass; the light by the tabernacle tells us that the Body of Christ (in the form of consecrated hosts) is present in the tabernacle; the baptismal font is where we all become Christians; the priest will say the words Jesus said at the Last Supper; the people gathered are Jesus' Body today; the money gifts are ways to support the good works of the parish and the larger Church; the people are showing care for one another.*
- Story • Remembering Buddy (page 2)** If you have recently lost a family pet, you may wish to read the story ahead of time to prepare. When you are ready, settle comfortably with your child and read aloud the story. Invite your child to share memories of a favorite pet if you have or have had one. Take as much time as your child needs to talk about this.
- Discuss the Know question related to the story.** You may wish to help your child think about and answer the question by sharing a story yourself. There's no need to force this, however. You can also make the connection with how the Gospels tell Jesus' story.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Lives! (page 3)** Turn your child's attention to the picture on page 3, read the Gospel title, and ask: Who is in the picture? What is happening? *Jesus, with the marks of the nails in his hands and feet, is trying to persuade his surprised friends that he is alive again. A child is offering him a fish to eat.* Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts together.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** 1. *He invites them to touch him. He shows them his wounds. He eats food.* 2. *Tell the Good News to others, be his witnesses.* Ask: What Good News about Jesus can you tell others?
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "We Believe" together. Refer back to the story about Buddy. Explain that telling stories about Buddy helped Jason feel as if Buddy was still with him, but the memories didn't bring Buddy back to life. It's different with Jesus' Real Presence. He *really is* with us! There's no example from human experience that



gets anywhere close to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

- Catholic Faith Word • Real Presence (page 3)** Read together the definition of *Real Presence* on page 3.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 14 and read aloud the section about Amen. Say some statements aloud and invite your child to say *Amen* after each one your child believes to be true. Examples: Jesus is the Son of God (T), Jesus died on Ash Wednesday (F). Come up with other statements. You might invite your child to add some statements as well.

Have your child to turn to page 57. Point out the wedge for the Easter season and invite your child to read about it. Just as we celebrate Christmas for a period of weeks, we do the same for Easter. Easter is our most important celebration, so we take seven weeks to celebrate it. Have your child color this area of the calendar.

Turn back to page 19 and read the paragraph about the Easter Season. Explain that even when the Easter season is over, we continue to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection every Sunday. Every Sunday is a little Easter.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Amen Puzzle (page 4)** Help your child with this activity if needed. **Solution:** Row 1: NAME, Row 2: EMAN, Row 3: AENM, Row 4: MNEA.
- Activity • We Believe, Receive, and Share (page 4)** **Ask:** What is the name of the sacrament Jesus gave us at the Last Supper? *Eucharist, also Holy Orders.* **Ask:** What happens to the bread and wine at Mass? *They become Jesus' Body and Blood. They are given to the community to nourish our faith and help us grow closer to Jesus.* **Ask:** When we leave the Mass after receiving Holy Communion, what are we sent out to do? *Be the Body of Christ in the world, love others as Jesus loves us, share the Good News of Jesus, share what we believe.*

Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child cut out the pictures first, then place them in the boxes on the page. Caution your child to make sure all the pictures are in the correct boxes before gluing them down.

- Closing Prayer** Have your child follow the arrows as you both read the words of the We Believe, Receive, and Share activity on page 4. This will be your prayer. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture