



Sunday Gospel Background

Alleluia! He is risen! Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. But on the third day, he was raised again. He appears to his disciples. Thomas doubts Jesus' Resurrection until he sees and touches Jesus' wounds. The Resurrection of Jesus is the most important truth of the Catholic faith. Jesus' Death and Resurrection opened the gates of Heaven for us. He promises his followers the joy of Heaven. Find ways to celebrate this joy throughout these 50 days of Easter. For instance, you might greet your child every morning by saying "Happy Easter!"—all the way to Pentecost.

Editor's Note: This week's *Good News* is for two Sundays. You can do both lessons at once, or spread them out; focusing on the Easter Sunday Gospel first, followed by the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear God, thank you for raising Jesus up and for filling us with new life. Amen. Alleluia!"
- Activity • Signs of Easter** Talk together about signs that Easter is here. *Easter cards, flowers in church, Easter clothes, eggs, baskets, Easter Mass, spring weather.* Summarize by saying that Easter is a time of really special joy because Jesus' Father raised him from the dead. As baptized followers of Jesus, we have his new life in us too.
- Story • Lost and Found Treasure (page 2)** Invite your child to look at the picture of the two boys on the left of page 2. **Ask:** What are they doing? *Using metal detectors to find metal objects on or in the ground.* Read the story together.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the story.** 1-2. *Open-ended.* 3. *Timothy, how much they care about one another.*
- Activity • Nature Walk or Stretch and Pretend** If possible, take your child outdoors to observe all the new life in nature. Or lead your child in pretending to be animals and plants, using movements to answer your questions:
 - Can you swim like a fish?
 - Can you stretch like a giraffe?
 - Can you slither like a snake?
 - Can you jump like a kangaroo?
 - Can you grow like a grain of wheat?
 - Can you fly like a butterfly?
 - Can you open slowly like a flower?
 - Can you walk like an elephant?
 - Can you pounce like a tiger?
 - Can you walk on soft little feet like a kitten?

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel, Part 1 • Jesus Is Raised to New Life (page 1)** Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus' Resurrection by sharing the reading parts aloud. (Note that it is Mary Magdalene who is the first witness to Jesus' Resurrection in all four Gospels.) **Ask:** Why did God raise Jesus from the dead? *God wants Jesus' followers, which include all of us, to know that death is not the end of everything. When we die, God brings us to a new, happy life. We know this is true because it happened to Jesus and Jesus told us it would happen to us too.*
- Activity • Gospel Drama** Direct your child in acting out the Easter Sunday Gospel. Read the part of Narrator aloud and invite your child to perform the actions of Jesus, Mary, Peter, and John.



- **Sunday Gospel, Part 2 • Jesus Brings Peace (page 3)** Proclaim this Gospel by sharing the reading parts. **Ask:** Why did Jesus say “Peace be with you” to his scared friends? *Jesus wanted them to know that they could trust in God.* Peace comes from believing that even though hard things happen, God will be with us and help us through them. **Ask:** Why didn’t Jesus scold Thomas for not believing he had risen from the dead? *Jesus knows that his Resurrection was something very unusual and special. Sometimes it’s hard to believe that he is with us because we can’t see him.*
- **Activity • Gospel Drama** Direct your child in acting out the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Easter as you did before. Read the parts and invite your child to perform the actions of Jesus, John, and Thomas. When you’ve finished, invite your child to color the *Alleluia* on the cover.
- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read “Easter Brings Us Joy.” Help your child see that Jesus’ Death led to new life not only for him, but also for us. Through Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, his followers are promised life in Heaven.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Alleluia (page 4)** Read aloud the definition of *Alleluia* on page 4. Remind your child that we didn’t say or sing it during Lent. Now that it is Easter, we use it to praise God for the joy and gift of Easter.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 11 and read aloud the paragraph under the heading that starts “On the third day.” This part of the Apostles’ Creed is about Easter. Look at the picture of an empty tomb together. This is not Jesus’ tomb, but it is similar to what Jesus’ tomb may have looked like. Point out that the last part of the paragraph tells what happened after Jesus’ Resurrection until he ascended to Heaven (the Ascension) forty days after Easter Sunday. Turn to page 19 and read aloud the first paragraph under “Easter.” Read with emphasis to help your child understand why Easter is our most important holy day. Then have your child read aloud the paragraph about Easter eggs. If you want, draw an outline of a large Easter egg on a sheet of paper and have your child decorate it with a drawing of Jesus’ Resurrection on Easter morning.

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

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Easter Egg Letter Hunt (page 4)** Give your child time to complete the activity. **Answer:** *Resurrection.*
- **Closing Prayer** Take turns sharing names of people you and your child wish to pray for. After each petition, lead your child in saying “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Finish by having your child repeat each line of the following prayer after you:

Thank you, God, for signs of Easter. Thank you, God, for raising Jesus to new life. Thank you, God, for the promise of life with you in Heaven. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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