

Sunday Gospel Background

Alleluia! He is risen! Easter shows the power of Jesus' self-giving love. Jesus defeats death and promises that all who believe in him will live forever with God. This Easter lesson builds on children's appreciation of the beauty in nature and leads your child to praise God for a world of new life. Take time this week to celebrate the many spring signs of new life around you and help your family live in the mystery of Jesus' new and eternal life.

Editor's Note: This week's *Seeds* is for two Sundays. You can do both lessons at once, or spread them out over two weeks.

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 too. Amen. Alleluia."
- Activity • Alleluia!** **Ask:** If we are at a ballgame and our team scores, what do we yell? *Hooray! Yay! Way to go!* Explain that shouting out a word is a way of celebrating the team's success. Print or say *Alleluia* and invite your child to repeat it after you. Explain that *Alleluia* is a happy, joyful word that means "praise God."

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

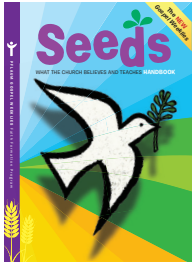
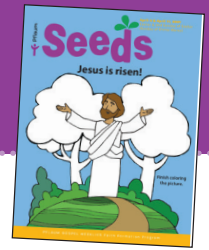
- Sunday Gospel • Jesus is risen! (page 1)** **Note:** *We have added John's Gospel story of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene since it follows the Easter Gospel.* Look at the cover of *Seeds* together and **ask:** What do you see? How does it make you feel? Before proclaiming the Gospel, explain that God sent Jesus to help people and show them how much God loves them. Jesus made many friends. But some people thought Jesus made himself too much like God. They thought Jesus was dangerous. Jesus' enemies put him to death one Friday afternoon. Some of his friends buried him in a cave tomb and then went away.

Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. The stone at the entrance of the tomb had been moved. The tomb was empty! Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends. Peter and John ran to the tomb. It was empty. The piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head was rolled up. John saw and believed. Then Peter and John went back to Jerusalem.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. Then she turned around and saw a man she thought was the gardener. But the man knew her name. "Mary!" the man said. "Teacher," said Mary. The man was Jesus! He told Mary to tell all his friends that he had risen from the dead. Mary Magdalene ran to Jerusalem to tell the Good News.

Have your child look at the cover again. Review the story, if you think your child needs to hear it again. Invite your child to color the rest of the cover illustration.

- Activity • Jesus is risen! (pages 1-2)** Read the words on page 2, pointing to them with your finger so your child can catch on to the rebus. Show how to cut across the top of the illustration on page 2. Follow the diagrams to fold the tomb over Jesus and Mary. When your child has finished folding, place the activity on a desk or table. Have your child unfold it to reveal the Risen Jesus as you repeat the Easter proclamation: *On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb. But Jesus is not there. He is risen. Alleluia!*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to pages 26–27.** Have your child use a brown crayon to draw a circle around Saint Joseph. (To identify him, you might ask your child to recall what Saint Joseph did to earn money to support Jesus and Mary.) Then invite your child to draw a blue circle around a child saying night prayers. **Ask:** Which prayers have you learned this year? Have your child draw a black circle around the holy book of our church family. **Ask:** What do we call this book? Finally, have your child draw a heart around Jesus. **Ask:** Can you share one thing you've learned about Jesus this year?

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

- **Word of the Week • creed (page 4)** Say the word *creed*. Explain that all the things your child circled in the previous activity are things that Catholics believe. Share this definition: *A **creed** is a prayer that tells what members of the Church believe.* During Sunday Mass, we pray the Creed to say what we believe as Catholics.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Happy Easter (page 3)** Explain that the reason we color eggs at Easter is to remind us of Jesus' Resurrection. Just as new life is hidden inside an egg, so was Jesus hidden inside the tomb after he died. Then God called him to new life. The hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed tomb of Christ. When we crack an egg, it symbolizes Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Invite your child to look at the Easter basket and the eggs on page 3. Help your child cut off the strip of eggs and turn the strip over to see the eggs on that side too. **Ask:** What pictures are on the eggs? Why are these symbols of Easter? Invite your child to color the words *Happy Easter* on the basket and then cut around the eggs. Then have your child glue the eggs in the basket.
- **Activity • Signs of Spring (page 4)** Take turns naming signs of spring and invite your child to pantomime each one. Examples: baby birds trying to fly; flowers growing from seeds; sun rising to warm the Earth; baby rabbits hopping; butterflies flying; chicks hatching, then peeping and scratching for food; baby lambs baaing for their mothers. Together, look at page 4 of *Seeds*. Read the title. Have your child use a crayon to put an X on each hidden sign of spring. Explain that a lamb is another symbol of Jesus. He is often referred to in the Bible as the Lamb of God.
- **Closing Prayer** Sit together with the tomb cutout covering the image of the Risen Jesus. As you say the prayer below, have your child open up the tomb, one fold at a time:

Thank you, God, for Easter eggs. Thank you, God, for signs of spring. Thank you, God, for raising Jesus to new life. Thank you, God, for making each of us alive. 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