

## Sunday Gospel Background

Alleluia! He is risen! This is the central point of our faith. Without it, there is no Christianity. Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. But on the third day, he was raised again and he lives on. Mary Magdalene and the Apostles (except Thomas) saw Jesus alive on that first Easter. We sometimes want proof, like Thomas did, but Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). We must pray that our faith in the Resurrection is always strong.

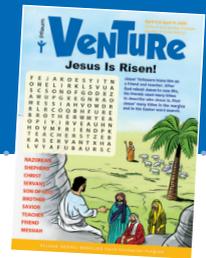
## Share Experiences

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

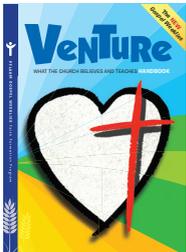
- Pray together** Share something you are especially grateful for this Easter and invite your child to do the same. Say a brief prayer of thanks for these blessings.
- Cover Activity • Jesus Is Risen! (page 1)** See reverse side page TG4-7 for Word Search answers. After completing the word search, ask if your child can think of additional titles of Jesus. (*Lord, Prince of Peace, Lamb of God, Bread of Life, Light of the World, etc.*)
- Article • Three Easter Christians (pages 2-3)** Share stories of your child’s baptism or other family baptisms. Then read the story aloud together, switching readers at each paragraph.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. 2. Most parishes schedule baptisms for the Easter Vigil because it is the night of Jesus’ rising from the tomb. Being immersed in the waters of the font and rising to new life makes new followers of Jesus. 3. Point out that the children received all three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Initiation means becoming a full member of a group. Older children and adults usually receive all three sacraments at their baptisms.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is Risen! (pages 2-3)** This long Gospel is actually three stories: the Easter morning Gospel, the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy), and the reading about Mary Magdalene that John includes between them. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the various parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 5.** *Answers: 1. They see the stone has been moved away, that the tomb is empty, and the wrappings used to cover Jesus’ body are there but Jesus is not. They think someone has taken Jesus. 2. He feels anxious and eager to see the tomb and interested and concerned at what he saw there. He believes immediately because he has great faith. 3. Mary is an eager, ready believer; she believes in Jesus and recognizes him when she hears him call her name. 4. They fear those who crucified Jesus and are ashamed that they left him. Jesus sends them to tell everyone that God has raised him up and to bring peace and forgiveness to people. 5. Thomas wants to see Jesus before he believes. He believes when he touches Jesus’ wounds.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus’ Resurrection Gives Us Joy (page 5)** Read aloud this feature as a summary of Sunday’s Gospel concept of Jesus’ giving us new life through his Resurrection.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 5.** *These are all open-ended discussion questions. Lent is a preparatory season—a time for us to grow and change. Remind your child that Lent is not the only time we can grow closer to God through prayers and thoughtful practices. We don’t have to abandon the Lenten commitments we’ve made either.*



- **Catholic Faith Word • Resurrection (page 4)** Read aloud this definition to emphasize this foundational belief—we believe that Jesus rose from the dead for our salvation. Alleluia!



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 29. Read aloud the first two paragraphs together. Remind your child that lay people don't take religious vows, but answer the call to use their gifts in service of others. Read the third paragraph. **Ask:** How do you try to model your life after Jesus' life? Be as specific as you can. **Possible responses:** *I offer mercy and forgiveness to others. I show love and compassion to people who are outsiders.*

Read the remaining three paragraphs about grace, the sacraments, free will, and sin.

**Ask:** What does grace help us accomplish? Why do you think that God gave us free will? Wouldn't it have been easier for us to just follow his commandments? (These are challenging questions, so help your child think about them and affirm responses.) Remind your child of the good progress he or she has made by saying yes to God through this year's Lenten commitments. Encourage your child to continue these practices throughout the Easter season and beyond.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture pages 6-7.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Scavenger Hunt for Faith (pages 6-7)** Read aloud the directions at the top of pages 6–7. If your parish church is not open or you are unable to go, search online for images of Catholic churches to help your child find and identify the places and objects on page 6. Search the titles on page 7. Be sure to include the word “Catholic” in your search. For example, you might search “Catholic usher Mass” or “Catholics feed hungry.”
- **Closing Prayer • O Sons and Daughters (page 8)** This Easter song tells the entire Resurrection Gospel in its eight verses. Give your child time to color the frame. Then take turns reading each verse. If you know the hymn or you can read music, sing the song together as a prayerful way to conclude this lesson.

### Word Search Answers:

F E J A K O E S Y I T N  
O M E L I R K L S V U A  
S C S O N O F G O D X Z  
A W U P G X E G N R A O  
M E S S I A H V O W D R  
R L R C O Q B H F U R E  
B R O T H E R W M Y E A  
O P I Y I R V E A U H N  
H O V M F R I E N D P K  
T E A C H E R S T Z E B  
K A S E R V A N T X H A  
L V Y A F U B A U R S C



## Parent Resources

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