

Scripture 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 rose 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.

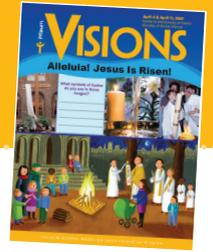
Share Experiences

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

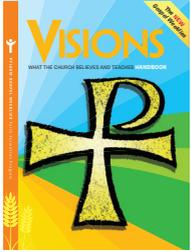
- Pray together** “Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.” (Repeat this acclamation prayer a few times together.)
- Cover Activity • Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen** Have your child complete the activity. *Easter symbols include: water, lilies, candle, Baptism, fire, and the empty cross.*
- Story • Miles To Go (pages 2–3)** Invite your child to predict what the story will be about based on the header and photos. Then have your child read the story silently.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Daniel is running to raise money for Alzheimer’s disease research. He gives up a camping trip with friends so he can train for the run. 2. Daniel’s grandpa taught Daniel how to set up a tent, how to swim and dive, took him to ball games, and spent quality time with him. 3. Daniel is a good grandson because he recognizes all the wonderful things his grandfather has done for him. Daniel remembers and runs the race out of gratitude. 4–5. Open-ended.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is Risen (pages 4–5)** This long Gospel is actually three Gospels: the Easter morning Gospel, the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy), and the Gospel about Mary Magdalene that comes between them. Proclaim the Gospel by assigning the parts to you, your child, and any additional family members, if available. You may wish to read it over the course of a few days, stopping at each boxed Scripture citation, and picking it up again the following day.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. They see the stone has been moved away, that the tomb is empty, the wrappings used to cover Jesus’ body are on the ground, and the cloth for Jesus’ head is rolled up by itself. They think someone has taken Jesus. 2. He believes immediately because he has great faith. 3. He feels anxious and afraid, yet eager to see the tomb. Peter goes inside the tomb but comes to no conclusion. Perhaps his regret over denying Jesus during his Passion keeps him from focusing on what might be happening—Jesus is Risen. 4. She recognizes him when he calls her by name. 5. Thomas wants to see Jesus before he believes. He believes when he touches Jesus’ wounds.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Gives Us Joy (page 5)** Read aloud as a summary of Sunday’s Gospel message.
- Turn to the Talk questions on page 5.** *Answers: 1. We believe by reading Scripture, participating in Mass regularly, and sharing the Good News with others. Sacred Tradition transmits the message of the Gospel in the Church from the preaching of the Apostles to the present day. We hear the Word as the earliest believers did. 2. Open-ended; emphasize that the presence of Jesus may be felt anywhere and anytime.*



□ **Catholic Faith Word • Resurrection (page 5)** Read aloud the definition together.



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 11. Read the two paragraphs in Section 12 (Jesus' Mission) aloud. **Ask:** What was Jesus' mission on earth? *To reveal God's love and to ensure our salvation.*

Turn to page 29. This is an introduction to the *Follow Jesus* section of the handbook that highlights the history of our ancestors in faith. Before you read, you may wish to have your child flip through pages 30–36. Many of the topics in this section will probably be familiar to your child. Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on page 29. Pause at the end of each for comments and questions.

Ask: What does Jesus' Resurrection mean for you? If your child hesitates, it's fine to reference the text on page 29; the goal is to help your child begin to articulate some of these truths.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Visions page 5.

Live the Gospel

□ **We Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and New Life (pages 6–7)** If your family has participated in the Easter Vigil, talk about the experience together. Ask what your child remembers and what was special. Read aloud paragraphs one and two on page 6. A vigil is a time of waiting. At the Easter Vigil, we await Jesus' Resurrection. Go through the order of the Easter Vigil service together.

1. The Easter Vigil starts with the church darkened and the congregation outside where the priest lights a new fire.
2. The priest or deacon carries the newly lighted Easter candle into the darkened church.
3. Everyone lights a candle from the Easter candle as the photo at the top of page 6 shows. Ask what it symbolizes and why it is close to the baptismal font. *The Easter candle symbolizes the Risen Jesus; the spreading light shows we share the light and life of his Resurrection through Baptism.*
4. Read the Scripture quotes together. These reflect the stories of Creation and the Exodus and the words of prophets.

Use the photos and captions on page 7 to discuss why the Church baptizes new Christians at the Easter Vigil. Finally, have your child follow the directions to write My Easter Prayer. Use it at the end of your learning session as your closing prayer.

□ **Puzzle • Jesus Is Risen and A Decade of Days (page 8)** Take some time to play the game with your child. Then have your child complete the puzzle. **Answers:** 1. daybreak (or daylight), 2. daydream, 3. Friday, 4. birthday, 5. weekday, 6. Dayton, 7. holiday, 8. payday, 9. May Day, 10. Sunday

□ **Closing Prayer • Celebrate Easter (page 7)** Sit with your child in a comfortable spot in your home. Read aloud the parts of the prayer service on page 7. (Unlit candle and holy water are optional.) Have your child read aloud the Easter prayer written earlier.



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.