



**Opening Prayer:** Jesus, we believe that you truly are the Son of God. Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who gives us the power to love as you love and to live as your disciples. You are so great. We love you. Amen.

**Theme:** *Be like Jesus: kind, truthful, forgiving, and loving.*

**Gospel Listening:** Matthew 27:11-54 (Shorter Form) One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.

## Making Connections

**Reader:** My name is Jesus, and I am God. I came to earth as a human being. I lived here for 33 years. I always told the truth. I showed love to everyone and taught the people how to love one another and how to live as brothers and sisters in peace.

Some people believed in me, that I was truly the Son of God. Others did not believe this. They were jealous, hateful, and rejected my teachings about love and forgiveness. They wanted to get rid of me. They tried to kill me several times. In the end they convinced the Romans to crucify me. They thought if I died, that would be the end of me. Little did they know that God my Father would bring me back to life so that I could continue to live in you through my Spirit.

## Activity

**Materials needed:** smooth rocks, paint or markers

Have a rock for each family member. On one side of the rock, paint or draw a cross. On the other side, write a virtue such as kindness, truthfulness, forgiveness, or love. Rocks can be displayed on a prayer table or some place where they will be a reminder of the virtue that

each family member wants to practice in order to be more like Jesus.

### Suggestion of the Week:

As a family, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Those too young to celebrate this sacrament can ask Jesus each night to forgive them for the things they did wrong and to help them to be good.

## Praying Together

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, candle, and rocks.

**Leader:** For all the times we have been unkind to each other. **All:** Forgive us, Jesus.

**Leader:** For all the times we have not told the truth. **All:** Forgive us, Jesus.

**Leader:** For all the times we have shared with each other. **All:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** For all the times we have forgiven each other. **All:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Suggestion:** Sing "Peace Is Flowing Like a River."

**Peace** is flowing like a river,  
flowing out through you and me;  
flowing out into the desert,  
setting all the captives free.

**Joy** is flowing ... **Faith** is flowing ...  
**Love** is flowing ...

Give each other a sign of God's peace and love.

## Family Sharing Time

Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.

**Preschool children:** Jesus wants us to share and be kind to one another. How do you feel when your brothers, sisters, or friends share their toys with you? Do you like to share your favorite toy with them? Talk about this.

**Primary-grade children:** Jesus always told the truth. Why does Jesus teach us to tell the truth? What happens when people don't tell the truth? Can you trust people who don't tell the truth? Do people trust you? Why?

**Preteens:** Some people do not believe that Jesus is God. What do you believe? Who did Jesus send so that we can believe that he is truly God? Jesus forgave those who killed him. When people hurt you, is it easy to forgive them? Discuss. What happens when people forgive one another?

Please complete evaluation on page 21.