

Jesus Is Risen!

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 26, ages 4-5

Lesson 26 Goal

- Your child will learn that Jesus died on the Cross on Good Friday, but rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Key Points

- Jesus died on the Cross on Good Friday.
- Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.



Parent Reflection

Our lives are full of change. This is the nature of human existence. Things changed as well for Jesus' disciples in the week before he died. It must have felt like a definitive ending for the disciples as their friend and leader was sentenced to death and then suffered and died one of the cruelest deaths imaginable. And then, how things changed for them on Easter Sunday! What didn't seem possible suddenly was reality. Not even death could conquer the Son of God.

Christianity is overflowing with hope, for we can say that when it gets so bad that even God himself can be killed, something good can happen. God can take an impossible situation and make it better than we could have even imagined.

Reflection Question

In my life, when have I seen God act in an unexpected way to bring joy and hope from a situation that seemed hopeless?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- washable tempera paints
- paint apron/smock
- clean brushes
- painting paper

- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say, *“Today we celebrate a glorious day! We are so happy that Jesus is alive and with us!”*

Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Dear Jesus, you died for us on Good Friday and we see how we need you to be with us. On Easter Sunday, you rose from the dead and we are amazed! We praise you and thank you for coming back to life. Because of you, we too can have new life. Amen.”

Discovering

The Resurrection. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Resurrection.

Ask your child, “How would you feel if you saw the Risen Jesus?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. On Easter Morning. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Jesus Is Alive. Invite our child to make a painting of the Scripture story about Jesus’ Resurrection.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Mary Magdalene. Show your child the picture of Saint Mary Magdalene on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Magdalene to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child:

• “Who do you think called Mary’s name? (*Jesus called Mary’s name. Help your child understand that Mary was with Jesus when he died and was the first person to see him when he rose from the dead.*)

• What can you learn about being Jesus’ friend from Mary Magdalene’s example?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Mary Magdalene using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

Together: *Jesus, our friend, our brother, our God,*

Parent: *You died for us.*

Together: *Jesus, our friend, our brother, our God,*

Parent: *You rose from the dead and we are amazed!*

Together: *Jesus, our friend, our brother, our God,*

Parent: *You rose from the dead and we are so very, very happy!*

Together: *Alleluia! Amen!*

Saint Mary Magdalene

Jesus' Friend Is Happy!

Mary Magdalene could remember all the wonderful times when she, Peter, John, and Jesus' other special friends were with him. They listened as he taught them about God's great love. Just like Peter and John, Mary Magdalene understood how special Jesus was, and how important his prayers and his words were. And she saw the crowds of people who also longed to hear him and to ask for his healing.

With the other disciples, Mary often went with Jesus, learning and asking him questions.

Mary could also remember the terrible sad-

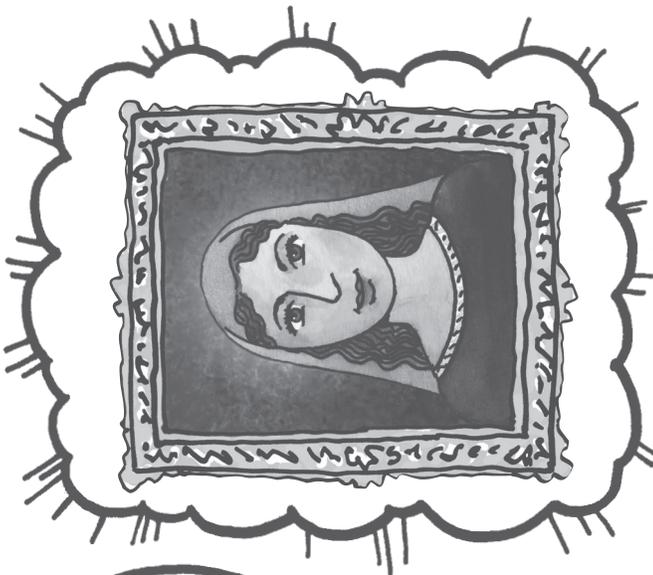
ness of the day Jesus died on the Cross. She had stood with Jesus for hours. Some must have thought how brave she was that day.

Three days after Jesus died, Mary and another friend of Jesus named Mary went early in the morning to the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid, feeling very sad.

But to her great amazement, she saw an angel there. "Jesus is not here!" said the angel.

Confused and worried, Mary turned and saw a person. He said one word: "Mary!"

DRAW



**Saint Mary
Magdalene,
pray for us!**