

## **Featured Story**

The Risen Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18)

## **Lesson Goals**

- to identify that Christ died, rose from the dead and is with us now
- to recognize that we meet Jesus in the sacraments
- to express that we confess our sins and are forgiven by God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## **Materials Needed**

- The Catholic Children's Bible
- Chapter 1 activity booklet
- Chapter 1 student booklet (God's Treasure of Forgiveness)
- Treasure Map
- Stickers
- Journal
- Coloring and writing tools
- Glue
- Jesus Graffiti Wall

# 1

## ***Jesus Is Always With US***

### **Background Focus** (for parents)



Every sacrament is a treasure because every sacrament is a gift of the presence of God. Given to the Church by Jesus Christ, the sacraments bring his presence to us through human words and actions and through material elements like water, bread, wine, and oil.

The sacraments use the gifts of the material world to bring us into the realm of the spiritual. The sacraments are “doorways to the sacred.” There is a particular place in the Mass in which the water and wine are mingled in the chalice, and the priest prays, “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity” (*Roman Missal*, page 529). Our humanity is the water. The divinity of Christ is the wine.

In every sacrament, our lives are mingled with Christ's living and risen presence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the sacraments that does not have an external material or earthly element (like water, bread, or oil) as part of its celebration. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the earthly element is the confession of sins, and the presence of Christ, in his love and forgiveness, is mediated by a hand extended in blessing and the comforting sound of a human voice, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Rite of Penance).

# Go (10 minutes)


## Opening Prayer

-  **Child:** Turn to page 1 in the Chapter 1 activity booklet and locate the prayer on that page.
-  Begin Prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**Parent:** After making the Sign of the Cross, say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.

- Read the prayer aloud. End with an "Amen," and the Sign of the Cross.

## Engage Activity



-  **Child:** Make a "graffiti wall" for your journal. The outline of the graffiti wall is attached to this lesson All around His name, record everything you know about Jesus. Single word answers are fine.  
(Answers might include: born in Bethlehem, Son of God, healer, teacher, crucified on the cross, rose from the dead, etc.)

**Parent:** Emphasize the point that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead. Suggest one or two things that could have also been included on the graffiti wall. Remind your child that this is what Christians celebrate each year on a very special and holy day. Ask if they can name that holy day, the greatest day of the year. (Easter)

- Tell your child that they will read about Jesus rising from the dead and will explore why that is important for us today.


# Seek (30 minutes)

## Featured Story

-  **Child:** Find John 20:11–18 in The Catholic Children's Bible (page 1701).
-  Turn to page 1702 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.

**Parent:** (The words between the leaves on page 1702 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on the previous page.)

- Together look at the artwork on pages 1702–1703.

-  **Child:** describe the scene in the artwork and predict what the Bible story might be about.

**Parent:** Read the title on the page. Ask; What do the words "Risen Jesus" mean?

(Jesus was crucified on the cross, but he rose again and is now risen from the dead.)


- Ask what they know about Mary Magdalen?

(She was a friend to Jesus. She loved Jesus very much. That is why she was visiting his grave.) Point out that Mary Magdalen is our parish's patron saint. Do you know where her statue stands in the parish? (In the Gathering Space, outside the Community Room.)

- Read the Bible story with your child. Then ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as these:

- Why was Mary Magdalene crying?  
(She did not know where Jesus was.)
- What did the angels ask her?  
("Woman, why are you crying?")
- What did Mary Magdalene answer?  
("They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!")
- What happened when Mary Magdalene turned around?  
(She saw Jesus.)

- Remind your child that this Bible story is the story of the very first Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead.

-  **Child:** Turn to page 2 in the activity booklet and complete the activity with the Bible open. (Answers: 1, 2, 4, 4, 1, 1, 3)



## Understand It!

**Parent:** Read Understand It! on page 1703.

- Have your child summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review these key points with them:
  - Mary Magdalene was very sad when Jesus died. She did not expect to see him again.
  - When she went to the tomb, she did not find his body. She thought someone had taken it. She was very upset.
  - Then she turned around and saw Jesus! At first, she didn't know it was Jesus. But then he said her name, and she knew who it was.
  - Jesus was alive after all! Mary was so happy! She ran to tell the other disciples. (See John 20:18.) Live It!
- Read Live It! on page 1703.
- Discuss what would be written in their diary for that first Easter Sunday if they were Mary Magdalene, using these questions:
  - What would they say they were thinking or feeling as they went to the tomb?
  - How did they feel after they saw Jesus and he spoke their names?
- We are happy that Jesus rose from the dead because it means that he is always with us. Explain that he is still with us today in a very special way.

**Together:** Pray this short prayer: "Thank you, Jesus, for rising on that first Easter Sunday."

## Tell It!

-  **Child:** Retell the story using the images in Tell It! on page 1703.
-  **Child:** Use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest.  
(Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining Chapters.)

# Find (20 minutes)

## Chapter 1: God's Treasure of Forgiveness (Student Booklet pages 4-5)

**Parent:** Read "Jesus Gave Us the Sacraments" (page 5)

(By this point in the lesson, you have already covered the material on page 4.)

- Give a short description of each of the Seven Sacraments. Explain how the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist begin our life in the Church.
- Read "**GOD'S TREASURE of Forgiveness**" (student booklet page 5.)
- Explain that this time together is to help them prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell them that this sacrament has many names:
  - Its official Church name is: the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Often this is shortened to "the Sacrament of Penance" or "the Sacrament of Reconciliation."
  - Often, we call this sacrament "confession," because in it we confess what we have done wrong. We say, "We are going to confession tomorrow afternoon."
  - Sometimes it is called "the sacrament of conversion," because this sacrament helps us to convert, or change, for the better.
- Help your child understand that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which we meet Jesus in a special way. In this sacrament, we ask God to forgive us. Explain that after we confess our sins and are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will be filled with new life again.



**Child:** Turn to page 3 in the activity booklet and complete the activity.



(Answers: 1. Forgive, 2. conversion, 3. Baptism, 4. confession, 5. better. Word at bottom: grace)

## Lesson Wrap-Up

**Parent:** Think back over all of the different things in this lesson, review the key things discussed. Be sure to include:

- Christ died, rose from the dead, and is with us now.
- We meet Jesus in the sacraments.
- We confess our sins and are forgiven by God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Parent:** As a family, go over the “Family Page” on page 4 of the activity book. Pay particular attention to the “Family Strategies,” “Family Activities” and “Pray it!” sections. This is a great time to include anyone who wasn’t involved in teaching or learning from this lesson. If your child has siblings, have them pray the prayer together with your child to show their support and love for the child preparing for their first Reconciliation!

-  **Child:** Place the Chapter 1 sticker in the correct circle on their treasure map.
-  **Child:** Glue the Chapter 1 activity book into your journal. On the next page, glue in the graffiti wall you made at the beginning of this lesson.


## Closing Prayer

**Together:** Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**Parent:** “Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God,” take a few seconds of silence.

**Parent:** Make the Sign of the Cross on your child’s forehead as you say:

“\_\_\_\_, God calls you by name. You are God’s child. You belong to God.”

-  **Child:** Encourage the child to respond, “Amen.”

-  **Child:** Watch the video “Hey, Jesus Loves Me.”

**Together:** Pray the Glory Be prayer (see page 1990 in The Catholic Children’s Bible). Close with the Sign of the Cross.

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