

APRIL 4-MAY 16
Eastertide 2021


FAMILY PLAYLIST

We invite you to learn, pray, and live our faith with your children at home!



Each week, we will offer you an easy lesson based on the Sunday Gospel. You and your children are encouraged to find the story in the Bible and engage in the activities.

You can use the online format below, your own Bible or The Catholic Children's Bible from our First Sacraments program. As a reminder, the Gospel readings (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are in the New Testament about two-thirds of the way back in the bible.

Thank you for sharing your faith with your family!



APRIL 4, 2021 — Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

JESUS RISES FROM THE TOMB

The Big Idea: After rising from the dead,
Jesus reveals himself to us in our lives.

Learn

Read Bible passage: John 20:1-9 — Catholic Children’s Bible, page 1701

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus’ head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.)

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Did You Know?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, he is alive and with us now. He is always ready to listen to us, hear our prayers, and help us. Some day he will give us new life in heaven forever.

In the spring when we see new life all around us, we think of Jesus’ new life. Easter happens in the spring and is a season of happiness and hope. To learn about other signs of Easter, visit [Busted Halo here](#).

Pray

Good and gracious God, you make the world so colorful after the long cold winter. Thank you for the sweet-smelling flowers, the singing birds, and all the wonderful gifts of spring. Whenever I see them, help me to think of Jesus and his new life on Easter. Give me his new life too. Amen.

Discuss & Do

Go outdoors and look for something beautiful that God has made. When you find it, look at it closely for a few minutes. Know that God has given this especially for you to make you happy. Then, thank Jesus out loud by saying this Bible verse:

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.”

Psalm 118:24

APRIL 11, 2021 — Second Sunday of Easter

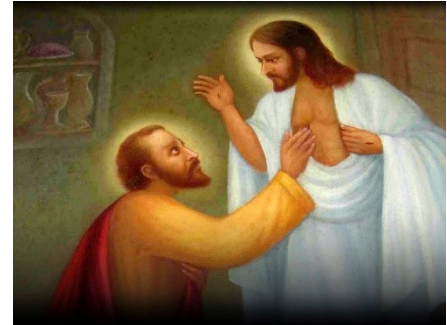
JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES, THEN TO THOMAS

The Big Idea: Jesus wants us to believe in him even when we have doubts.

Learn

Read Bible passage: John 20:19-31 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1704

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."



One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

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Watch Video — [Jesus Appears to Thomas](#)

Did You Know?

Thomas was one of the twelve disciples. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who believes in him and lives by his teachings.

Right after Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas doubted that Jesus came back and was

APRIL 11, 2021 — Second Sunday of Easter *Continued*

in the locked room with them. When Thomas did not believe, Jesus did not get mad at him. He helped Thomas understand who he was. Jesus wants to help us understand who he is, even though we have never seen him.

Pray

Dear God, who showed Thomas that Jesus was really present, help us to always believe in you and your son, Jesus, especially when we are doubtful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Discuss & Do

Are there times when you are not sure about Jesus? Why do you think Jesus does not get mad at us if we do not believe in him? What does he want you to do when you have doubts about him?

APRIL 18, 2021 — Third Sunday of Easter

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

The Big Idea: Jesus is near us if we are ready to look for him.

Learn

Read Bible passage: Luke 24:35-48 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1646

The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

While the two were telling them this, suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, "Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you can see I have."

He said this and showed them his hands and his feet. They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder; so he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.



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Did You Know?

Sometimes things in our lives do not make sense to us. Even if we know God is at work, we have a hard time understanding what He might be doing. This story tells us that God's big plans happened to his disciples. Today, his plans can happen even to us. But only when we are ready and willing to understand. We, too, can see what Jesus wants us to do, if we are ready to look for it.

Pray

Dear Jesus, like the disciples, help us to be ready to see that you are in our lives. Thank you for giving us hope when things are hard. Help us to be open to learn more about you. Amen.

Discuss & Do

On a blank piece of paper, make a colored map that has pictures of different events in your life. They could be from your first day of school, getting a pet, celebrating your birthday, and so on. Then with your mom or dad, talk about how God was there with you at all those different times.

APRIL 25, 2021 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Big Idea: Like a good shepherd, Jesus loves and cares for us.

Learn

Read Bible passage: John 10:11-18 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1678

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

“The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do.”



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Watch Video — [Good Shepherd Children's Story on a Real Farm!](#)

Did You Know?

Shepherds keep their sheep together, protect them from other animals who want to eat them, and guide the sheep to get their wool sheared. In old times, shepherds also milked their sheep and made cheese from this milk. The sheep would come when a shepherd would call their name. Jesus used this story to explain how much we are like his sheep. He loves us, cares for us, and calls us by name. If we follow him, he will lead us to be happy with him forever.

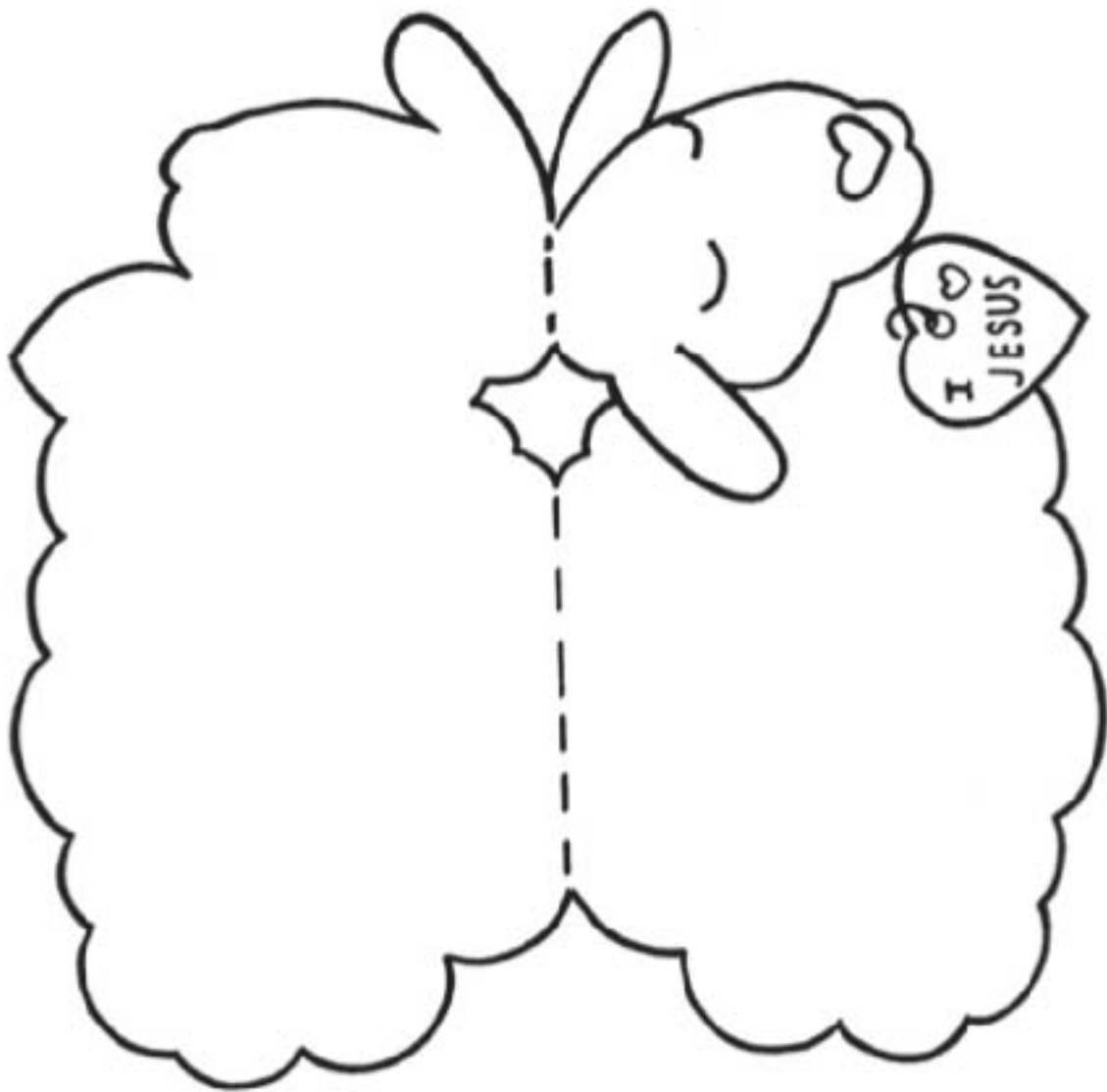
Pray

Dear Jesus, you made and care for all of the creatures, and you ask me to do the same. Thank you for my pets and for all the animals. Every fish and dog, every kitten and hamster, every bird and turtle are amazing! Help me to take very good care of my pet and give them lots of love. Help me to know how much you love and care for me too. Amen.

Discuss & Do

This week, thank someone in your family for taking very good care of you. Then, have fun creating your own sheep with this [Good Shepherd craft](#).

Psalm 23:1 - Sheep Craft Template



MAY 2, 2021 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

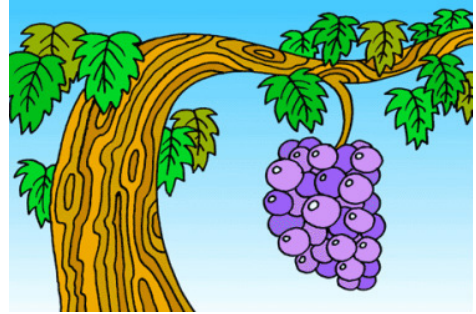
JESUS IS THE REAL VINE

The Big Idea: Stay connected to Jesus so you can produce fruit that honors God.

Learn

Read Bible passage: John 15:1-8 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1692

"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.



"I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.

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Watch Video — [I Am the True Vine Children's Talk](#)

Did You Know?

A vine is a plant with lots of branches that usually have fruit on them. In the Bible story, Jesus is like a vine that gives its branches (us) everything to grow good fruit. The fruit that Jesus is talking about are the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we separate ourselves from Jesus, we will be like a dead branch that cannot produce fruit. Jesus wants you and me to produce lots of good fruit.

Pray

Good and gracious God, help me to stay connected to your son, Jesus, so I can produce the kind of fruit you want from me. Amen.

Discuss & Do

With your mom or dad, watch the video above and do the activity. Think about what fruit of the Spirit will be growing in you. When you are done, go find a piece of your favorite real fruit and have a healthy treat!

MAY 9, 2021 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

JESUS TELLS US ABOUT THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

The Big Idea: Jesus wants us to love one another as he loves us.

Learn

Read Bible passage: John 15:9-17 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1692

I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.



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Watch Video — [Yancy & Little Praise Party - Love One Another](#)

Did You Know?

God loves us very much. He protects us by giving us laws to follow. God's laws are called commandments. Jesus' teaching to love God and to love others is called the Great Commandment.

Pray

Dear Jesus, help us to love one another as you love us. Because of your love, we can show love to you and to other people. Help us to be good and to see the needs of others. Please help me to grow in love for you and for my family, my friends and all people. Amen.

Discuss & Do

What are some of the ways that you show your love to others? Put away your clothes, make your bed, help a brother or sister? This week, do one new activity for someone else that you have not done before. If they ask why, tell them you are doing it because you love them.

MAY 16, 2021 — Ascension of the Lord

JESUS IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

The Big Idea: Jesus is still with us, even though he went to heaven.

Learn

Read Bible passage: Mark 16:15-20 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1566

He said to them, "Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all people. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. Believers will be given the power to perform miracles: they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people, and these will get well."

After the Lord Jesus had talked with them, he was taken up to heaven and sat at the right side of God. The disciples went and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and proved that their preaching was true by the miracles that were performed.



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Watch Video — [Jesus' Ascension](#)

Did You Know?

The Bible story today talks about the Ascension, when Jesus rose from the earth and went up to heaven. "Ascension" means "going up". Before Jesus left, he knew what God's plans were and was preparing his disciples. They followed Jesus' instructions. Even though Jesus is no longer walking around on the earth, he is very much with us now and in the future wherever we go.

Pray

Good and gracious God, thank you for sending you son, Jesus, to us. We know that he has returned to heaven. Every day, help us follow his instructions and live like he did. Bless us and our families as we praise him with great joy! Amen.

Discuss & Do

What are some things that exist even if we cannot see them(germs, wi-fi, food inside our bodies)? Ask your mom or dad to talk to you about how Jesus is here and has does amazing things in their lives even if they could not see him.

If you like crafts, here is a fun easy one about [Jesus ascending in the clouds](#).

MAY 23, 2021 — Pentecost Sunday

THE DISCIPLES RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Big Idea: Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us in our lives.

Learn

Read Bible passage: **John 20:19-23** — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1704

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."



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Watch Video — [The Holy Spirit Comes \(Day of Pentecost\)](#)

Did You Know?

After Jesus went to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to his followers, also called disciples, in the form of wind and fire and filled them with courage and faith. This day is called Pentecost which happens 50 days after Easter. Did you know that the Holy Spirit is like the wind? We cannot see him, but we know that he is there because we can see his power in our lives. He comforts us when we are sad, helps us when we do not know what to do, and shows us good things God has for us.

Pray

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for all of the blessings you give us. Fill us with your power and love. Help us to listen to your voice and follow Jesus every day. Amen.

Discuss & Do

Create a simple obstacle course in your home or backyard. Blindfold someone and ask them to find their way across the room or yard by listening to your instructions to turn right, take two steps, etc. The blindfolded one has to listen carefully or s/he will bump into things. After you are done, talk to your mom or dad about how difficult this was for the blindfolded person and how they need the right instructions. This week, how you are going to listen to the Holy Spirit's voice to get the right instructions to follow Jesus?

MAY 30, 2021 — The Most Holy Trinity

ONE GOD IN THREE DIVINE PERSONS: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

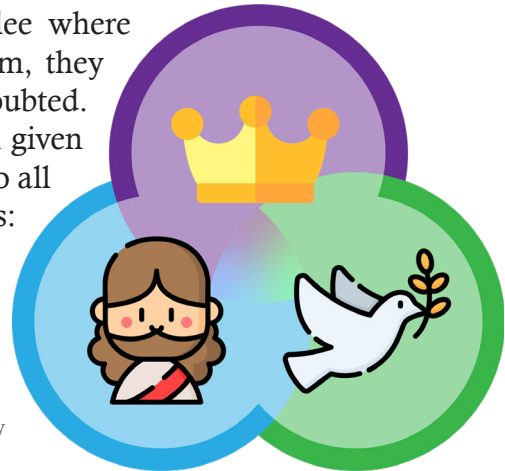
The Big Idea: Jesus wants us to help others know him.

Learn

Read Bible passage: Matthew 28:16-20 — Catholic Children's Bible, page 1520

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

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Did You Know?

In the Bible story above, Jesus gave his followers, called disciples, special instructions on what to do before he was about to leave and go to heaven. Jesus wanted them to bring other people to him by teaching them. Like what Jesus told his disciples, he wants us to bring other people to him too. Of course, we cannot bring them to him physically in person, but we can help others know how wonderful Jesus is. We do this by talking about him, learning about him, making good choices, and showing his love to other people.

Pray

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Discuss & Do

Can you think of someone who has taught you about Jesus? Was it your mom or dad? A grandparent? Teacher? Someone else? This week, choose one of them, write a special card and thank them for teaching you something about Jesus. Then, hand it to them in person or have your mom or dad send it to them. That is one way you can share his love with others.