

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus' resurrection and appearance to His disciples – among them the apostles and Mary Magdalene – fulfills the promise of the prophets of the Old Testament: the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. The disciples' expectations of the Messiah were based on a human way of thinking, but Jesus' resurrection and glory overcame all their human expectations and opened the gates of Heaven for us.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Old Testament foretold that Jesus would come.

Scripture Resources: [Isaiah 50:4-7](#); [Luke 24:44](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 122](#); [CCC 712-714](#)

As scripture says, Jesus' resurrection frees us from our sins and enables us to go to Heaven.

Scripture Resources: [1 John 2:1-6](#); [Luke 24:46-47](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 651-655](#)

Jesus appeared body and soul to the apostles.

Scripture Resources: [Luke 24:35-48](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 641-644](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.), so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Old Testament foretold that Jesus would come.

Many years before Jesus was born, our Father in Heaven inspired men to understand His plan for humankind. These men were called “prophets.” Their messages about the Messiah and God’s plan for our salvation can be found in the Old Testament of the Bible.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Can you think of a time in your life when someone was preparing a great surprise for you?
- They knew that something very good was coming and joyfully prepared you for that moment. How did you feel when you finally received your surprise?
- Why do you think God sent messengers to His people to tell them about the Messiah? (To give them hope, to help them watch for the Savior, to get them ready to follow Jesus etc.)

02 As scripture says, Jesus’ resurrection frees us from our sins and enables us to go to Heaven.

The people of the Old Testament told us Jesus would come, they also told us what He would do: He would open Heaven up to us again. In the New Testament, we hear how Jesus opened Heaven for us.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Tell me about Jesus and what He did.
- Why did He do all that?
- Where is He now?
- Do you want to go to Heaven? What do you think it will be like?

03 Jesus appeared body and soul to the apostles.

Jesus actually rose from the dead and appeared physically to many of His friends. Jesus is still alive; He will never die again.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Why do you think Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection?
- Do ghosts need to eat? The resurrected Christ ate with the apostles. What does that tell us about Jesus?
- If you were one of the apostles, how would you react?
- What would you like to tell Him today?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Old Testament foretold that Jesus would come.

The coming of Jesus was going to transform the lives of all people in the world. Many were waiting for the coming of the Messiah, which would mean real freedom for people. Prophets received God's message and shared it. Their messages about the Messiah and God's plan for our salvation can be found in the Old Testament of the Bible.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Can you think of names of prophets that knew about the coming of Jesus, the only Son of God? Do you know any stories about them?
- If you were one of the prophets and knew that Jesus was coming, how would you prepare people you know for His coming?
- What does Jesus' coming mean for you and your family?

02 As scripture says, Jesus' resurrection frees us from our sins and enables us to go to Heaven.

Sin kept us from Heaven, the happiest of all places. Death is a consequence of sin. When Jesus died, He broke the power of death by His resurrection. Because He died for our sins, He reopened the possibility of going to Heaven for us. We are still responsible for our actions since we always have a choice to commit sin or choose to do God's will.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- With your own words, what does Jesus' resurrection mean for you?
- What are some ways that Jesus gives us to restart after we sin and keep striving for Heaven?
- Can you think of ways that you can help your family and friends to go to Heaven?

03 Jesus appeared body and soul to the apostles.

When Jesus appeared to the apostles, they were afraid and thought He was a ghost. Out of love for them, Jesus showed His wounds and ate with them to prove that it was really Him in person. Jesus is still with us, especially through the Eucharist.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- What was the reaction of the apostles when Jesus appeared to them? What happened there? Can you think of some stories from those moments?
- What would you tell Jesus if He were to appear to you right now in body and soul?
- When you receive Jesus at Mass, what do you say to Him?

PEACE
BE WITH YOU



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

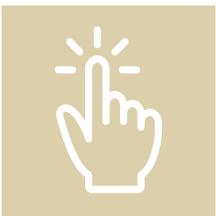
Read the passage listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Luke 24:35-48](#) - Jesus' appearance to the Disciples



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Pray with your child the prayer of the **Apostle's Creed**, on page 7 in the Prayer Guide.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

FOR THE FAMILY: Look at a [Bible](#) as a family, identifying the Old and New Testaments. Maybe look at the different prophetic books.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Invite your family to create a play where your children dress up as the apostles, while an adult dresses up as Jesus. Create the scene of Jesus appearing to the apostles and let your children think of their own words when they see Him.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Invite each of your children to write a letter to Jesus as if they were one of the apostles and had experienced seeing the resurrected Jesus. Tell them to share details about how they felt, their reactions, and what they would like to share with Jesus.