

Easter:

Third Sunday of Easter

Lesson Contents

Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter explains that Jesus is the fulfillment of the ancient messianic promises.
- Jesus, the Messiah, who died and was raised to new life, brought a new life of peace and right relationship with God.
- Through Jesus, God's merciful love is available to all those who seek it.

Second Reading

- The first part of the second reading reminds believers that sin still exists in the world.
- Believers must walk in light because God is light.
- Christ, who lives in a totally loving relationship with the Father, is also the Advocate who pleads our cause with the Father.

Gospel

- The author of today's Gospel attempts to tell us that Jesus' Resurrection involves the whole person, body and spirit.
- After his Resurrection, when Jesus eats with the disciples, they recognize him in the breaking of bread.
- Life in Christ is a life of forgiveness and peace.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for the Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19—Peter’s address to the people.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9—Let your face shine upon us.

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a—Christ is our advocate with the Father for reconciliation.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48—Christ opens their minds to the Scriptures.

Invitation to prayer (30 seconds)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us. As an invitation to prayer, make the Sign of the Cross.

Listening for a word or phrase to speak to your heart (3-4 minutes)

Read the Gospel passage or the special phrase slowly and deliberately while the children are silently listening. Ask them to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God’s word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they select their “word” from God. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

Ages 5-6: The words, "obey and love" are on their sheet. Help them sound them out. Read 1 John 2:3–5 from a children's Bible or paraphrase the reading in your own words.

Ages 7-14: Read the passage from Acts.

Loving God through his Word (3-5 minutes)

Ages 5-6: Tell children **God loves you. We show God our love when we obey God's laws.** Use the images on the handout to guide the children through an exploration of love for family, God and self. Say: **Write the word God in the first heart. We love other people. We show our love by doing things for them. Write the name of a person you love on the second heart. Write your name on the third heart.** Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Begin a conversation about the Scripture passage by asking: **Who is this letter for? What does the writer say about sin?** Explain that an advocate is someone who speaks for us. Jesus is our advocate always and especially when we sin and are sorry. He speaks for us. Help children "write" a letter to God. The form is provided and has an outline of the words, "I am sorry." Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: As young people reflect on the reading, guide them through the reflection on forgiveness. Close by directing them to form a personal prayer of thanks for the gift of forgiveness that will be shared to close this session.

Ages 12-14: Use text on handout to guide young people's reflection on forgiveness. Discuss the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Close the session with an exchange of the Sign of Peace.

Living the Gospel words through the week (3-5 minutes)

The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.