

Grade 1

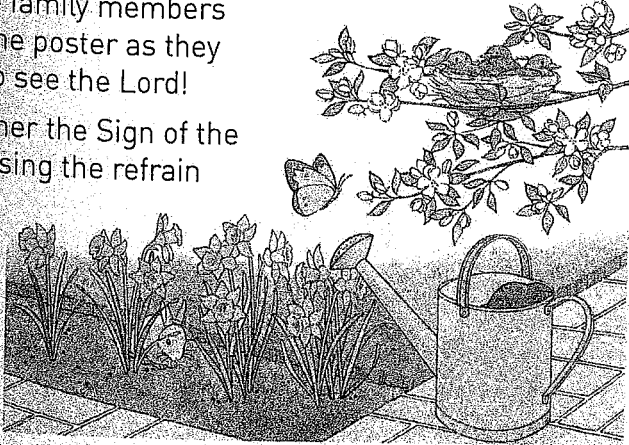
Background: Easter

Easter is the feast of new life. We celebrate the gift of new life given to Jesus by God the Father when Jesus was raised from the dead. Jesus was not given back his old life as he knew it when he lived and prayed on this earth. Instead, God raised Jesus to a new and glorious life that will never end. By Jesus' Death and Resurrection, we too have been promised the gift of new life.

Already in this world, our old selves have been put away and our new lives that will never end have begun. We look forward with joy and hope to the Kingdom of God, where we will live forever with God and one another.

Getting Ready

1. Prepare your family prayer table for the Easter season. Place upon it a white cloth, a bowl of Holy Water, a candle, a Bible, a cross, and a vase of fresh flowers. Also prepare a poster titled We Have Seen the Lord. For other Easter season resources go to RCI.Benziger.com>Resources.
2. Gather your family around the prayer table. Light the candle. Sing an Easter refrain such as "Laudate Dominum" from the *Blest Are We Faith in Action* Grade 1 Music CD and pray together the Sign of the Cross.
3. Read aloud the Scripture verse at the top of page 257 and invite family members to repeat the verse after you. Ask family members to share where in the past week they have seen the Lord and to write their thoughts on the poster. Explain that the poster will be near the prayer table or on the fridge throughout the Easter season. Encourage family members to add to the poster as they continue to see the Lord!
4. Pray together the Sign of the Cross and sing the refrain you sang at the beginning of the prayer.



Focus

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the new life won for us by Jesus through his life, Death, and Resurrection.

The Church Teaches

The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross: Christ is risen from the dead! / Dying, he conquered death; / To the dead, he has given life.⁴⁹⁰

Catechism of the Catholic Church 638

⁴⁹⁰ Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion of Easter

Prayer

Lord, help me celebrate the feast of new life. Give me a fresh attitude, a clean heart, and eyes to see signs of new life in the world around me. Show me how to lead my family in the celebration too! Amen. Alleluia!

Share

1. Read aloud Signs of Spring on page 257. Talk together about other signs of new life you have seen.
2. Read the directions to the Activity and give your child time to complete it. Invite your child to draw other signs of new life on the page too.

Hear and Believe

3. Read aloud Jesus Is Alive! on page 258. Invite your child to explain the Good News of Easter in his or her own words.
4. Look at the photograph on page 258. Talk about some of your favorite Easter season hymns and responses. Sing together one or two of your favorites. Then read aloud We Celebrate Easter.

Respond

5. Provide for your child hard-boiled eggs, egg dyes and paints, markers, stickers, and glitter. Work together to decorate the eggs with symbols of Easter and new life. Place the decorated eggs in a basket or bowl for the family to enjoy. As an alternative, prepare small Easter baskets for neighbors and elderly relatives.
6. Conclude this lesson with prayer. A suggested format is as follows.
 - Sing an Easter season hymn such as "Laudate Dominum" from the *Blest Are We Faith in Action* Grade 1 Music CD.
 - Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the Scripture verse at the top of page 257.
 - Offer prayers of petition (responding, "Lord, hear our prayer").
 - Pray together the prayer at the top of page 258 and the Sign of the Cross.
 - Sing again the hymn or refrain you sang at the beginning of the prayer.

Two Things We Learned

1.

2.