



Jesus Redeems Us

Engage: Page 151

- ▶ Together make “Me” I.D. cards. Fill your cards with words, phrases, or small images that represent ideas of your true selves. Explain your cards to each other.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 151. **Ask:** *How is it possible that someone may see you in a different way than you see yourself?* (Possible answer: The person may not know you very well, or you may not see yourself as honestly as he or she might.) Ask your child what Jesus might have said about his true self. **Say:** *Jesus’ dying and rising is central to Christian life. Through his Death and Resurrection, we are saved.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 152–153

- ▶ Invite your child to give examples of labels that help him or her understand someone or something better and labels that are misleading. **Say:** *Don’t assume that a label is true without trying to gain a deeper understanding. Our identities consist of more than labels.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title The Suffering Servant on page 152, the introductory paragraphs, and the section Who Is Jesus? Read aloud the definition of *Transfiguration* in the Glossary. **Ask:** *Why does Jesus instruct the disciples not to tell anyone about his miracles?* (His identity is not limited to his power to heal.) **Ask:** *How is Jesus’ identity revealed in the Transfiguration?* (Jesus’ appearance changes, and he speaks with Elijah and Moses; a voice identifies him as the beloved Son.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Discuss what the lamb symbolizes in 1 Corinthians 5:7 and why the image of Jesus as the Lamb of God is appropriate.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Who Is a Disciple? on page 153. Discuss the verse of Isaiah 53:11 and how it describes Jesus. **Ask:** *Why is Jesus described as the suffering servant?* (Jesus served others. Jesus’ love for us was so great that he suffered and died to redeem the world.)
- ▶ Read aloud the sections Jesus Predicts His Suffering and Glory Through the Cross. **Ask:** *How do we better understand the meaning of the Cross in our own times of suffering?* (Jesus invites us to live our lives with faith and trust in God, who is with us throughout every difficult moment. Being a disciple means that we, too, will suffer.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the directions and complete the Introducing Jesus activity independently. Invite your child to role-play his or her introduction of Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *How does your life reflect an understanding of Jesus? How can you better follow Jesus, especially in times of suffering or trouble?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 154–155

- ▶ Explain that terrorism uses fear to coerce people. Read aloud the article title The Moment of Truth on page 154 and the first two paragraphs.
- ▶ **Ask:** *In Jesus’ time, what effect do you think the threat of crucifixion might have had on the people?* (People may have been too afraid to speak up for what they really believed.)



They may have been afraid to take a stand against Roman rule.) Read aloud the section Mark's Message. **Say:** *Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. His sacrifice on the Cross established a New Covenant between the people and God.*

- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Ask:** *In what way does Mary's countenance of serenity and faith reflect a Catholic view? (Mary's gentle face displays her recognition of Jesus' great love and ultimate sacrifice. Jesus won for us the possibility of eternal life in Heaven.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Christian Suffering that begins at the bottom of page 154. **Ask:** *What is the lesson of the Cross? (Possible answer: We are called to do God's work in the world even if it requires enduring hardships.)* Explain that *redeem* means "to restore worth." Jesus' Death restored eternal life.
- ▶ Read aloud the remaining sections on page 155. Discuss why the cross is a universal sign of hope for Christians. Ask your child to read aloud the definition of *Apostles' Creed* in the Glossary. Recite the Apostles' Creed, using page 276 in Prayers and Practices. **Ask:** *In the Apostles' Creed, what belief do we acknowledge after Jesus died but before he had risen? (Jesus went to the realm of the dead, gathered the just, and brought them to Heaven with him.)* Emphasize that even though the disciples probably thought that Jesus' Crucifixion was the end, it was just the beginning.
- ▶ Read aloud the Our Catholic Character feature. Discuss Pope John Paul II's words. Relate acts of love to the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title The Victory of the Cross on page 156. Read aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Tell your child that Jesus teaches us to pray from the heart.
- ▶ Slowly pray aloud the guided reflection "Our Response to Suffering." Invite your child to pause and meditate after each part. Close by inviting your child to pray aloud the Lord's Prayer with you.
- ▶ Look at page 157. Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? **Say:** *We are asked to remember Jesus' suffering in times of our own suffering. If we do this, we receive the amazing gift of hope.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud The Other Side of Suffering. **Say:** *To say "Jesus is with us" is not just a figure of speech. It is God's most basic message to humanity: You are not alone. I am with you. Your suffering is not the end of the story.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions to The Victory of the Cross activity. Work together to complete the activity.

Respond: Page 158

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions in What's What? Remind him or her to complete each sentence by using details from the text.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Ask your child to record an honest response to suffering, recognizing that he or she may still be working toward a Christian response to suffering.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.