

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

Jesus Christ



Our Catholic Tradition

- Jesus brought people the Good News of the Kingdom of God. (CCC, 542)
- Jesus sacrificed his own life to save everyone from sin. (CCC, 613)
- By his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus Christ gives all people the gift of new life with God that will last forever. (CCC, 571)
- The Church continues to spread Christ's message of new life and hope. (CCC, 863)

What do we learn from the Gospels about Jesus' sacrifice of love?



Our Holy Visitor

The Good News

Let Us Pray

Leader: Dear God, help us to follow you always.

“You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.”

Psalm 16:11

All: Jesus, give us the courage to speak about your forgiving love. Amen.

God's Word

A woman had ten coins and lost one. She swept the house carefully searching until she found it. When she did, she called together her friends and neighbors and said to them, “Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.” Like the woman, the angels of God will rejoice over someone who asks forgiveness for their sin. **Based on Luke 15:8–10**



What Do You Wonder?

- Is it hard for God to forgive?
- Does God help doctors and nurses heal sick people today?



Catholic Faith Words

Gospel a word that means "Good News." The Gospel message is the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love.

The Gospel Message

What Good News does Jesus share?

Jesus came to share Good News with us. The news that God the Father loves his People and saves them from the power of sin and everlasting death.

Just as Jesus shares the Good News of God's love with you, you pass it on to others. The work of the Catholic Church is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and actions.

Another word for Good News is **Gospel**. The Church gives this name to the four books of the New Testament that tell about Jesus' life, teachings, Death, and Resurrection. The Gospels are named for Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are the most important books for the Church because they focus on Jesus.

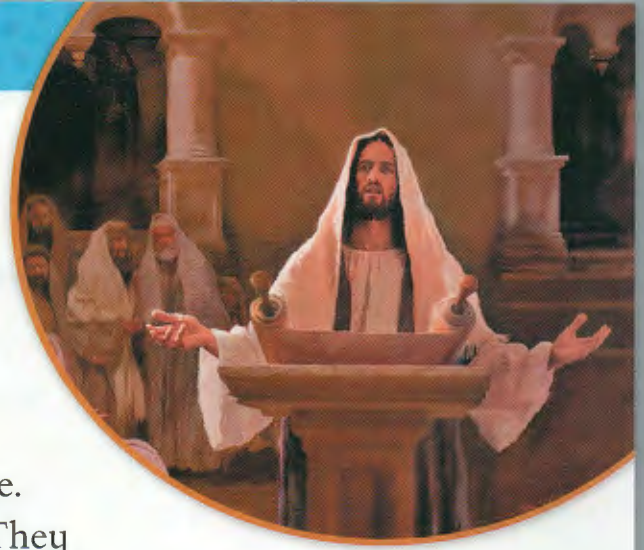
Readings from the Bible, also called Scripture, are used every time the Church community gathers to worship. Scripture readings were used to worship in Jesus' day, too.



Jesus' Message

When Jesus started his ministry in Nazareth, he used Hebrew Scriptures people knew to tell about his role in God's plan.

The people were surprised by Jesus' message. They were waiting for a **Messiah**, or savior. They did not expect him to be a man from Nazareth.



God's Word

The Rejection at Nazareth

One day, Jesus came back to his hometown of Nazareth. Everyone had gathered for worship. Jesus opened the Book of Isaiah and read words that described a person God promised to send.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Jesus then said he had come to set people free and ... announce a time of blessings from God.

Then Jesus surprised everyone. He said, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Based on Luke 4:16-21

Catholic Faith Words

Messiah the promised one who would lead his People. The word Messiah means "God's anointed," or "God's chosen one." Jesus is the Messiah.



Underline why Jesus came and what he was anointed to do.

Share Your Faith

Think List words to describe the Good News.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Share In small groups, write a radio commercial using the words you each listed.

The Kingdom of God

Where can we find God's Kingdom?

Catholic Faith Words

Kingdom of God the world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth

miracle something that cannot be explained by science, but happened by the power of God



Circle what Jesus called people to do.

The reading from the Gospel of Luke tells of how Jesus began his work among the people. He called people to turn back to God and live as believers. He taught about God the Father's forgiveness and showed people to trust in and rely on the Father.

The words Jesus read from Scripture tell about the **Kingdom of God**, or God's reign of love, peace, and justice. In God's Kingdom, those who are poor hear joyful news. No one is a prisoner of sin and sadness. People who are sick are healed.

God's Kingdom is in Heaven and also on Earth. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus prayed that the Father's will would be done "on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus established the Kingdom of God on Earth, and his teaching and **miracles** were signs of the Kingdom that continues to grow. When we tell others about Jesus, show God's love, and act with peace, we work with God to help his Reign spread.



Parables

Jesus often taught with **parables**. Parables are short teaching stories that Jesus used to teach us about God. One day, Jesus told this story.



God's Word

The Mustard Seed

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was like a mustard seed. This seed grows from a tiny seed into a large, beautiful tree. **Based on Mark 4:30-32**

Jesus was planting the seed of the Kingdom. Jesus showed people how to live. He healed people and set them free from loneliness, sorrow, and sin. He helped people see and feel God's love. Jesus sends his Church to invite everyone into God's Kingdom.

Some other parables Jesus told were the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Parable of the Great Feast. He told these stories to teach people about God's love and how to treat one another with kindness and respect. Jesus taught that everyone is welcome in God's Kingdom.

Catholic Faith Words

parable a short story Jesus told about everyday life to teach something about God

Connect Your Faith

Share Examples Who are some people who have taught you about God's love? Name one thing you learned from each of them.



Our Catholic Life

What do the parables really mean?

Jesus told many parables to help people learn about God. Sometimes you must think and study to understand what these stories mean.

One way to understand parables is to look for the symbols in them. The next time you read a parable, look for the symbols and think about what they stand for. Different people may get different meanings from the same story.



Draw symbols from Jesus' parables.

Two Parables



- Jesus used the mustard seed as a symbol for faith in the Parable of the Mustard Seed. A tiny mustard seed grows into a tree, just as faith starts out small and grows bigger over time.



- In another parable, Jesus used a pearl as a symbol of the beauty and richness of Heaven, a treasure worth more than any other.



People of Faith

Saint Isaac Jogues, 1607–1646

October 19

Saint Isaac Jogues was a Jesuit priest in France. He was an explorer and wanted to bring the Gospel to North America. He sailed across the ocean to Canada. There, he was a missionary to the Native Americans where he spent six years preaching the Gospel. Saint Isaac was captured and tortured by some people who were afraid of him. They made him a slave. He was freed by Dutch settlers and went back to France. He still wanted to spread the Good News, so he returned to Canada. Sadly, Saint Isaac was killed by Native Americans who thought he was practicing bad magic.



Discuss: Talk about a time when you told someone about Jesus.



Learn more about
Saint Isaac Jogues at
aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

List three ways you can work with God as he builds his Kingdom.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Write one thing you can do this week to invite others to be part of God's Kingdom?

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Praise

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

All: I will praise your name, my King and my God.

Side 1: I will give you glory, my God and King.

Side 2: Every day I will bless and praise your name forever.

All: I will praise your name, my King and my God.

Side 1: The Lord is full of grace and mercy.

Side 2: He is good in all his works and full of compassion.

All: I will praise your name, my King and my God.

Side 1: The Lord is faithful and always near. His name is holy.

Side 2: He lifts up those who fall.

All: I will praise your name, my King and my God.

Based on Psalm 145

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Amen.

Bow your head as the leader prays.



Sing "When We Praise You"
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
and give glory to you
our God.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains the Good News that God the Father loves his People and saves them from the power of sin and everlasting death. It also explains that the Gospels in the New Testament tell the stories of Jesus' life and teachings, parables, and miracles.

God's Word



Read **Luke 15:8–10** and talk about what these verses mean to you.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus taught about God's Kingdom of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth.
- Jesus established the Kingdom of God on Earth, and his teaching and miracles were signs of the Kingdom.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #546, 1154 at uscbb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Isaac Jogues, one of the first martyrs in North America.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand The Gospel Third-graders don't often pause to wonder where the accounts of Jesus' life came from or why we have four Gospels in Scripture, told from different perspectives. As they get to know the Gospels better, they will become more aware of the different tones and character of the Gospel writers and the differences that arise from the stories having been told for different audiences.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

When you pray "thy kingdom come," how do you think that's going to happen?

Reflecting on the Kingdom of God requires us to keep one foot in the present and another in the future. We manifest, or participate as members of the Kingdom, when we live as disciples of Christ. The Kingdom is "the Good News that results in love, justice, and mercy for the whole world. The Kingdom is realized partially on earth and permanently in heaven. We enter this Kingdom through faith in Christ, baptismal initiation into the Church, and life in communion with all her members" (*USCCA*, 79–80).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some ways he or she can share the Good News.
- Talk about some of your favorite parables and what they mean to you.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Isaac, pray for us that we may have the courage to bring God's love to others. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 7 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct answer.

1. God's _____ is in Heaven and also on Earth.
2. The _____ is God's promised one.
3. Jesus used _____ to teach others about God.
4. The word Gospel means _____.
5. Jesus' _____ happened by the power of God.

B Check Understanding To complete each statement use the same answer at the end of the first sentence and beginning of the second sentence.

6. Parables are stories told by _____.
_____ set people free from injustice and sin.
7. Jesus taught about the _____. The _____ is God's world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth.
8. The books in the New Testament that tell stories of Jesus are the _____. The _____ are named for Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
9. Readings from the Bible are also called _____. _____ was an important part of worship in Jesus' day.
10. Jesus is the _____. _____ is a Hebrew word that means "God's anointed."

