

Chapter
17

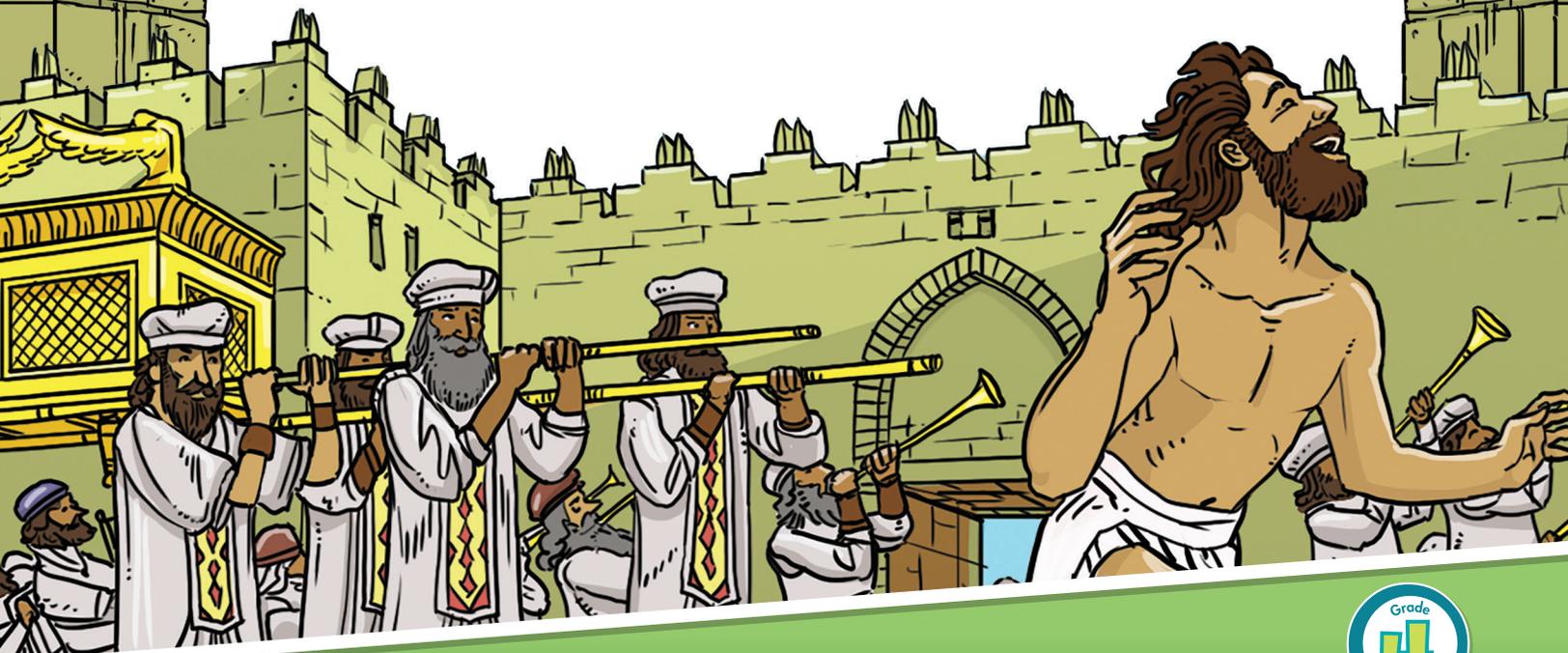
Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

We Celebrate Our Covenant with God

2 Samuel 6:12-15

Prayer

Dear God, we praise you. You alone
are holy. You alone bring us joy. Amen.



Use the Featured Story on page 424 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (2 Samuel 6:12-15) to help you answer the following questions.

What did you find interesting about this Scripture passage?

1

What did you find confusing or hard to understand?

2

What do you think is the main point of this Scripture passage?

3



Find the following words in the word search puzzle that relate to celebrating God's presence. Words may be found running horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Ark
celebrate
Covenant

dancing
joy
Mass

music
praise
presence

singing
Tabernacle

P T L M V P A R K H
R A C E A M U S I C
E B J O Y S R W O E
S E D O V B S R Q L
E R A Q M E I P L E
N N N F L X N R J B
C A C U O O G A Y R
E C I S D U I I N A
P L N Z M S N S V T
X E G E E A G E G E

Family Page

Background Reflection

Can you imagine being so excited that you just burst into dance? That is exactly what we read in today's Featured Story about David dancing before the Ark of the Covenant. David was so overcome with joy and thanksgiving for the presence of God that he sang and danced to welcome the Ark into his city. David did not care how he looked—he cared only for praising God.

Can we say the same when we worship God through the Mass? Mass is the ultimate way we celebrate our covenant with God today. We may not dance like David did, but our hearts and minds should completely fill with awe at what takes place during the Mass. We should participate fully, lifting and joining our hearts and minds and voices to praise and celebrate God's presence with us.

At Mass, Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine. We are truly in the presence of God, and the presence of God is within us. This great gift of his presence with us and in us should fill our hearts with joy and wonder. Praise God!

Family Activities

- Read together the Featured Story on page 424 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (2 Samuel 6:12–15). Invite your child to tell you what she or he learned about this passage.
- Discuss with your child how you worship and celebrate your covenant with God at Mass. In what ways could you improve your participation in the Mass? Could you sing a little louder or with more enthusiasm, for example? Could your family offer to bring up the gifts of bread and wine? Could your family spend quiet time after Mass thanking and praising God for his great gift of the Eucharist?
- Watch the video "Bible Theater: 2 Samuel—David Dances" (YouTube, 2:13) together. Discuss how your family can be more like David in celebrating your covenant with God.

People of Faith

Saint David the King (c. 1000 BC)

David was king of Israel, chosen by God. He made Jerusalem the capital city and helped the nation thrive. David organized ways for the priests and the people to worship. David gravely sinned, but he humbled himself and asked for God's forgiveness. King David loved and praised God and encouraged his people to love God too. King David's feast day is December 29.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Lord, we praise you because you alone are worthy of our praise. Your presence fills us with joy and wonder. Thank you for your many gifts, especially the gift of your presence in the Eucharist. Amen.



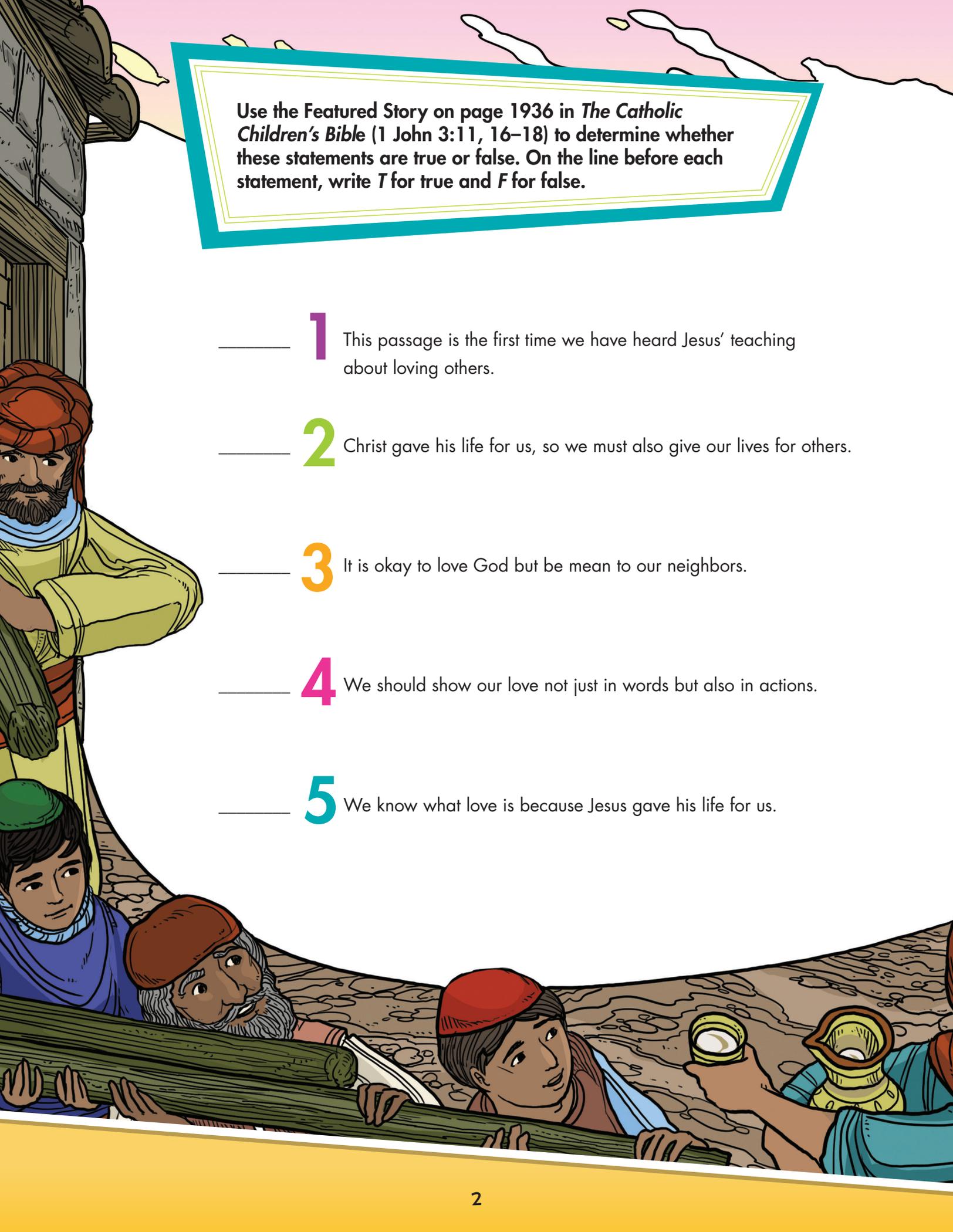
Living the Covenant

1 John 3:11, 16–18

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you have given us so many examples of your love. Help us to always follow your example of love in action, as we live our covenant with you. Amen.





Use the Featured Story on page 1936 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 John 3:11, 16–18) to determine whether these statements are true or false. On the line before each statement, write *T* for true and *F* for false.

_____ **1** This passage is the first time we have heard Jesus' teaching about loving others.

_____ **2** Christ gave his life for us, so we must also give our lives for others.

_____ **3** It is okay to love God but be mean to our neighbors.

_____ **4** We should show our love not just in words but also in actions.

_____ **5** We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us.

Compose an acrostic poem prayer using the letters in the word *love*. For each letter, find an action verb that begins a sentence to describe how you will help spread God's love, either in your family or in your community.





Family Page

Background Reflection

Jesus based the message of the Gospel on love, so love is at the center of what we do as Christians. Love motivates our actions and calls us to work for the good of others. Love truly requires us to desire the good of one another—to love one another as God loves us.

The Sixth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments warn us about envious thoughts and actions based on wanting someone or something that we have no right to want. Envy can harm the attitude of love that God calls us to embrace, because envy steals our joy and makes us believe that what others have is better than what we have. Envy might even make us think we have a right to take what others have. When envy enters our hearts, we become bitter, selfish, and angry. We focus on ourselves and on negative things, and we lose our focus on love.

Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we need to remember the love we do have. Let us always model this love through our actions and desires.

Family Activities

- Read together the Featured Story on page 1936 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 John 3:11, 16–18). Invite your child to share what he or she learned about this reading.
- The Live It! on page 1937 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* reminds us that charity begins at home. What are some ways that you can show love to one another as a family? Brainstorm a list, and then write out the ideas so you don't forget.
- Watch the video "Give it Away | Weird Animals VBS | Group Publishing" (YouTube, 2:52) together. Discuss how your family can "give away" God's love and how sharing love changes a person for the better.

People of Faith

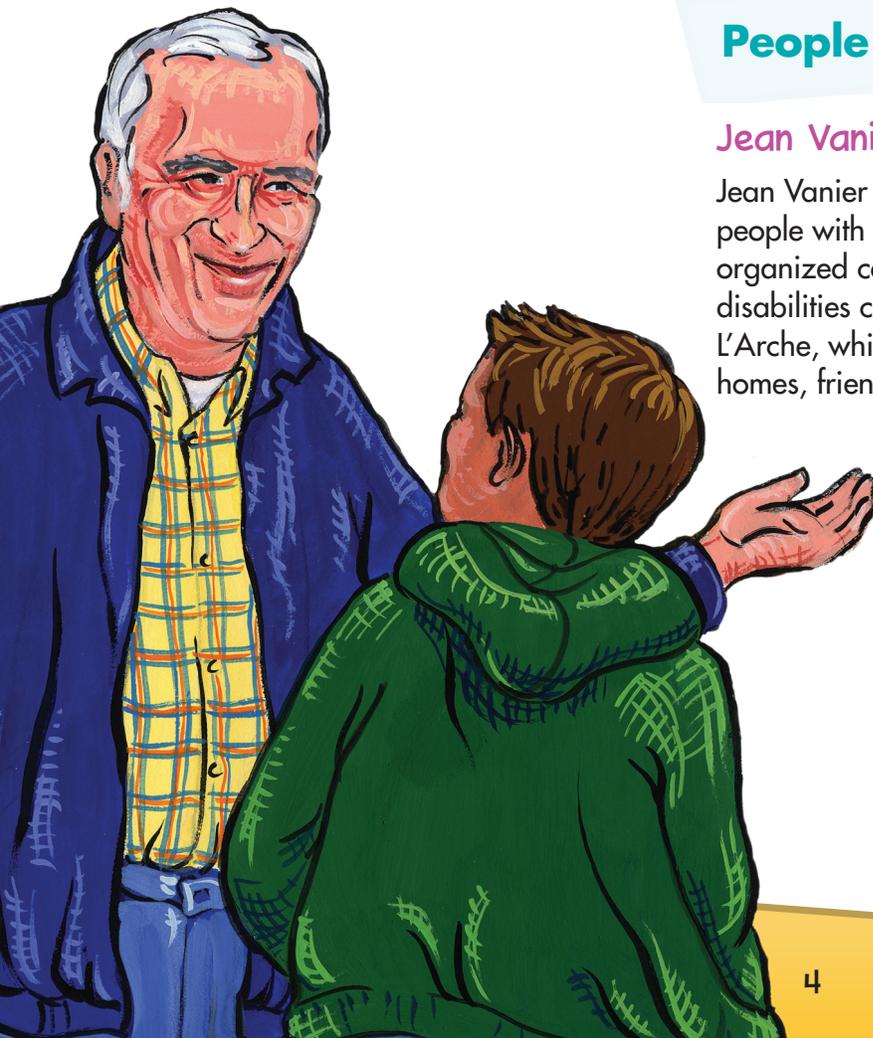
Jean Vanier (1928–2019)

Jean Vanier felt a call to show love to those in need. He found people with disabilities living in terrible conditions. So Jean organized communities where assistants and people with disabilities could live together. These communities are called L'Arche, which means "the ark"—a place of safety. In L'Arche homes, friends live and learn to be truly human together.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for giving us our family as a wonderful example of your love. Help us to show your love in our family. Help us to put others' needs ahead of our own. Amen.





Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

Meeting the Risen Jesus

Luke 24:28-32

Prayer

Jesus, help us follow you when we don't understand. Open our hearts to recognize you. Be with us as we learn more about your presence with us. Amen.





Find these words from the Featured Story on page 1644 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 24:28–32). Words may be found running horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

disciples
burning
bread

stay
Emmaus
Scriptures

recognize
disappeared

D	B	N	Q	U	E	M	M	A	U	S
D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	P	E
X	Q	S	A	Y	U	M	M	J	R	O
Y	B	J	A	E	U	L	P	U	K	O
S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	S	N
A	C	K	E	T	P	C	Y	F	T	J
Y	U	S	N	A	O	E	R	S	A	I
B	V	U	N	X	D	D	A	N	Y	B
Y	T	B	J	S	O	U	M	R	G	S
T	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	I	E	D
N	R	E	C	O	G	N	I	Z	E	D

Open Our Eyes

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. . . . Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Leader: Lord, sometimes it is hard to follow you because we don't understand.

All: Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to see you. *(Take one step.)*

Leader: Lord, you helped your two disciples to hear and understand what the Scripture said about you.

All: Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to see you. *(Take one step.)*

Leader: Lord, you broke and blessed bread with the disciples at Emmaus, and you are with us at every Eucharist.

All: Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to see you. *(Take one step.)*

Leader: Lord, we ask with the disciples at Emmaus: "Stay with us. Stay with us always."

All: Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to see you. *(Take one step and gather around the prayer table.)*

Leader: Lord, we have arrived at Emmaus. We are your disciples too, and we come to you with open eyes and open hearts. As we rejoice in your Resurrection, may we remember that every Sunday is a little Easter, and every time we receive Holy Communion, you come to live within us. We ask this in your name, Lord Jesus.

All: Amen.



Family Page

Background Reflection

The Emmaus story offers us another encounter between the resurrected Jesus and his disciples. As two discouraged disciples journey to Emmaus on the first Easter day, Jesus appears to them. However, they don't recognize him, even when he explains Scripture to them.

The two disciples then invite Jesus to join them for supper. Finally, in the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened and they recognize the Risen Jesus. He disappears from their sight, and the two disciples get up quickly and go back to Jerusalem to share the Good News.

Like the two followers, we are spiritually fed in the Eucharistic meal, where we encounter the presence of the Risen Jesus. And at the end of Mass, we too should be excited and ready to tell everyone we meet about Jesus. Every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, and every Mass is a supper at Emmaus, in which we recognize the Lord Jesus whom we receive in the breaking of the bread, and by whose life within us we are graced and changed.

Assure your child that Jesus risen from the dead at Easter means that when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, he truly lives within us.

Family Activities

- Spend time with your child praying before the tabernacle, or in your parish's Eucharistic Adoration chapel, if one is available. Recall that the Emmaus story reminds us that the Risen Jesus is with us in the Eucharist.
- Send a note of gratitude to your parish priests on behalf of your child, thanking them for helping you celebrate the presence of Jesus in Scripture and in the Eucharist. Make sure your child signs the note.
- Watch the video "On the road to Emmaus" (YouTube, 2:39) together. Invite your child to share the meaning of this Scripture and recall as a family that Jesus Christ is with us at every Mass, where we also hear Scripture and receive the Eucharist.

People of Faith

Saint James the Greater (first century)

Saint James and his brother, Saint John the Apostle, left their work as fishermen to follow Jesus. Saint James became bishop of Jerusalem and was later beheaded. It is said that before his death, James brought Christianity to Spain. For many centuries, up to today, pilgrims have walked the Way of Saint James in Spain (Camino de Santiago), ending at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where he is buried, to ask for his prayers. The feast of Saint James is July 25.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Jesus, you rose from the dead, and you are with us through the gift of Scripture and the Eucharist. Help us to recognize you when we hear Scripture and receive the Eucharist at Mass. Stay with our family always. Amen.

