

CHAPTER 11

GETTING TO KNOW THE RISEN JESUS

Preparing to Teach

Overview

The stories of the Resurrection are among the most beautiful in the Gospels. Crushed followers who have been mourning the death of their beloved Jesus see him and talk with him again! Not only is Jesus still alive, but all that he promised is true too!

One of the most senseless and painful events in people's lives is the death of a young person. Whether this death is from cancer, a car accident, or a random and strange illness, the death of a person with so much potential and life within goes against our sense of what is just.

The promise of eternal life is about the only hope that helps people of any age get through such a loss. After the initial months and years have passed, those closest to this person may say they feel like they already have one foot in heaven, like they can still feel the child's presence, or like they have a glimpse of eternal life now. These experiences testify to the reality of the Resurrection in our midst.

We cannot emphasize too much to young adolescents how important the Resurrection is, how different a life without this type of hope is from one that lives in the hope of resurrection. Not only is death not "the end," but suffering is not meaningless; each person has an eternal destiny of life with God, and this life is not the only measure by which all decisions should be considered.

Be aware that the young people before you may have experienced the loss of people close to them, some recently. Though resurrection is hope for all of us, we must be careful to speak of resurrection in light of the whole Paschal mystery—suffering and dying as well.

THIS CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

Getting to Know the Story of the Risen Jesus

- Appearances of the Risen Jesus

Getting to Know the Risen Jesus

- It Is Not Always Easy to Recognize Jesus

Scripture Passages Related to the Risen Jesus

The passages listed in bold are nearly all the readings the students will reference to complete the puzzle “The Risen Jesus” on page 29 of the *Student Activity Workbook for “Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics”: Getting to Know Jesus*.

- **Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10** (The Resurrection)*
- **Matthew 28:11-15** (The report of the guard)
- Mark 16:12-13, **Luke 24:13-35** (The walk to Emmaus)*
- Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-18, **Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-23, Acts 1:6-8** (Jesus appears to his disciples.)*
- Matthew 28:9-10, Mark 16:9-11, **John 20:11-18** (Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.)*
- **John 20:24-29** (Jesus and Thomas)
- **John 21:1-14** (Jesus appears to seven disciples.)*
- **John 21:15-19** (Jesus and Peter)
- Mark 16:19-20, **Luke 24:50-52, Acts 1:6-11** (Jesus is taken up to heaven.)*

Asterisk (*) signifies key passages to cover.

Chapter 11

**Break
Through!**

Articles from *Breakthrough!* Related to the Risen Jesus

- Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:16-20)
- A Model Friend (Mark 16:1-11)
- Celebrate Easter (Luke 24:1-12)
- Walking with Jesus (Luke 24:13-35)
- Peace (John 20:19-21)
- Penance and Reconciliation (John 20:19-23)
- Apostolic Succession (John 21:15-19)
- Now What? (Acts 1:1-11)

The Risen Jesus and Young Adolescents Today

- Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene, which is testimony of his desire to save all people, no matter their role in society. Young adolescents are often more accepting of people with differences and can be less concerned with social distinctions than their parents and grandparents.
- Jesus appears to two disciples on the way to Emmaus, but they fail to recognize him at once. Jesus also wants to reveal himself to young adolescents, but they do not always recognize him.
- When Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, he is offering Peter a chance to overcome his spiritual failures. Young

adolescents are given that same chance when they receive the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

- Before he ascends into heaven, Jesus promises he will remain with his followers in spirit. Young people are offered this same promise.
- Jesus is clear in establishing his mission for the Church. All young adolescent Christians have a responsibility to carry out that mission, especially those who have received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Getting to Know the Story of the Risen Jesus

Appearances of the Risen Jesus

In this activity the students match Scripture citations with corresponding stories of the appearance of the risen Jesus.

If the young people have the student workbook, they can also complete the puzzle “The Risen Jesus” on page 29. Both of these activities ask the young people to read fairly comprehensively, and each activity could be done alone or as a review of the other. See appendix 2 of this manual for the solution to the puzzle.



Chapter 11

Preparation

- Provide each student with a copy of *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* or another Bible, a sheet of paper, and a pen or pencil.
- Make copies of handout 11-A, “Appearances of the Risen Jesus,” one for each student.

1. Distribute the bibles, the handouts, and the pens or pencils. Allow the students time to individually complete the handout.

2. When the students have completed the handout, review the following answers with them:

Answers to handout 11-A: 1—D, 2—G, 3—I, 4—A, 5—J, 6—B, 7—H, 8—F, 9—C, 10—E

3. Conclude the activity by discussing the following questions:

- Why did Jesus appear to so many?
- What was his message?
- Why is this important to us today?



- Which story is your favorite? Why?
- What are some of the differences you notice between Jesus *before* his death and Resurrection and *after*?



If the young people have the student workbook, you may want them to answer question 1 on page 30 as a way for them to reflect on the joy that these encounters with Jesus brought.

Getting to Know the Risen Jesus

It Is Not Always Easy to Recognize Jesus

Though the disciples are actually walking with Jesus on the way to Emmaus, they do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. In this activity the young people reflect on the roadblocks they encounter to recognizing Jesus.

1. Have the students read the story “The Walk to Emmaus,” Luke 24:13-35, quietly to themselves or for homework. Ask one student to proclaim this Gospel reading to the class.

2. Ask the young people to spend time journaling about these questions:

- Is there a time you put aside each day to spend with Jesus?
- If not, does your life seem too busy for Jesus?
- Can we lose sight of Jesus if we don’t spend time with him in prayer?

Discuss everyday schedules with the students. Compare the story “The Walk to Emmaus” to our everyday lives, and ask the students how we can find Jesus in our everyday lives—in nature, in social outreach programs, or in the quiet of our hearts.



If you are using the student workbook, you may want to have the young people answer question 2 on page 30 in writing.

3. Conclude by compiling a written list of suggestions, given by the class, for spending time with students. Encourage the students to choose one suggestion and put it into practice.