

Jesus' Resurrection

Core Activity

He Is Risen!

1. For this activity you will need Bibles, paper, pens or pencils, one or more plastic eggs, an assortment of art supplies for building small sculptures (e.g., construction paper, scissors, glue, clay, pipe cleaners, wire, tinfoil, buttons, sequins, and little pompons), and reflective music (optional).

2. Introduce the activity by asking the students how much they know about the Resurrection of Jesus. Pose questions like those that follow and lead a brief discussion:

- What happened?
- Who saw it?
- What happened because of it?

3. Distribute Bibles and divide the students into small groups. Assign each small group one of the following passages:

- Matt. 27:62—28:20
- Mark 15:42—16:20
- Luke 23:50—24:53
- John 19:38—21:25

Explain that as “Scripture sleuths,” they have 5 minutes to examine their assigned passages and answer two questions:

- What do we know about Jesus after he died?
- What don't we know?

Ask someone in each group to take notes to share with the class. Tell the note takers to write the two questions on separate sheets of paper. Invite the students to share their findings in their groups, and direct the recorders to write their groups' answers under the appropriate questions. When time is up, solicit comments and observations from the groups.

4. Distribute one plastic egg to each student or have one on display for all to see. Invite the students to spend a moment of quiet reflection on what the Resurrection means to them. Then make the art supplies available and tell everyone that when they are ready, they should create a symbol of the Resurrection, of the new life that Jesus gave the world. The only restriction is that it must be small enough to fit inside the egg.

Encourage your students to work alone and silently. You may want to play reflective music during this time. After 10 minutes or so, invite the students to share their symbols with one other person.

5. Conclude by reading aloud Philippians 2:9–11.

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Creed* manual.)

Core Activity Extension

Phillip's Story



As homework or class work, either read the handout “Phillip’s Story” (Document #: TX003184) to the students, or distribute the handout and ask them to read it quietly. Afterward have the students reflect on and answer the following questions as part of a discussion or in writing:

- What is the meaning of the symbols associated with the Resurrection?
- How did the meaning of Phillip’s egg change his religious education class?
- Have you ever heard something from someone that profoundly changed your life, as Phillip’s description changed the lives of the nine children in his class and their teacher?

(This activity is adapted from Michael Theisen, *Youth Ministry Strategies*, pp. D:17–D:18.)

Additional Activities

Evidence for the Resurrection

1. Divide the young people into four groups. Make sure half the students in each group have a Bible and the other half a *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition (CFH)*. Direct those with the *CFH* to find the four evidences for the Resurrection on pages 116–118:

- We can trust the validity of the Gospels and the letters in the New Testament.
- The Resurrection was a consistent belief of the early Church.
- The tomb was empty.
- Jesus’ followers experienced a profound change.

2. Ask the groups to summarize the paragraphs in the *CFH* for the rest of the students by completing the sentence “We know the Resurrection really happened because . . .” Suggest that they find scriptural passages to support the claim.

3. Invite all the groups to share with the class the information they discovered. Then lead a discussion of questions like these:

- Which argument do you find most convincing?
- Can you think of any other reasons why we can believe that the Resurrection really happened?

4. Close with a comment about God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ coming to us through both Scripture and Tradition, that is, the teaching of the Church through the Pope and the bishops, who are successors to Peter and the Apostles.

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Creed* manual.)

Apostle to the Apostles

Instruct the students to research the life of Mary Magdalene, who is the subject of the saintly profile on page 121 of the *CFH*. Ask them to find and compare some historical accounts of Mary Magdalene and current scholarship on the saint. Invite the students to share their findings in writing or in an oral presentation. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Creed* manual.)

Film at Eleven!

Divide the students into groups of six to eight. Tell the groups each to develop Jesus' Resurrection as the top story of the day for a network newscast. Provide Bibles and props, and encourage the students to be as creative as possible. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Creed* manual.)

The Women with Jesus

Direct your students to search the accounts of the Passion and the Resurrection to discover the integral role women played in the last week of Jesus' life. Invite them, individually or in small groups, to create a prayer service that highlights the role of those women as witnesses to the fulfillment of God's promise. Select one or two prayer services and use them during class. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Creed* manual.)

(The material labeled *TC: Creed* is adapted from *Total Catechesis: Catechetical Sessions on the Creed*, by Maura Thompson Hagarty, Michael J. Hagarty, Marilyn Kielbasa, and Barbara Murray, in the Total Catechesis series [Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2004]. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.

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