

## Chapter 9

### Featured Story

Two Disciples Meet the Risen Jesus (Luke 24:13–35)

#### Lesson Goals

- to explain that the Risen Jesus is with us today in a special way
- to recognize what occurs during the Communion Rite
- to identify the proper way to receive Holy Communion

#### Lesson at a Glance

**Go** (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

Engage Activity

**Seek** (30 minutes)

Featured Story

Core Learning Activity

**Find** (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of the Eucharist

Lesson Wrap-Up

Closing Prayer

#### Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 9 activity booklet
- a small cloth or felt banner
- precut Eucharist symbols
- glue and markers

#### Music Suggestions

- "E-U-C-H-A-R-I-S-T," by Mary Zitnik (Ponditz Records, Inc.)
- "In Remembrance of Me," by Cheri Keaggy (Sparrow Records)

# Jesus Is Present with Us Now



### Background Focus

Relationships are nourished and strengthened by good communication, shared and expressed love, and quality presence. Our relationship with Jesus is not unlike others in our lives. Although we don't encounter Jesus in the same way as we do other people, he offers us a chance to have a relationship with him through communication, love, and presence.

The special presence of Jesus in Word and Sacrament is an incredible gift to us and to all of the Church. It is the way we continue and strengthen our relationship with him.

In this lesson, we read about the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. Their hearts burned as they discovered that the Risen Jesus was present with them. May our hearts and the hearts of all those preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist burn with joy as we celebrate the gift of our own encounter and relationship with Jesus.

#### **Go** (10 minutes)

### Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 in the chapter 9 activity booklet and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Invite your child to read the prayer, say "Amen" together, and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have your child put the activity booklet away for now.

## Engage Activity

- Invite your child to recite the Our Father that they learned more about in the last time together.
- Ask your child to share one thing Jesus might say to us if he were standing here today.
- Tell your child that they will learn in this lesson about how Jesus continues to be present to us today.

## ✚ Seek (30 minutes)

### Featured Story

- Invite your child to find Luke 24:13–35 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (pages 1643 and 1646).
- Direct your child to turn to page 1644 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story there.
- Ask your child to look at the images on pages 1644–1645 and describe what they see. Invite them to guess why the two people look surprised.
- Explain that this story takes place after Jesus died, was buried, and the tomb was found empty. Read the title and the Featured Story.

### Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1645 or ask your child to read it.
- Ask your child to summarize what is being said, and ask the following questions to check for comprehension:
  - Why were the disciples sad? (*They thought Jesus was gone forever.*)
  - What happened when Jesus blessed and broke bread and gave it to the two disciples? (*They recognized that the stranger was Jesus.*)
  - What does this story tell us about Jesus and us? (*He is risen and is with us.*)

### Live It!

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 in the activity booklet and complete the drawing activity.
- Read Live It! on page 1645, and invite your child to respond to the questions.

- Tell your child that although we don't see Jesus in the way the two disciples did in the story, we know Jesus is present to us today through other people, through his Word in the Bible, and in the Eucharist.

### Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1645.
- Encourage your child to summarize the Bible reading, using the images in Tell It!
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining chapter.

## Core Learning Activity

### First Communion Banner

- Prepare in advance for this activity by having all of the elements for the banner precut so that your child can focus on placing and gluing them to the banner.
- Complete an image search online for examples and ideas for symbols by typing in "First Communion Banners."
- Have your child add their name by using a marker or fabric paint. You may also precut letters for their first name.

## ✕ Find (20 minutes)

### God's Treasure of the Eucharist

- Explain that we receive the Eucharist during a part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist called the Communion Rite. Tell your child that **Holy Communion** is another name we use for the Body and Blood of Christ. Continue with the following points:
  - *Communion* means "unity" or "oneness," and receiving the Eucharist strengthens our unity with Jesus and with the Church.
  - The Communion Rite begins with the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, which we pray in unity with the Church.
  - We then offer one another a sign of peace, which is also a sign of our unity.

- Teach the process for receiving Communion:
  - We make a short bow from the waist as we approach the priest or minister who is distributing the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ.
  - We can receive the Host, which is another name for the consecrated bread, in our hands (with the left hand placed palm up in the right hand) or on our tongue.
  - The minister of Holy Communion will say, “The Body of Christ,” to which we respond, “Amen.” We then receive the Host in our palm or on our tongue. If we take Holy Communion in our hands, we take the Host from our palm with the right hand. We then consume the Host.
  - When we receive from the cup, we bow again. The minister will say, “The Blood of Christ,” to which we respond, “Amen,” and take a small sip from the cup.
- Tell your child that after we have received the Eucharist, we stand and sing, or kneel and sing, and then pray silently.
- Use pages 6–7 of *The Order of the Mass and Key Words* booklet to point out the different parts and prayers of the Communion Rite.
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 in the activity booklet and complete the Communion Rite ordering activity. You can decide if they can refer to *The Order of the Mass* booklet or if you want them to try the activity first without looking. *Answers: Amen, Host, Prayer, Peace, Holy, Body, Blood*

## Lesson Wrap-Up

- Ask your child to think back over all of the different things they did in this lesson, and invite them to share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made:
  - The Risen Jesus is with us today in a special way.
  - The Communion Rite begins with the Lord’s Prayer, includes the sign of peace, and is the part of Mass during which we receive Holy Communion.

- We respond “Amen” after the minister of Communion says, “The Body of Christ,” and, “The Blood of Christ.” We consume the Host and take a small sip from the cup.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 9 sticker in the correct circle on the treasure map.



## Closing Prayer

- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then saying, “Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God,” followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Invite your child to turn to page 6 in *The Order of the Mass and Key Words* booklet. Tell them that the “Invitation to Communion” is the final prayer of preparation to receive Holy Communion. In it, we ask that we may be ready to receive the Eucharist.
- Tell your child that you will say the words of the priest, and then they will pray the assembly’s part.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that supports the focus of the lesson.
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

## Additional Family Suggestions

For additional ideas, activities, and prayers that can be used by your family for this chapter, please refer to the Family Page on page 4 of this chapter’s activity booklet.