

Home Assignment
March-All Levels
Easter and the Resurrection

If your child was absent for our March LIFT experience, we offer you these discussion questions to share with your child. Have fun!

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Questions to consider: What time of year is it in the church? How do you know? What color is everywhere in church right now? What season is coming next? What color is associated with it?

(We are in the liturgical season of Lent, purple and then Holy Week (the Triduum) and Easter are coming next!)

Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday and the Triduum

What is the Triduum? The Triduum includes Holy, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. This three day celebration is the summit of our liturgical calendar; everything in our church calendar leads to this moment. They are chronologically three days but they are liturgically one day, unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery (Paschal Mystery-Christ's life, death and resurrection). They are three days because the celebration begins at sundown on Holy Thursday and concludes sundown on Easter Sunday.

- **Holy Thursday** commemorates the washing of the disciples' feet and the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
- **Good Friday** continues the story with the trial and death of Jesus on the cross. During the service, we venerate the cross and share Communion which was consecrated on Holy Thursday.
- Then on **Holy Saturday**, we hear stories of our salvation history culminating Easter Gospel of Jesus' resurrection. The celebration continues into Easter Sunday. Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday are connected – Holy Saturday is the vigil (or the night before) celebration of Easter.

Easter Sunday Gospel Reading

Gospel of John 20: 1-9

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

Questions to consider:

For Level 1-3

1. What does the word Resurrection mean?
2. In this account, who was at the tomb on Sunday morning?
3. In the beginning of this account, was Mary able to see? What is light or dark outside?
4. How does it feel to be in the dark – literally and figuratively?
5. What can read or do or pray to help us remain in the light?

For Level 4-5

1. Have you ever received news that was so good that it was – at first – unbelievable?

2. Does anyone actually see Jesus leave the tomb? Why do you think that the burial clothes are described in such detail?
3. What does it mean when the story says, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead?"
4. If you had been with Mary Magdalene that day, what would you have done? Would you have doubted or believed?

For Level 6-8

1. What day of the week and time does Mary arrive at the tomb?
2. Do you think that Mary's reaction is sensible in thinking that Jesus' body has been taken from the tomb? Or is she missing something, especially since Jesus had alluded to his rising from the dead a number of times during his ministry?
3. How would you have reacted if you were Mary in this situation?
4. What makes the Beloved Disciples' interpretation of the scene different at this point in time?
5. What does it mean to have faith, even if you do not fully understand Scripture?
6. How can you spread the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection during this Easter Season?