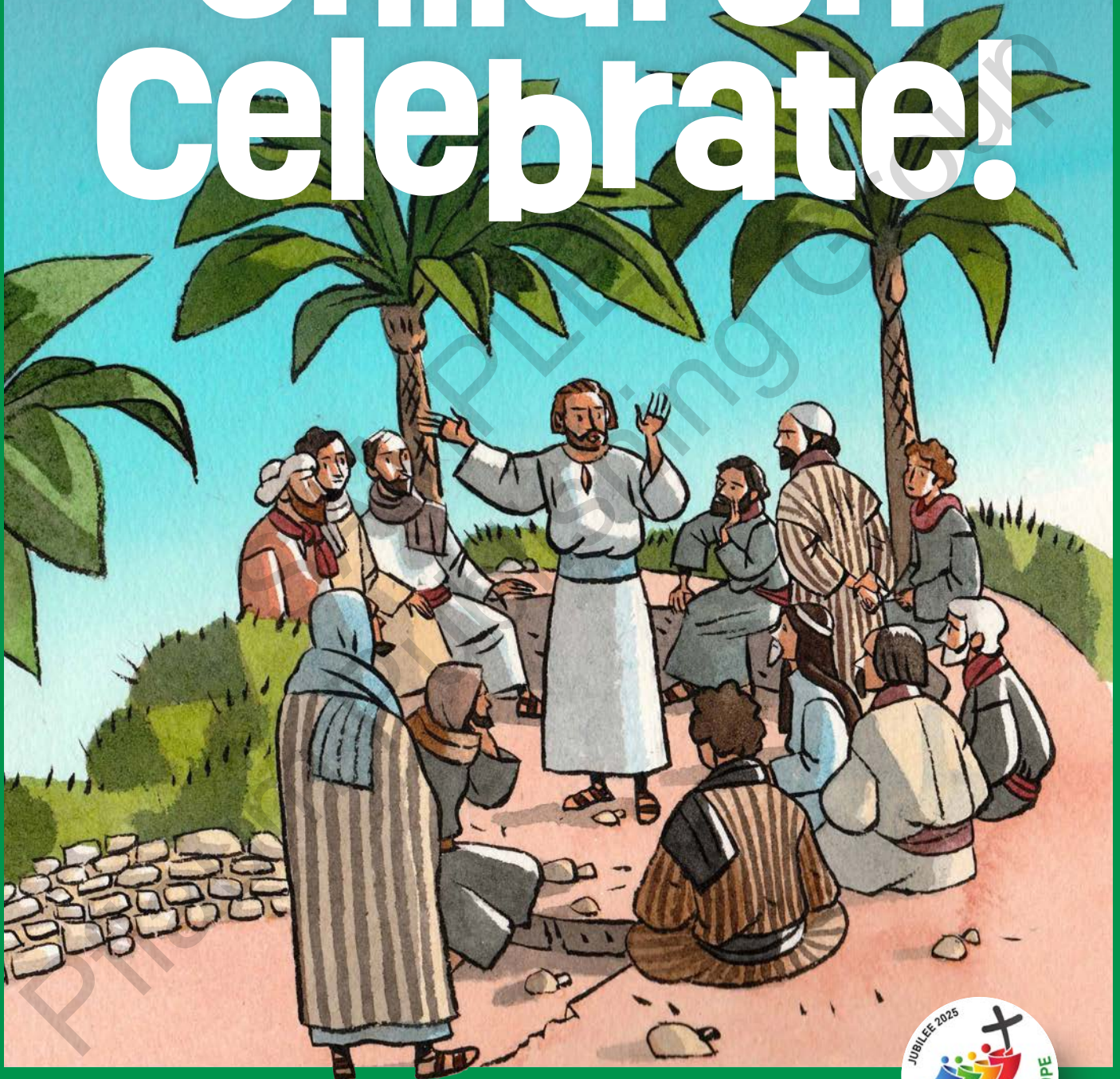


NEW! WEEKLY GOSPEL
REFLECTION VIDEOS

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Children Celebrate!



Spring 2025 (Year C)

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
through **MAY 18, 2025** | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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The Readings

The readings cited are the readings that the children heard at the Sunday Liturgy. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, there may be only one reading, plus the Psalm and the Gospel, or the First Readings may be different altogether from those the adults hear. The Gospel most always is the same, but may be the shorter form. The *Directory for Masses With Children* allows for these differences to accommodate the children's level of comprehension.



Bonus Activities

The last three pages of this book offer bonus activities intended for use by children who are pre-readers or beginning readers. They can be used at any time during these spring months, as children learn foundational truths of our faith in the Lent and Easter seasons.

Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!* Visit <https://bit.ly/3uxvsxR> for weekly Gospel Reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.

MARCH 9, 2025 + FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 26:4–10

Psalm 91:1–2, 10–11

Luke 4:1–13

We Pray

Jesus, help us to always follow God's rules. Help us be more like you. Amen.

The Word of God This Week

Jesus Faces Temptation

Jesus went into the desert for forty days, where he was tested by the Devil. The Devil told Jesus to turn stone into bread. Jesus answered, "No one lives only on food." Then, the Devil told Jesus to worship him and he would make him powerful. Jesus answered, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!" Finally, the Devil dared Jesus to jump from the top of the Temple. Jesus said, "Don't test the Lord, your God."



Scan here for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.



Activity

Lent is a time to work at growing into the people God wants us to be. Think about what you can do this Lent. **Finish the words of this prayer card. Say your prayer each day of Lent.**



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Dear God,
Help me to be _____ during Lent.

Help me to know _____

Help me to act _____

I thank you for _____

I love you. Amen.

NAME _____



Family Corner

FAITH FOCUS

Self-denial helps us develop the discipline and self-control to live good moral lives. Lent is an excellent time to work on developing more control over our bad habits.

In today's Gospel, Jesus practices self-discipline through fasting and prayer. He knows that if he is to conquer the difficulties ahead of him he must have self-discipline, which does not come from a self-indulgent life.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read today's Gospel and reflect on areas of your lives that need changing. Here are some ideas:

- Do you complain about small inconveniences? Remember to be thankful for your blessings.
- Do you get easily annoyed when things don't go your way? Think of ways you can remain calm and respectful instead.
- Do you use unacceptable language or call one another demeaning names? Decide to eliminate these bad habits.

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 5:12–16
Psalm 118:2, 4, 13–14
John 20:19–29

We Pray

Lord, like the Apostle Thomas, sometimes our faith is weak. Help us be strong in our beliefs. Amen.

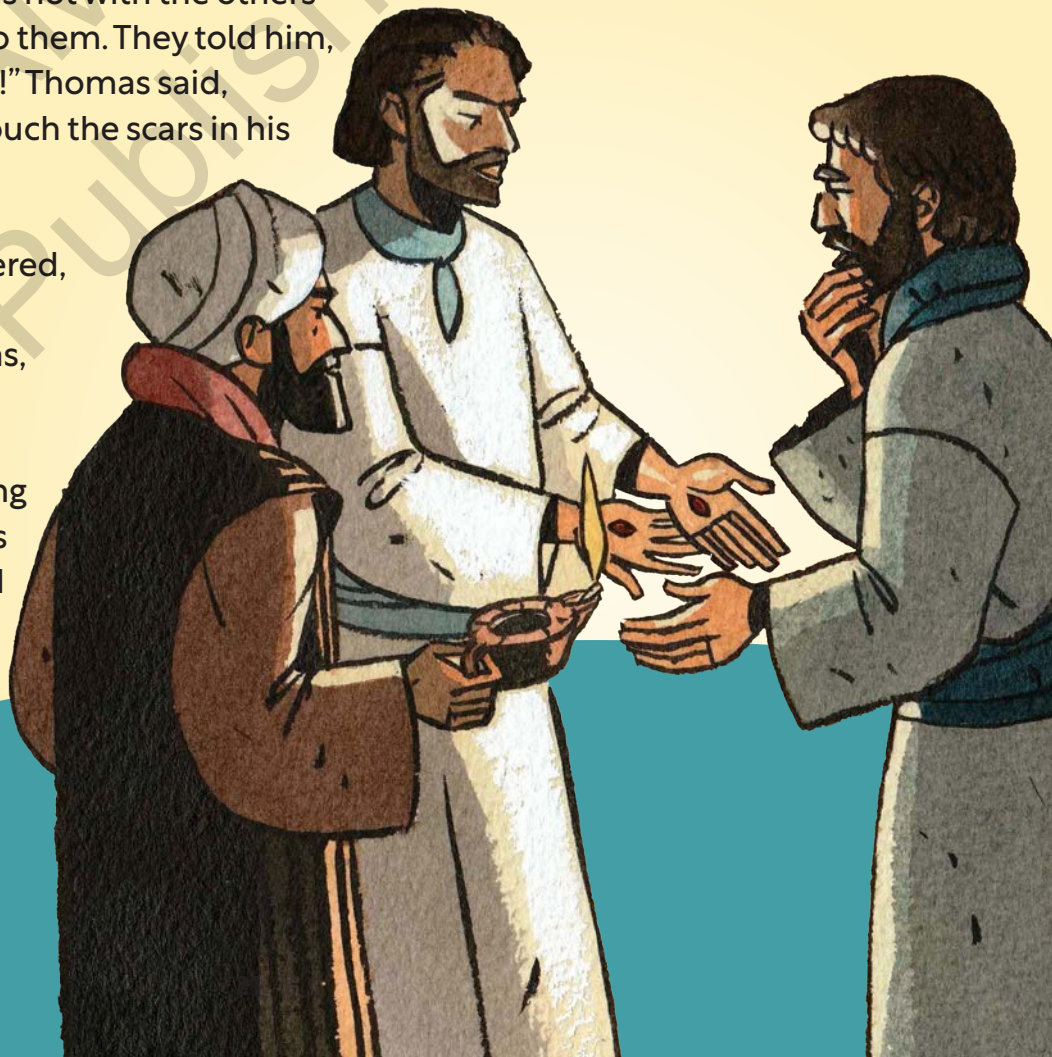
The Word of God This Week



Jesus Helps Thomas Believe

The Apostle Thomas was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said, “I won’t believe until I touch the scars in his hands and side!”

A week later, when the Apostles were gathered, Jesus appeared before them. He said to Thomas, “Put your finger on my hand; put your hand in my side. Stop doubting and have faith!” Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God!”



Scan here for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

Activity

At first, Thomas doubted. When he saw Jesus, he believed. What did Thomas say to tell Jesus that he believed? **Circle every other letter in the circle. Write the letters on the lines below. Then read what Thomas said.** The first letter has been done for you.



**SCAN
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for family
resources



M _____

Family Corner

FAITH FOCUS

When Thomas returned to the room where the other disciples had seen Jesus, he found some ecstatic friends. Although he probably wanted to believe what they told him, he found it unbelievable. Jesus returned and gave Thomas proof.

We have all heard about how someone turned their life around or was successful because of someone else's faith in them. We understand what a gift it is to that person. Faith is a gift. Our faith in God is one of our greatest gifts.

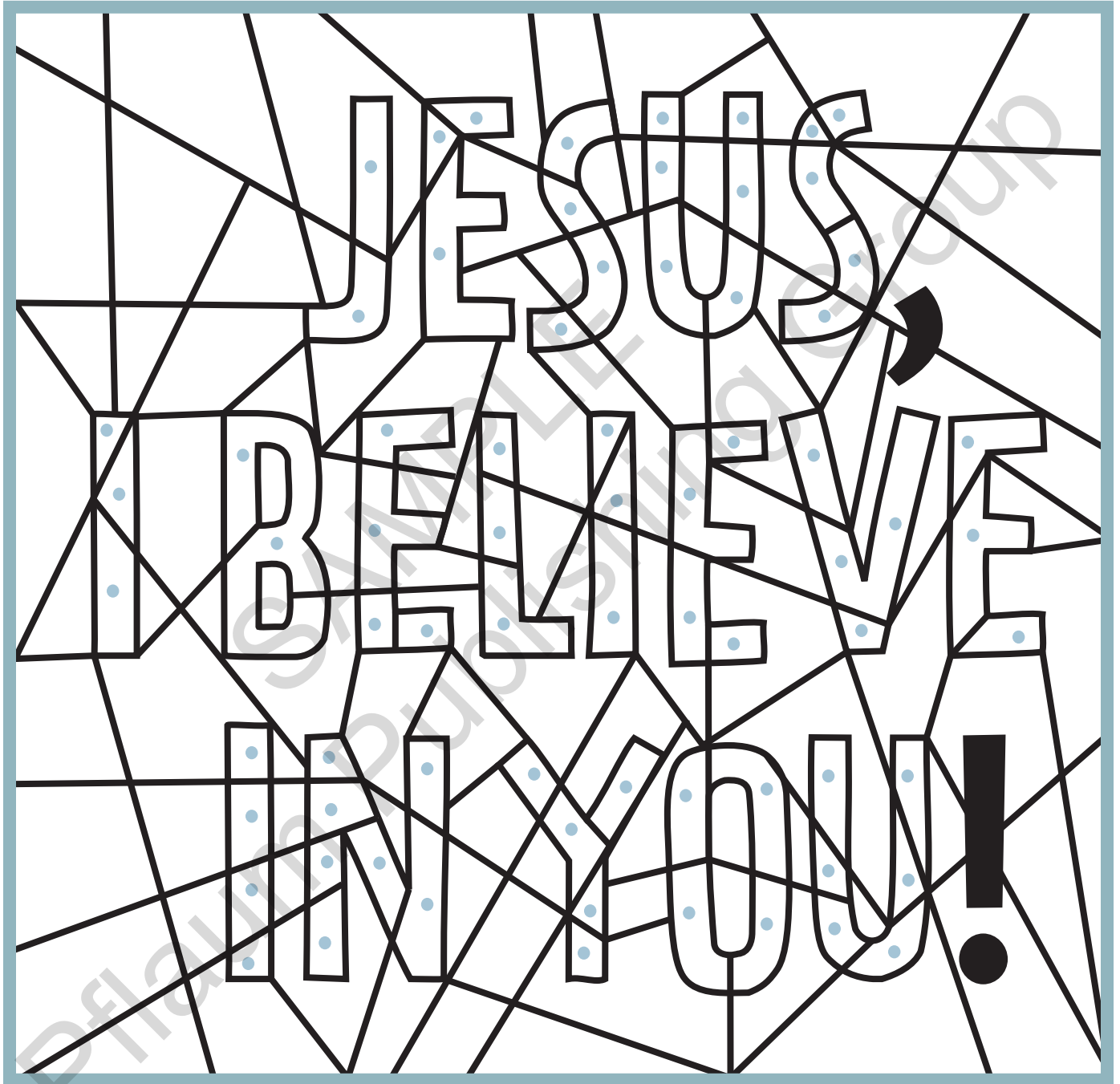
FAMILY ACTIVITY

Go on a religious-objects scavenger hunt in your home. Allow everyone 15 minutes to go through the house and collect as many religious objects as they can—holy cards, medals, statues, rosaries, prayer books, and Bibles.

Then gather to share your findings. Recall from whom you received each object and why. These are the stories of your family's personal faith experience. These are your sacred memories.



Part of the gift of faith is believing in something even when we can't see it with our eyes. **Color the spaces marked with a dot to express your faith. Write the words on the line below.**



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