



Lesson 3

Jesus Is Emmanuel, God with Us



Lesson at a Glance



Learning Goals

- During His earthly life, Jesus made the astonishing claim that He is God.
- There are sources outside of Scripture that verify Jesus' historical existence, His reputation, His authority as a teacher, and His Crucifixion.
- The earliest information we have about Jesus is found in the *kerygmas*, brief texts that proclaim in a simple way the core teachings of the Gospel message.
- The way in which the Apostles preached about Jesus reveal several striking patterns that give us confidence in the truth of their claims.
- Jesus Himself provided the most significant proofs of His divinity: His miracles, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and, most importantly, His glorious Resurrection from the dead.
- St. Paul records a list of the many witnesses to the Risen Jesus and shows that these witnesses had everything to lose and nothing to gain by bearing false witness to the Resurrection of Christ.



Lesson Plan Chart

DAY 1

Warm-Up: Teacher-guided activity

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

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STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

N/A

Activity: Divine Evidence: Jesus' Claim to be God

pg. 51

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Formative Assessment: My Legacy

pg. 51

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DAY 2

Warm-Up: More or Less Likely

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

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STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

pg. 32

Activity: Divine Evidence: Jesus' Miracles and Gift of the Holy Spirit

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pg. 33

Formative Assessment: Miracles of Jesus

pg. 64

pg. 37

DAY 3

Warm-Up: *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* by François-Joseph Navez

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

pg. 66

STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

pg. 39

- You will need: an image of the painting *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* found at SophiaOnline.org/Gr6Unit1Lesson3

Activity: Divine Evidence: Jesus' Glorious Resurrection

pg. 69

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Formative Assessment: God with Us Crossword

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Lesson at a Glance, continued



Connections to the *Catechism* in This Lesson

CCC 445, 464–478, 638–655



Vocabulary Your Students Will Learn

- **Divine Revelation** is God's communication of Himself, that He loves us unconditionally, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin. God made known the mystery of His divine plan by deeds and words over time, and most fully by sending His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Emmanuel** is the name given to the future Messiah and Savior by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. Hebrew for “God with us.”
- **Jesus** is the Hebrew word for “God saves.”
- The **kerygmas** are brief Christian proclamations that express the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. These were the first proclamations of the Early Church, written within a decade of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, preserved in the New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul.
- A **miracle** is a supernatural act of God that shows His power over all things.
- An **exorcism** is a divine power through which a demon is cast out of a possessed person.
- **Prophecy** is a gift of the Holy Spirit that allows the recipient to understand God's will for the future.
- The **Resurrection** is the crowning truth of the Christian Faith—that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day after His Death on the Cross.



Key Scripture Passages

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

— *John 14:6*

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

— *John 20:29*



Prayer for This Lesson

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.



Day 1

Warm-Up

- A.** Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson:



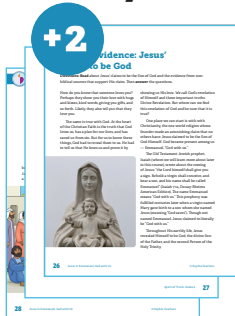
O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

- B.** Next, ask your students to think to themselves for a moment about what evidence would exist 2,000 years from now that they existed and lived their lives here on this earth. What would scholars or archeologists 2,000 years from now be able to know about them, and how would they know it? Allow a few minutes for discussion (which may be humorous at times). *Allow for reasoned discussion.*
- C.** Then, point out that there will most likely be little, if any, evidence that any of us existed 2,000 years from now, especially given that so much of our records today are digital. Who is to say that there will even be a way to read the digital information of today in the far future? There may be stray fast-food receipts, random letters or photographs, and maybe even some of our collected junk that will remain to preserve a record of us. But it is highly unlikely that any of us will have detailed accounts of our lives written that will affect the course of human history after we have died. Encourage your students to think about the ancient world of 2,000 years ago and how it was even more unlikely that people from that era would still be known 2,000 years after their death.
- D.** Ask your students how we know today that Jesus historically existed 2,000 years ago. *Students will most likely respond that we know about Jesus through Scripture, and some may cite the teachings and Tradition preserved by the Church.*
- E.** After allowing students to respond, ask if they are aware that there is non-biblical evidence for the existence of Jesus.



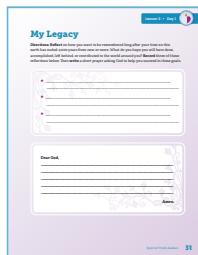
E. Then explain that there exists evidence from outside of the Bible that Jesus existed. This non-biblical evidence not only reveals that Jesus existed, but that He had wisdom and authority, worked miracles, attracted many followers, and was crucified under Pontius Pilate, just as the Gospels tell us. Even more, there is all sorts of evidence both from Scripture and non-scriptural sources that prove Jesus' most astonishing claim — that He is God, Emmanuel, "God with us." Over the course of the next few lessons, we will explore this evidence, culminating in the greatest proof of Jesus' divinity: His Resurrection in glory.

Activity



- A.** Have your students turn to **Jesus' Claim to be God** on **pg. 26** in the Student Workbook and read independently about Jesus' claim to be God and the evidence from outside of Scripture that supports His claim. You may also choose to read aloud to your class or call on students to take turns reading aloud. Then have them answer the questions.
- B.** When they have finished, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

Formative Assessment



- A.** Have your students turn to **My Legacy** on **pg. 31** in the Student Workbook. create a list on their own paper of three things they would want to be most remembered for 2,000 years from now, long after they are gone. Encourage them to think about what goals they may have for their lives, what they want to do for a career, or how they want to help others and contribute to the world around them. Invite them to think about their future families, friends, and so forth.
- B.** When they have finished, call on student volunteers to share and discuss items from their list. Then invite a few students to lead the class in praying their written prayers.



Teacher's Note

You may wish to circulate the room and pre-view student prayers for selection.

**Activity Worksheet***(page 26 in the Student Workbook)*

Divine Evidence: Jesus' Claim to be God

Directions: Read about Jesus' claims to be the Son of God and the evidence from non-biblical sources that support His claim. Then **answer** the questions.

How do you know that someone loves you? Perhaps they show you their love with hugs and kisses, kind words, giving you gifts, and so forth. Likely, they also tell you that they love you.

The same is true with God. At the heart of the Christian Faith is the truth that God loves us, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin. But for us to know these things, God had to reveal them to us. He had to tell us that He loves us and prove it by

showing us His love. We call God's revelation of Himself and these important truths Divine Revelation. But where can we find this revelation of God and be sure that it is true?

One place we can start is with with Christianity, the one world religion whose founder made an astonishing claim that no others have: Jesus claimed to be the Son of God Himself. God became present among us — Emmanuel, "God with us."

The Old Testament Jewish prophet, Isaiah (whom we will learn more about later in this course), wrote about the coming of Jesus: "the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, Douay-Rheims American Edition). The name Emmanuel means "God with us." This prophecy was fulfilled centuries later when a virgin named Mary gave birth to a son whom she named Jesus (meaning "God saves"). Though not named Emmanuel, Jesus claimed to literally be "God with us."

Throughout His earthly life, Jesus revealed Himself to be God, the divine Son of the Father, and the second Person of the Holy Trinity.





Activity Worksheet, continued (page 27 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 3 ▪ Day 1



- Jesus taught us about His relationship to the Father: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).
- He taught us that He is one with the Father, God Himself: “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30).
- Later, on trial the night before He died on the Cross, the Jewish high priests asked Jesus, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?” (Mark 14:61). Jesus responded, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven’” (Mark 14:62). He boldly proclaimed His divinity, even when facing death.

Scripture, especially the Gospels, gives us most of the evidence for Jesus’ divinity. We can be confident in the trustworthiness of Scripture, but there is also plenty of evidence from outside the Bible: ancient historical works and the preaching of the early Church.

Historical Works

Outside of the Gospels, there are three notable historical sources from the time period of the early Church that speak of Jesus:

- *The Antiquities of the Jewish People* (ca. AD 93) — A history the Jewish people written by Flavius Josephus
- *The Babylonian Talmud* (AD 50–AD 300) — A collection of Jewish law and other teachings compiled by multiple authors and editors.

The authors of these works were not Christian nor writing for a Christian audience. In fact, the authors were hostile to Jesus! Yet they believed Him to be significant enough to include in their historical works. They recorded the facts of His trial and Crucifixion and named both Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea and Tiberius as Caesar of Rome. They also noted that Jesus was a wise and authoritative teacher and miracle worker.

Preaching of the Early Church

The earliest information we have about Jesus is found in the *kerygmas*. *Kerygma* is Greek for “proclamation.” The *kerygmas* are brief statements about the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. They were preached by the first Christians in the decade or so after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, before the New Testament had even been written. They were later included within the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul.

The *kerygmas* have eight repeated themes:

1. Jesus was a descendant of King David.



Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 28 in the Student Workbook)



2. The coming of Jesus was predicted by the Prophets of the Old Testament.
3. Jesus worked miracles.
4. Jesus was crucified and died for our sins.
5. Jesus rose from the dead in glory.
6. Jesus gave His disciples the Holy Spirit.
7. Jesus is now exalted in God.
8. Jesus is, therefore, the Messiah and Lord.

These claims may not seem bold to us because we are used to hearing them. But in Jesus' time, they were shocking. Jesus was a Jew, and God's promised Savior. But most

Jews of the time did not accept this. Calling a human being "the Lord" would have been blasphemous (an insult to God and a crime). Calling a crucified man God would have been disgusting to everyone.

Even more, the early Christians suffered terribly for their claim that Jesus is God. They lost their social and financial status. They were kicked out of the synagogue (a Jewish place of worship). And they were persecuted to the point of death. Why would anyone risk these things for claiming Jesus was God if they were not sure it was true?

The Evidence of the Heart

The way in which the early Church preached about Jesus gives us another important piece of evidence that Jesus is God. The authors of the New Testament, as well as the preaching of the Apostles, reveal several patterns that support the truth of their claims:

1. **Restraint:** Miracles are reported as simply fact, like a news report. They are not told with exaggeration like we find in other ancient stories of miracles.
2. **Humility:** The New Testament includes unflattering details, like the insults of the religious authorities to Jesus or the failings and weaknesses of the Apostles (e.g., Peter's denial of Jesus). Reporting the whole truth was more important than making the leaders of the early Church look good.





Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 29 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 3 ▪ Day 1



3. Challenging tone: The authors of the New Testament and the Apostles did not explain away challenging teachings (such as Jesus' command to eat His flesh and drink His Blood). This fact shows they were certain of the truth. They did not try to make that truth easier to win over more people.

4. Inspiring tone: Amazingly, laying out the mission of the Gospel without trying to soften it or downplay its challenges is inspiring, inviting us to live up to its high calling.

While non-biblical evidence is not the only evidence we have, it may help convince some, especially non-Christians. For everyone, however, this evidence helps show that it is reasonable — it makes good sense — to believe that Jesus really is God with us.

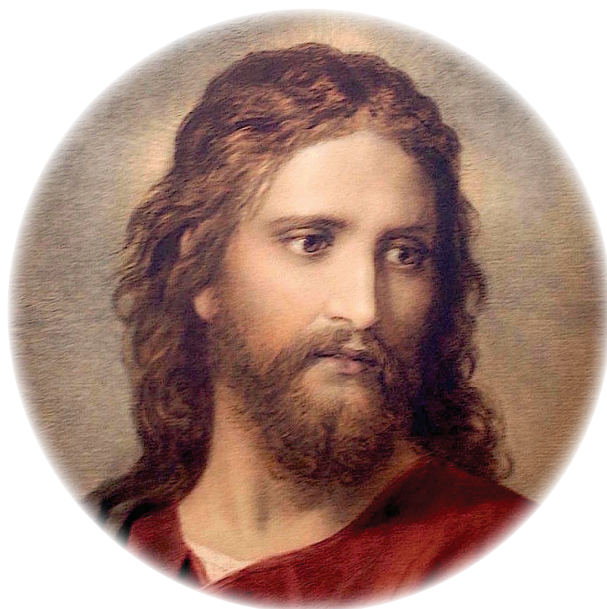
- 1 At the heart of the Christian Faith is the truth that God loves us, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin.
- 2 How can we know the answer to question number 1?
God had to reveal these truths to us.
- 3 Jesus made the astonishing claim that He is God (Himself), Emmanuel, "God with us."
- 4 When was Isaiah's prophecy about Emmanuel fulfilled?
Centuries later when a virgin named Mary gave birth to a son she named Jesus (meaning "God saves").
- 5 Where do we find the most evidence for Jesus' divinity?
Scripture, specifically the Gospels.
- 6 What facts about Jesus were recorded by non-Christian historical records?
They recorded the facts of His trial and Crucifixion, named Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea and Tiberius as Caesar of Rome, and noted that Jesus was a wise and authoritative teacher and miracle worker.



Activity Worksheet, *continued*
(page 30 in the Student Workbook)



- 7 The *kerygmas* are brief statements about the essential teachings of the Christian Faith.
- 8 Which of the following is *not* a repeated theme in the *kerygmas*?
- a. Jesus was crucified and died for our sins.
 - b. Jesus rose from the dead in glory.
 - c. Jesus is the Messiah and Lord.
 - d.** Jesus is one of many paths to salvation.
- 9 Why were the *kerygmas* so shocking in the days of the early Church?
- The claims of the *kerygmas* were bold, some were blasphemous (i.e., that Jesus is Lord), and even disgusting (i.e., calling a crucified man God). Even more, the early Christians suffered and even died for these claims.
- 10 Which pattern of the preaching of the early Church is most important or convincing to you? Why?
- Accept reasoned answers. (See the section titled "Evidence of the Heart.")





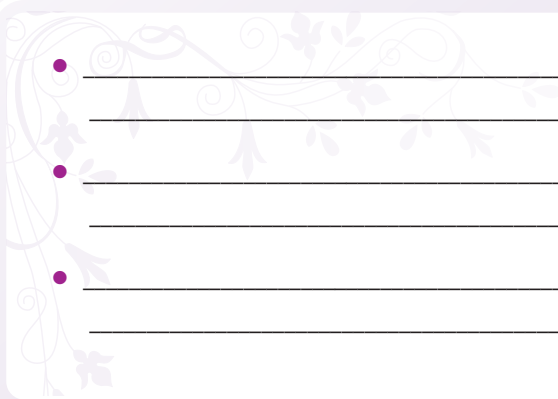
Formative Assessment Worksheet

(page 31 in the Student Workbook)



My Legacy

Directions: **Reflect** on how you want to be remembered long after your time on this earth has ended: 2,000 years from now or more. What do you hope you will have done, accomplished, left behind, or contributed to the world around you? **Record** three of these reflections below. Then **write** a short prayer asking God to help you succeed in these goals.



Dear God,

Amen.

Accept reasoned answers.



Day 2

Warm-up

- A.** Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson:



O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

- B.** Next, arrange your students into groups of three or four and have each group play a brief game of “Two Truths and a Lie.” Give students a few moments to think of two true statements about themselves and one untrue lie. Then have them take turns sharing their statements with each other in their groups. The goal is for the other students to try to guess which statements are true and which one is the lie. Consider demonstrating by thinking of your own two truths and a lie and having your class guess which one is the lie.
- C.** When they have finished, ask your class if it was easy or difficult to determine the false statements from their groupmates. *Accept reasoned answers.*
- D.** Then ask what sorts of things helped them determine which statements were not true. *Allow for reasoned discussion. Students may say things like the statements were too ridiculous or crazy to be true, the facial expressions or postures of the sharing students gave away the lie, they knew the other students too well for the lie to pass, and so forth.*
- E.** Explain that sometimes we hear stories of events that seem difficult to believe. In these situations, we need to be able to assess the accuracy of these stories without jumping to conclusions. Sometimes things that might seem hard to believe are not actually true. But other times, they are true! How can we tell the difference?



- F.** Have your students turn to **More or Less Likely** on **pg. 32** in the Student Workbook and complete the activity in pairs. When they have finished, call on students to share and discuss their answers with the class. *Students should say that all the statements would make them more likely to believe someone.*



More or Less Likely

Directions: Read each statement and **mark** whether it would make you more or less likely to believe someone who told you about a miraculous event.

The person has nothing to gain personally by convincing you.	More likely	Less likely
The person is risking personal harm to bring you this message.	More likely	Less likely
The person lists concrete details you can verify by asking other people.	More likely	Less likely
The person gives you a long list of names of other people who also witnessed this miracle.	More likely	Less likely
The person tells you how he, too, was doubtful when he first heard about this miracle.	More likely	Less likely
Other people who were there also tell you they saw the same miraculous event.	More likely	Less likely
You find out that the miracle happened a long time ago, and the story of what happened has not changed, even a little bit.	More likely	Less likely
You learn that some do not believe the event was a miracle, but those people do acknowledge that the events themselves happened.	More likely	Less likely

List some other qualities that would make you more or less likely to believe someone who tells you something incredible.

Accept reasoned answers.

Warm-Up Worksheet

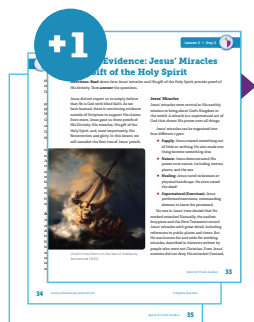
(page 32 in the Student Workbook)

Answer Key

Accept reasoned answers for all questions. Students should indicate, however, that each of these statements ought to make them more likely to believe someone.



DAY 2 > Activity



- A.** Have your students turn to **Divine Evidence: Jesus' Miracles and Gift of the Holy Spirit** on **pg. 33** in the Student Workbook and read independently about Jesus' claim to be God and the evidence from outside of Scripture that supports His claim. You may also choose to read aloud to your class or call on students to take turns reading aloud. Then have them answer the questions.
- B.** When they have finished, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

Activity Worksheet

(page 33 in the Student Workbook)



Divine Evidence: Jesus' Miracles and Gift of the Holy Spirit

Directions: Read about how Jesus' miracles and His gift of the Holy Spirit provide proof of His divinity. Then **answer** the questions.

Jesus did not expect us to simply believe that He is God with blind faith. As we have learned, there is convincing evidence outside of Scripture to support His claims. Even more, Jesus gave us three proofs of His Divinity: His miracles, His gift of the Holy Spirit, and, most importantly, His Resurrection and glory. In this lesson, we will consider the first two of Jesus' proofs.

Jesus' Miracles

Jesus' miracles were central to His earthly mission to bring about God's Kingdom in the world. A miracle is a supernatural act of God that shows His power over all things.

Jesus' miracles can be organized into four different types:

- **Supply:** Jesus created something out of little or nothing. He also made one thing become something else.
- **Nature:** Jesus demonstrated His power over nature, including storms, plants, and the sea.
- **Healing:** Jesus cured sicknesses or physical handicaps. He even raised the dead!
- **Supernatural (Exorcism):** Jesus performed exorcisms, commanding demons to leave the possessed.

No one in Jesus' time denied that He worked miracles! Naturally, the earliest *kerygmas* and the New Testament record Jesus' miracles with great detail, including references to public places and times. But He was known far and wide for working miracles, described in histories written by people who were not Christian. Even Jesus' enemies did not deny His miracles! (Instead,



Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee by Rembrandt (1633).



Activity Worksheet, continued (page 34 in the Student Workbook)



Lesson 3 ▪ Day 2

they falsely accused Him of performing miracles by the power of demons or the Devil himself.)

Jesus performed miracles by His own power. Other miracle workers, like the prophets of the Old Testament, such as Moses or Elijah, called upon the power of God to work miracles. He did not need to call upon the power of God because He is God. Thus, Jesus showed by His miracles that He has divine power and authority.

Even more, Jesus did not perform miracles to entertain people — they were not “magic tricks.” Always done in love, Jesus used His miracles as an opportunity to teach about faith, forgiveness of sins, and giving thanks to God. When He worked miracles, He always respected the personal faith and freedom of the recipients of His miracles. Jesus asked if they believed He could heal them. And He involved their free choice in seeking the deeper healing of mercy and salvation.

Jesus' Healings and Exorcisms

Jesus' healings showed the saving power of God's mercy and love. His exorcisms defeated the effects of evil. Both his healings and exorcisms brought about the Kingdom of God in the world. The Gospels include accounts of 15 healings, and dozens more are referenced. There are accounts of seven exorcisms, and three stories of Jesus raising a person from the dead. All these miracles were verified by eyewitnesses.



The Raising of the Widow's Son in Nain by Jan Verhas (1860).

Jesus is never reported to have performed needless or selfish miracles. He never performed a miracle to punish anyone. His mission was to reveal the love of God for all people. He came to establish the New Covenant that would fulfill God's plan of salvation!

Jesus' Gift of the Holy Spirit

Perhaps one of the greatest proofs of Jesus' divinity is that His disciples continued His mission of healing and miracles in His name after He had ascended into Heaven. The early Church quickly grew into a worldwide movement.



Activity Worksheet, continued

(page 35 in the Student Workbook)



During His earthly life, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. He fulfilled His promise at Pentecost. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to go out to the world, work healings and miracles in Jesus' name, and proclaim the Good News of salvation.

As the Church grew, the Holy Spirit — through the ministry of the disciples — continued to work miracles, and gave to some the gift of prophecy (understanding God's will for the future) and to others the gifts of speaking in tongues or receiving visions. These wonders were always done through the power of God in the name of

the Risen Jesus, and always meant to lead people to conversion.

In his letters in the New Testament, St. Paul emphasized that the Holy Spirit did not just work healings and miracles for their own sake. Rather, these experiences were meant to lead people to a deep conversion of heart. The visible gifts of the Holy Spirit, like healings and miracles, and the personal conversion they are meant to bring about, are intended to lead us to deeper experiences of prayer, hope, trust, love, zeal, peace, and joy. These interior gifts are ultimately more important for building the Church and strengthening our own personal relationship with Christ.

- 1 Jesus did not expect us to simply believe His claim to be God with blind faith.
- 2 What three proofs did Jesus give of His divinity?
 - His miracles
 - His gift of the Holy Spirit
 - His glorious Resurrection
- 3 Which of the following is NOT a type of miracle Jesus performed?
 - a. Supply
 - b. Demand
 - c. Nature
 - d. Healing
- 4 Jesus' enemies accused Him of performing miracles by the power of demons or the Devil.
- 5 Why is it important that Jesus performed miracles by His own power?

Because Jesus did not call upon the power of God to work miracles and instead performed them by His own power, Jesus showed that He has divine authority — that He is God.



Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 36 in the Student Workbook)

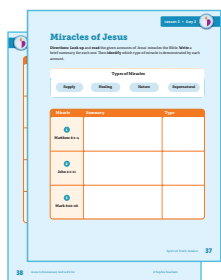


Lesson 3 ▪ Day 2

- 6 Which of the following is true about the way Jesus worked miracles?
- He always respected a person's personal faith and freedom.
 - He used His miracles to teach about faith, forgiveness of sins, and giving thanks to God.
 - They were not magic tricks performed to entertain people.
 - d.** All of the above.
- 7 Jesus' miraculous healings showed the saving power of God's mercy and love. His exorcisms defeated the effects of evil.
- 8 One of the greatest proofs of Jesus' divinity is that His disciples continued His mission of healing and miracles in His name after He had ascended into Heaven.
- 9 Why do you think it was important that the Apostles performed miracles in Jesus' name?
- It showed that they were not seeking fame or glory for themselves because they did not perform them by their own power. Instead, their miracles showed the power and glory of Christ and proved that He is the Lord.**
- 10 What was the ultimate goal of the healings and miracles the Apostles performed by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- Deep conversion of heart and a deeper experience of prayer, hope, trust, love, zeal, peace, and joy to strengthen our relationship with Christ and His Church.**



DAY 2 > Formative Assessment



A. Arrange students into pairs or trios and have them turn to **Miracles of Jesus** on **pg. 37** in the Student Workbook. Have each group complete the worksheet by looking up in their Bibles each of the given miracles and writing a brief summary of what happened in the story of the miracle. Students may also use the online Bible found at **SophiaOnline.org/NABRE**. Then have groups determine which of the four categories of miracles each account demonstrates.

B. When they have finished, call on groups to share and discuss their answers.

Formative Assessment Worksheet

(page 37 in the Student Workbook)

Miracles of Jesus

Directions: Look up and read the given accounts of Jesus' miracles the Bible. Write a brief summary for each one. Then identify which type of miracle is demonstrated by each account.

Types of Miracles

Supply

Healing

Nature

Supernatural

Miracle	Summary	Type
1 Matthew 8:1-4	Jesus healed a leper by touching him.	Healing
2 John 2:1-11	Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana.	Supply
3 Mark 8:22-26	Jesus healed a blind man by putting His spittle onto the man's eyes and laying His hands on him.	Healing



Formative Assessment Worksheet, *continued*
(page 38 in the Student Workbook)



Lesson 3 ▪ Day 2

Miracle	Summary	Type
4 Mark 4:35–41	Jesus calmed a storm at sea by commanding it to be quiet and still.	Nature
5 Luke 9:10–17	Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of five thousand.	Supply
6 Luke 4:31–37	Jesus cast out a demon by commanding him to leave the possessed.	Supernatural
7 John 6:16–21	Jesus walked on water.	Nature
8 Mark 5:35–43	Jesus raised a little girl from the dead by commanding her to arise.	Healing



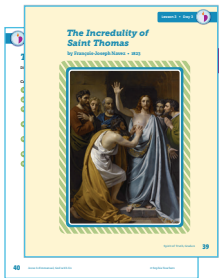
Day 3

Warm-up

- A. Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson:



O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.



- B. Next, have them turn to ***The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*** by François-Joseph Navez on pg. 39 in the Student Workbook. **Project**  an image of the painting found at SophiaOnline.org/Gr6Unit1Lesson3. Give students several moments to quietly view the art before you say or ask anything. Then ask them the following questions:

- What do you see? What stands out to you about this painting? *Accept reasoned answers.*
- What is happening in the painting? Who is depicted in it? *The Risen Jesus has appeared to the Apostles. One Apostle, St. Thomas, is placing his fingers in the wound in Jesus' side from His Crucifixion. All the Apostles are astonished that Jesus, whom they believed was dead, is standing before them. Accept additional reasoned answers.*

- C. Then **read aloud**  from your Bible the story of Jesus' appearance to the Apostles from John 20:19–29. Pause after verse 25 and ask your students what we learn about St. Thomas from this passage. *Thomas doubted. The Risen Jesus had appeared to the Apostles, but St. Thomas was not with them at the time. Thomas said that, unless he saw and touched Jesus, he would not believe He had risen from the dead.*
- D. Continue reading from verse 26 to the end. Then ask your students how Jesus responded to St. Thomas's doubt. *Jesus invited Thomas to see and touch Him and His wounds so that he might believe.*



- E.** Arrange your students into pairs, trios, or groups of four and have them discuss together the painting and the story of Jesus' appearance to the Apostles using the conversation questions.
- E.** When they have finished, call on groups to share about and discuss their conversations.
- G.** Explain that, as we have learned over the last few lessons, Jesus made the astonishing claim that He is God, Emmanuel, "God with us." But He did not just expect us to blindly believe His claim. Like with St. Thomas, Jesus invites us to consider the evidence that He has given us to prove He is who He says He is. And there is no greater proof of Jesus' divinity than His Resurrection.

The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

by François-Joseph Navez • 1823



Lesson 3 ▪ Day 3



Warm-Up Worksheet

(page 39 in the Student Workbook)

Answer Key

- 1.** Accept reasoned answers.
- 2.** Accept reasoned answers.
- 3.** Accept reasoned answers, which may include that He is wearing a blue and gold robe that seems to indicate royalty, kingship, and glory. Jesus also still bears the wounds from His Crucifixion on His body — the nail holes in His hands, which He is holding out to show His disciples, the nail holes in His feet, and the wound in His side, which He is allowing St. Thomas to touch.

(continued on the next page)



Answer Key, continued

4. Accept reasoned answers. St. Thomas doubted the reports of Jesus' Resurrection and needed concrete evidence — he needed to see and touch Jesus. The astonishment on his face reveals perhaps his shame at doubting Jesus was who He said He was and that He had indeed risen from the dead, as well as his relief that Jesus had risen and was with them.
5. The Apostles have varying postures and expressions of astonishment, prayerfulness, and wonder at the Risen Christ standing before them. Accept additional reasoned answers.
6. Accept reasoned answers.

Warm-Up Worksheet, continued (page 40 in the Student Workbook)



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

Directions: Reflect on the painting. Then **discuss** the questions with your group.

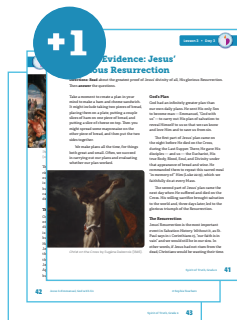
Conversation Questions

- 1 What stands out to you about this painting?
- 2 How does this painting make you feel?
- 3 How would you describe the way Jesus looks? What clues in the painting tell us that it is the Risen Jesus?
- 4 This painting is called the *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*. The word *incredulity* means "disbelief." How does this painting depict St. Thomas' disbelief in Jesus' Resurrection?
- 5 How would you describe the Apostles in this painting? What are their reactions to Jesus and what is happening before them?
- 6 How would you have responded if you were in the room when Jesus appeared?
- 7 After reflecting on the painting and Scripture story, what can we learn about how God responds to us if we ever struggle to believe in Him?

7. If we struggle to believe, Jesus does not look passively on our struggle. While he noted that those who believed without seeing the proof were blessed, Jesus was not angered or impatient with Thomas. We can also ask Him to strengthen our Faith. Accept additional reasoned answers.



DAY 3 > Activity



- A. Have your students turn to **Divine Evidence: Jesus' Glorious Resurrection** on **pg. 41** in the Student Workbook and read independently about Jesus' claim to be God and the evidence from outside of Scripture that supports His claim. You may also choose to read aloud to your class or call on students to take turns reading aloud. Then have them answer the questions.
- B. When they have finished, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

Divine Evidence: Jesus' Glorious Resurrection

Directions: Read about the greatest proof of Jesus' divinity of all, His glorious Resurrection. Then **answer** the questions.

Take a moment to create a plan in your mind to make a ham and cheese sandwich. It might include taking two pieces of bread, placing them on a plate, putting a couple slices of ham on one piece of bread, and putting a slice of cheese on top. Then you might spread some mayonnaise on the other piece of bread, and then put the two sides together.

We make plans all the time, for things both great and small. Often, we succeed in carrying out our plans and evaluating whether our plan worked.



Christ on the Cross by Eugène Delacroix (1846).

God's Plan

God had an infinitely greater plan than our own daily plans. He sent His only Son to become man — Emmanuel, "God with us" — to carry out His plan of salvation: to reveal Himself to us so that we can know and love Him and to save us from sin.

The first part of Jesus' plan came on the night before He died on the Cross, during the Last Supper. There, He gave His disciples — and us — the Eucharist, His true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under that appearance of bread and wine. He commanded them to repeat this sacred meal "in memory of" Him (Luke 22:19), which we faithfully do at every Mass.

The second part of Jesus' plan came the next day when He suffered and died on the Cross. His willing sacrifice brought salvation to the world and, three days later, led to the glorious triumph of the Resurrection.

The Resurrection

Jesus' Resurrection is the most important event in Salvation History. Without it, as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "our faith is in vain" and we would still be in our sins. In other words, if Jesus had not risen from the dead, Christians would be wasting their time.



Activity Worksheet

(page 41 in the Student Workbook)



Activity Worksheet, continued (page 42 in the Student Workbook)



The Resurrection of Christ by Maerten de Vos
(ca. 1564).

Thankfully, Christ did not just die. He did rise from the dead, and we are saved from our sins. Christ's victory over sin and death is won not just by His Passion and Death, but also in His glorious Resurrection. How can we know that He truly rose from the dead? Let us look at three ways.

The Empty Tomb

On the third day after Jesus was crucified, on the first Easter Sunday, His tomb was discovered empty. The empty tomb by itself is not enough to prove Jesus' Resurrection, but it supports the Apostles' claim that He rose again. The Gospels tell us that the Jewish leaders tried to make people doubt the news of the Resurrection. They spread the false rumor that the Apostles stole Jesus' body. They could not have accused the Apostles of this unless there really was a burial site that was found empty.

The Gospel Accounts of Jesus' Risen Appearances to the Apostles

The Gospel accounts of the Resurrection show that the Apostles were not expecting to see Jesus again after He died on the Cross. They record how the Apostles doubted the Resurrection at first. When the Risen Jesus appeared to them, Jesus had to reassure them that it was Him and His actual, spiritually transformed body they were seeing.

St. Paul's Testimony to the Resurrection of Jesus

St. Paul recorded a list of witnesses to the Risen Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 and stated that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people, most of them still living. St. Paul was basically saying, "If you don't believe me, go ask all 500 of them!" This list would have been important as legal evidence.

After sharing the evidence of these witnesses, St. Paul then highlighted a problem: either these witnesses believed Jesus is God, or they did not. In either case, it would make no sense for them to falsely claim they saw Him risen.

For those who believed Jesus is God, lying about His Resurrection would have been a terrible crime: breaking God's Commandment against bearing false witness. It also would have undermined the Christian Faith and caused many people to leave the Church. Likewise, it would be absurd for a non-believer to claim Jesus had risen from the dead if they did not believe He had. Spreading the news of the



Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 43 in the Student Workbook)



Resurrection meant conflict with both the Jews and the Romans, leading to active persecution, torture, and even death. Why would an unbeliever willingly put himself in so much danger for a lie?

The most reasonable conclusion is that these witnesses were telling the truth — Jesus really and truly rose from the dead. And if He rose from dead, He is really God, as He claimed to be.

Conclusion

Ultimately, we must remember that faith in Jesus requires more than just evidence that He is God. While we can be absolutely confident in His divinity — that He is Emmanuel, “God with us” — there is a personal choice involved. Even faced with all the evidence in the world, we still must choose to believe in Him, accept His teachings, and follow Him.

- 1 God revealed Himself to us so that we can know Him and love Him and so that He could save us from sin.
- 2 What are the two parts to how Jesus carried out the Father’s plan?
 Part 1: Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper so that we could receive His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.
 Part 2: Jesus suffered and died on the Cross and rose from the dead on the third day.
- 3 Jesus’ Resurrection is the most important event in Salvation History.
- 4 What fact about Jesus’ Resurrection did even Jesus’ enemies admit was true?
His tomb was empty.
- 5 The Apostles waited with expectation for Jesus to rise from dead. True ☒ False ☐
- 6 What did Jesus have to do for the Apostles when He appeared to them after His Resurrection? Why?
He had to reassure them that it was Him and His actual, spiritually transformed body they were seeing because the Apostles doubted the Resurrection at first.



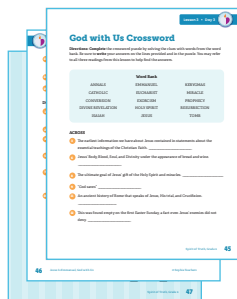
Activity Worksheet, *continued*
(page 44 in the Student Workbook)



- 7 How many witnesses did St. Paul suggest people could ask about Jesus' Resurrection?
More than 500.
- 8 Which of the following is NOT true about the witnesses of the Risen Jesus?
- a. Lying about His Resurrection would have been a terrible crime.
 - b.** Their reports of the Resurrection brought peace between the Romans and the Jews.
 - c. False claims about the Resurrection would have undermined the Christian Faith and caused many people to leave the Church.
- 9 If Jesus really rose from the dead, then He really is **God** as He claimed to be.
- 10 Why does faith in Jesus require more than just evidence that He is God?
Even faced with all the evidence in the world, we still must choose to believe in Him, accept His teachings, and follow Him.



DAY 3 > Formative Assessment



- A. Have students turn to **God with Us Crossword** on **pg. 45** in the Student Workbook. Have them work individually or with a partner to complete the crossword puzzle by solving the clues using the terms in the word bank. Students may refer to all three readings from this lesson to help find the answers.
- B. When they have finished, review the correct answers.

God with Us Crossword

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle by solving the clues with words from the word bank. Be sure to **write** your answers on the lines provided and in the puzzle. You may refer to all three readings from this lesson to help find the answers.

Word Bank

ANNALS	EMMANUEL	KERYGMAS
CATHOLIC	EUCHARIST	MIRACLE
CONVERSION	EXORCISM	PROPHECY
DIVINE REVELATION	HOLY SPIRIT	RESURRECTION
ISAIAH	JESUS	TOMB

ACROSS

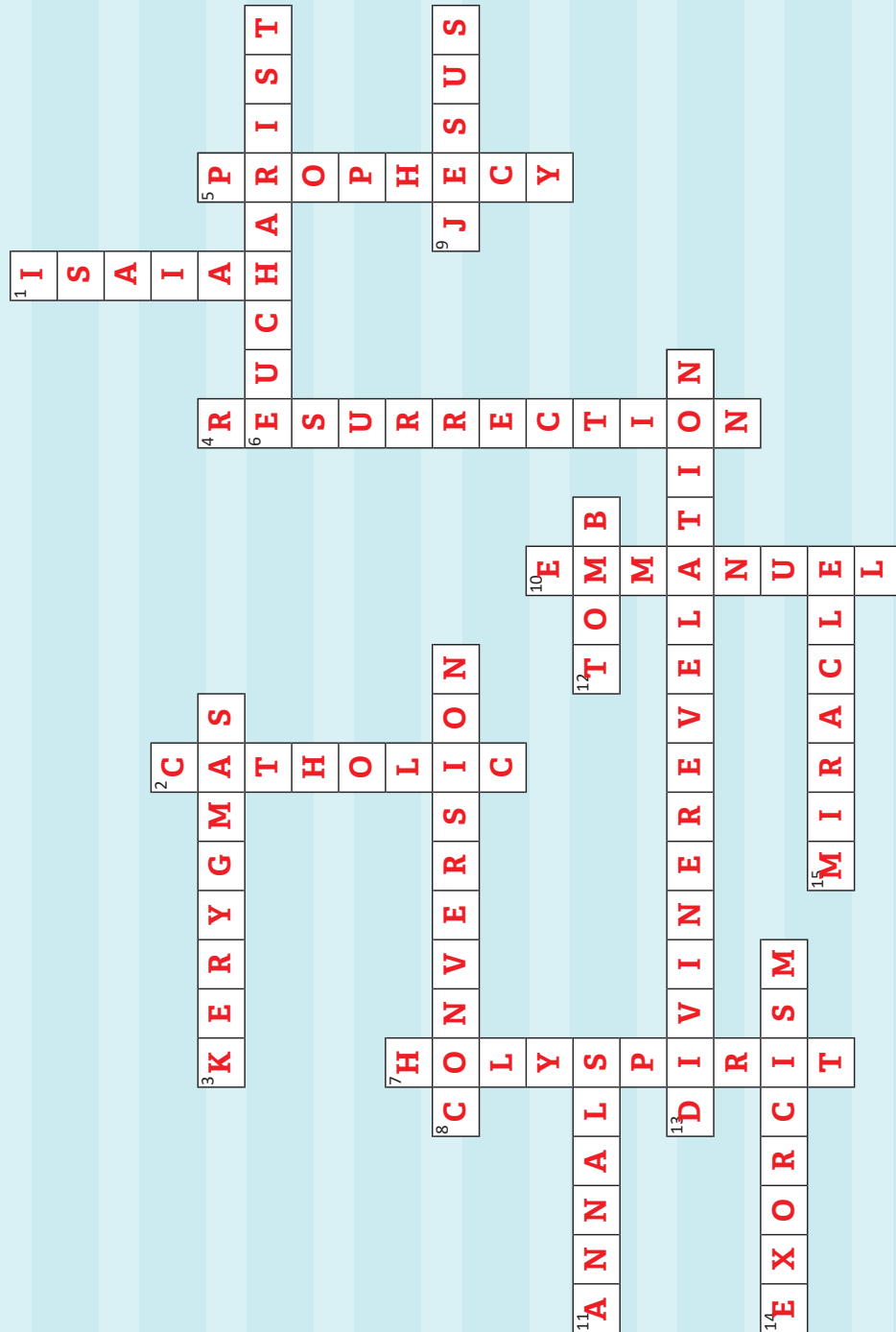
- 3 The earliest information we have about Jesus contained in statements about the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. **KERYGMAS**
- 6 Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under the appearance of bread and wine. **EUCHARIST**
- 8 The ultimate goal of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and miracles. **CONVERSION**
- 9 "God saves" **JESUS**
- 11 An ancient history of Rome that speaks of Jesus, His trial, and Crucifixion. **ANNALS**
- 12 This was found empty on the first Easter Sunday, a fact even Jesus' enemies did not deny. **TOMB**

Formative Assessment Worksheet (page 45 in the Student Workbook)



Formative Assessment Worksheet, continued
(page 47 in the Student Workbook)

The Mission of the Apostles Crossword



Lesson 3 ▪ Day 3





REASONS TO **BELIEVE**

Lesson 3

Jesus Is Emmanuel, God with Us



Reasons to Believe: Jesus Is Emmanuel, God with Us

Lesson 3 Overview



Vocabulary

- **Divine Revelation** is God's communication of Himself, that He loves us unconditionally, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin. God made known the mystery of His divine plan by deeds and words over time, and most fully by sending His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Emmanuel** is the name given to the future Messiah and Savior by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. Hebrew for "God with us."
- **Jesus** is the Hebrew word for "God saves."
- The **kerygmas** are brief Christian proclamations that express the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. These were the first proclamations of the Early Church, written within a decade of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, preserved in the New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul.
- A **miracle** is a supernatural act of God that shows His power over all things.
- An **exorcism** is a divine power through which a demon is cast out of a possessed person.
- **Prophecy** is a gift of the Holy Spirit that allows the recipient to understand God's will for the future.
- The **Resurrection** is the crowning truth of the Christian Faith—that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day after His Death on the Cross.



Prayer for This Lesson

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which

the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.



Divine Evidence: Jesus' Claim to be God

Directions: Read about Jesus' claims to be the Son of God and the evidence from non-biblical sources that support His claim. Then **answer** the questions.

How do you know that someone loves you? Perhaps they show you their love with hugs and kisses, kind words, giving you gifts, and so forth. Likely, they also tell you that they love you.

The same is true with God. At the heart of the Christian Faith is the truth that God loves us, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin. But for us to know these things, God had to reveal them to us. He had to tell us that He loves us and prove it by

showing us His love. We call God's revelation of Himself and these important truths Divine Revelation. But where can we find this revelation of God and be sure that it is true?

One place we can start is with Christianity, the one world religion whose founder made an astonishing claim that no others have: Jesus claimed to be the Son of God Himself. God became present among us — Emmanuel, “God with us.”

The Old Testament Jewish prophet, Isaiah (whom we will learn more about later in this course), wrote about the coming of Jesus: “the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (Isaiah 7:14, Douay-Rheims American Edition). The name Emmanuel means “God with us.” This prophecy was fulfilled centuries later when a virgin named Mary gave birth to a son whom she named Jesus (meaning “God saves”). Though not named Emmanuel, Jesus claimed to literally be “God with us.”

Throughout His earthly life, Jesus revealed Himself to be God, the divine Son of the Father, and the second Person of the Holy Trinity.





- Jesus taught us about His relationship to the Father: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).
- He taught us that He is one with the Father, God Himself: “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30).
- Later, on trial the night before He died on the Cross, the Jewish high priests asked Jesus, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?” (Mark 14:61). Jesus responded, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven’” (Mark 14:62). He boldly proclaimed His divinity, even when facing death.

Scripture, especially the Gospels, gives us most of the evidence for Jesus’ divinity. We can be confident in the trustworthiness of Scripture, but there is also plenty of evidence from outside the Bible: ancient historical works and the preaching of the early Church.

Historical Works

Outside of the Gospels, there are three notable historical sources from the time period of the early Church that speak of Jesus:

- *The Antiquities of the Jewish People* (ca. AD 93) — A history the Jewish people written by Flavius Josephus
- *The Babylonian Talmud* (AD 50–AD 300) — A collection of Jewish law and other teachings compiled by multiple authors and editors.

The authors of these works were not Christian nor writing for a Christian audience. In fact, the authors were hostile to Jesus! Yet they believed Him to be significant enough to include in their historical works. They recorded the facts of His trial and Crucifixion and named both Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea and Tiberius as Caesar of Rome. They also noted that Jesus was a wise and authoritative teacher and miracle worker.

Preaching of the Early Church

The earliest information we have about Jesus is found in the *kerygmas*. *Kerygma* is Greek for “proclamation.” The *kerygmas* are brief statements about the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. They were preached by the first Christians in the decade or so after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, before the New Testament had even been written. They were later included within the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul.

The *kerygmas* have eight repeated themes:

1. Jesus was a descendant of King David.



2. The coming of Jesus was predicted by the Prophets of the Old Testament.
3. Jesus worked miracles.
4. Jesus was crucified and died for our sins.
5. Jesus rose from the dead in glory.
6. Jesus gave His disciples the Holy Spirit.
7. Jesus is now exalted in God.
8. Jesus is, therefore, the Messiah and Lord.

These claims may not seem bold to us because we are used to hearing them. But in Jesus' time, they were shocking. Jesus was a Jew, and God's promised Savior. But most

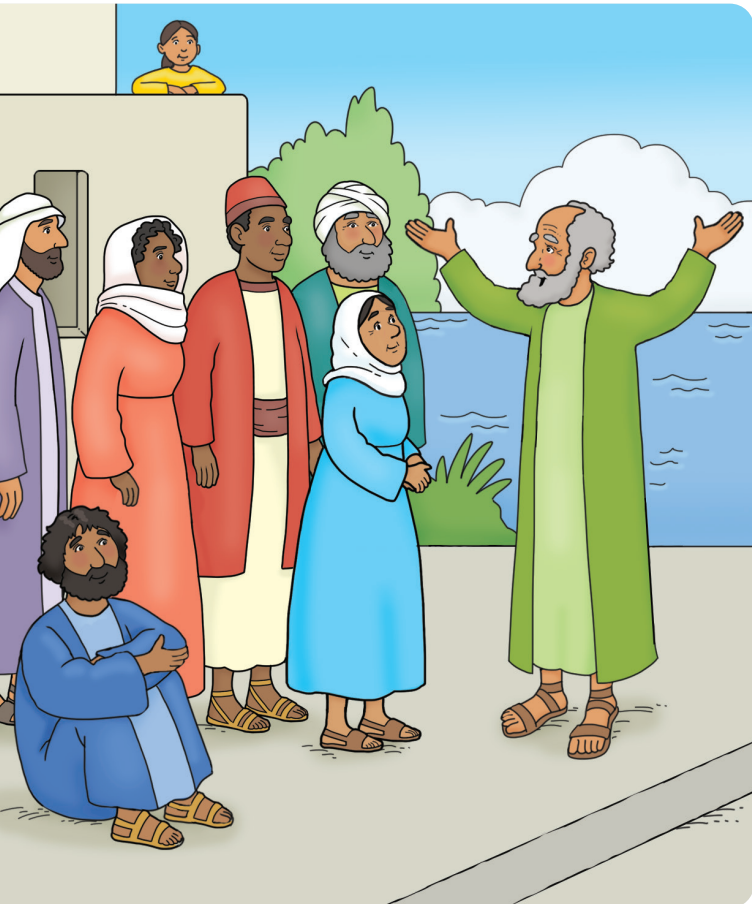
Jews of the time did not accept this. Calling a human being "the Lord" would have been blasphemous (an insult to God and a crime). Calling a crucified man God would have been disgusting to everyone.

Even more, the early Christians suffered terribly for their claim that Jesus is God. They lost their social and financial status. They were kicked out of the synagogue (a Jewish place of worship). And they were persecuted to the point of death. Why would anyone risk these things for claiming Jesus was God if they were not sure it was true?

The Evidence of the Heart

The way in which the early Church preached about Jesus gives us another important piece of evidence that Jesus is God. The authors of the New Testament, as well as the preaching of the Apostles, reveal several patterns that support the truth of their claims:

1. **Restraint:** Miracles are reported as simply fact, like a news report. They are not told with exaggeration like we find in other ancient stories of miracles.
2. **Humility:** The New Testament includes unflattering details, like the insults of the religious authorities to Jesus or the failings and weaknesses of the Apostles (e.g., Peter's denial of Jesus). Reporting the whole truth was more important than making the leaders of the early Church look good.





3. Challenging tone: The authors of the New Testament and the Apostles did not explain away challenging teachings (such as Jesus' command to eat His flesh and drink His Blood). This fact shows they were certain of the truth. They did not try to make that truth easier to win over more people.

4. Inspiring tone: Amazingly, laying out the mission of the Gospel without trying to soften it or downplay its challenges is inspiring, inviting us to live up to its high calling.

While non-biblical evidence is not the only evidence we have, it may help convince some, especially non-Christians. For everyone, however, this evidence helps show that it is reasonable — it makes good sense — to believe that Jesus really is God with us.

1 At the heart of the Christian Faith is the truth that God _____ us, has a _____ for our lives, and has _____ us from sin.

2 How can we know the answer to question number 1?

3 Jesus made the astonishing claim that He is _____, Emmanuel, "God _____."

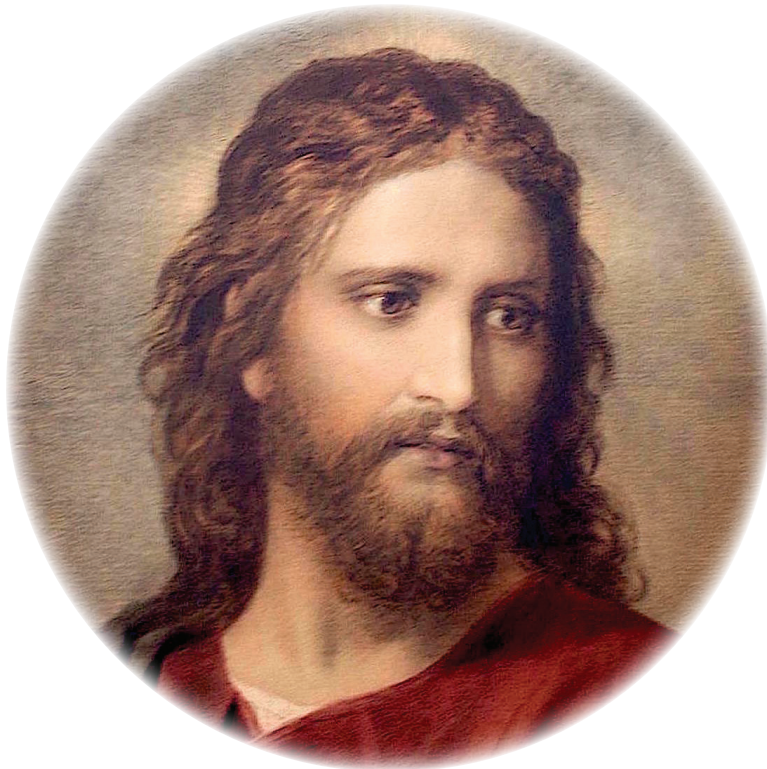
4 When was Isaiah's prophecy about Emmanuel fulfilled?

5 Where do we find the most evidence for Jesus' divinity?

6 What facts about Jesus were recorded by non-Christian historical records?



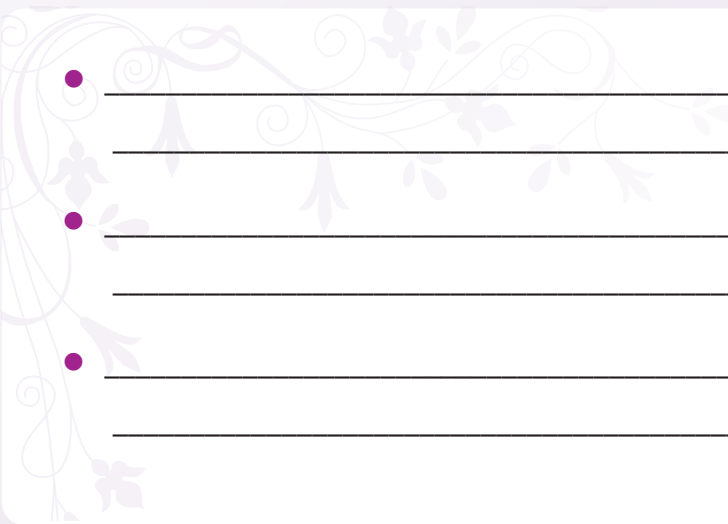
- 7 The *kerygmas* are brief _____ about the essential _____ of the _____.
- 8 Which of the following is *not* a repeated theme in the *kerygmas*?
- a. Jesus was crucified and died for our sins.
 - b. Jesus rose from the dead in glory.
 - c. Jesus is the Messiah and Lord.
 - d. Jesus is one of many paths to salvation.
- 9 Why were the *kerygmas* so shocking in the days of the early Church?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 10 Which pattern of the preaching of the early Church is most important or convincing to you? Why?
- _____





My Legacy

Directions: **Reflect** on how you want to be remembered long after your time on this earth has ended: 2,000 years from now or more. What do you hope you will have done, accomplished, left behind, or contributed to the world around you? **Record** three of these reflections below. Then **write** a short prayer asking God to help you succeed in these goals.

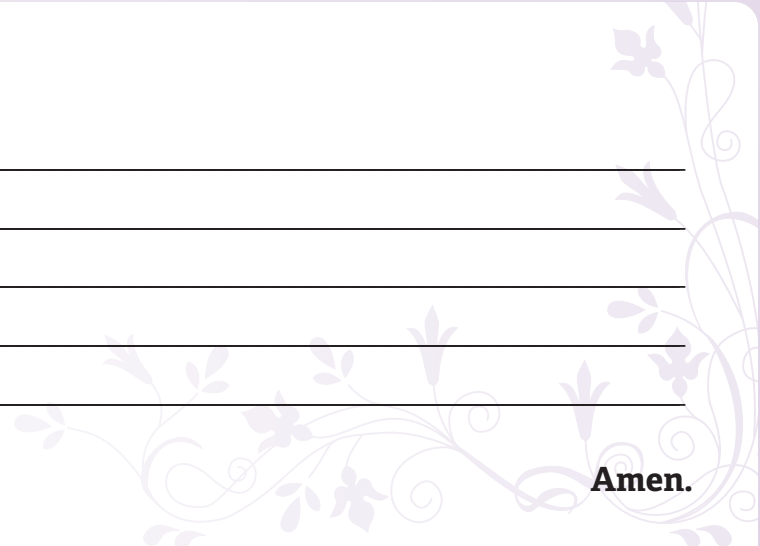


• _____

• _____

• _____

Dear God,



Amen.



More or Less Likely

Directions: Read each statement and **mark** whether it would make you more or less likely to believe someone who told you about a miraculous event.

The person has nothing to gain personally by convincing you.

More likely Less likely

The person is risking personal harm to bring you this message.

More likely Less likely

The person lists concrete details you can verify by asking other people.

More likely Less likely

The person gives you a long list of names of other people who also witnessed this miracle.

More likely Less likely

The person tells you how he, too, was doubtful when he first heard about this miracle.

More likely Less likely

Other people who were there also tell you they saw the same miraculous event.

More likely Less likely

You find out that the miracle happened a long time ago, and the story of what happened has not changed, even a little bit.

More likely Less likely

You learn that some do not believe the event was a miracle, but those people do acknowledge that the events themselves happened.

More likely Less likely

List some other qualities that would make you more or less likely to believe someone who tells you something incredible.



Divine Evidence: Jesus' Miracles and Gift of the Holy Spirit

Directions: **Read** about how Jesus' miracles and His gift of the Holy Spirit provide proof of His divinity. Then **answer** the questions.

Jesus did not expect us to simply believe that He is God with blind faith. As we have learned, there is convincing evidence outside of Scripture to support His claims. Even more, Jesus gave us three proofs of His Divinity: His miracles, His gift of the Holy Spirit, and, most importantly, His Resurrection and glory. In this lesson, we will consider the first two of Jesus' proofs.



Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee by Rembrandt (1633).

Jesus' Miracles

Jesus' miracles were central to His earthly mission to bring about God's Kingdom in the world. A miracle is a supernatural act of God that shows His power over all things.

Jesus' miracles can be organized into four different types:

- **Supply:** Jesus created something out of little or nothing. He also made one thing become something else.
- **Nature:** Jesus demonstrated His power over nature, including storms, plants, and the sea.
- **Healing:** Jesus cured sicknesses or physical handicaps. He even raised the dead!
- **Supernatural (Exorcism):** Jesus performed exorcisms, commanding demons to leave the possessed.

No one in Jesus' time denied that He worked miracles! Naturally, the earliest *kerygmas* and the New Testament record Jesus' miracles with great detail, including references to public places and times. But He was known far and wide for working miracles, described in histories written by people who were not Christian. Even Jesus' enemies did not deny His miracles! (Instead,



they falsely accused Him of performing miracles by the power of demons or the Devil himself.)

Jesus performed miracles by His own power. Other miracle workers, like the prophets of the Old Testament, such as Moses or Elijah, called upon the power of God to work miracles. He did not need to call upon the power of God because He is God. Thus, Jesus showed by His miracles that He has divine power and authority.

Even more, Jesus did not perform miracles to entertain people — they were not “magic tricks.” Always done in love, Jesus used His miracles as an opportunity to teach about faith, forgiveness of sins, and giving thanks to God. When He worked miracles, He always respected the personal faith and freedom of the recipients of His miracles. Jesus asked if they believed He could heal them. And He involved their free choice in seeking the deeper healing of mercy and salvation.

Jesus' Healings and Exorcisms

Jesus' healings showed the saving power of God's mercy and love. His exorcisms defeated the effects of evil. Both his healings and exorcisms brought about the Kingdom of God in the world. The Gospels include accounts of 15 healings, and dozens more are referenced. There are accounts of seven exorcisms, and three stories of Jesus raising a person from the dead. All these miracles were verified by eyewitnesses.



The Raising of the Widow's Son in Nain by Jan Verhas (1860).

Jesus is never reported to have performed needless or selfish miracles. He never performed a miracle to punish anyone. His mission was to reveal the love of God for all people. He came to establish the New Covenant that would fulfill God's plan of salvation!

Jesus' Gift of the Holy Spirit

Perhaps one of the greatest proofs of Jesus' divinity is that His disciples continued His mission of healing and miracles in His name after He had ascended into Heaven. The early Church quickly grew into a worldwide movement.



During His earthly life, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. He fulfilled His promise at Pentecost. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to go out to the world, work healings and miracles in Jesus' name, and proclaim the Good News of salvation.

As the Church grew, the Holy Spirit — through the ministry of the disciples — continued to work miracles, and gave to some the gift of prophecy (understanding God's will for the future) and to others the gifts of speaking in tongues or receiving visions. These wonders were always done through the power of God in the name of

the Risen Jesus, and always meant to lead people to conversion.

In his letters in the New Testament, St. Paul emphasized that the Holy Spirit did not just work healings and miracles for their own sake. Rather, these experiences were meant to lead people to a deep conversion of heart. The visible gifts of the Holy Spirit, like healings and miracles, and the personal conversion they are meant to bring about, are intended to lead us to deeper experiences of prayer, hope, trust, love, zeal, peace, and joy. These interior gifts are ultimately more important for building the Church and strengthening our own personal relationship with Christ.

- 1 Jesus did not expect us to simply believe His claim to be _____ with _____ faith.
- 2 What three proofs did Jesus give of His divinity?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- 3 Which of the following is NOT a type of miracle Jesus performed?
 - a. Supply
 - b. Demand
 - c. Nature
 - d. Healing
- 4 Jesus' enemies accused Him of performing miracles by the power of _____ or the _____.
- 5 Why is it important that Jesus performed miracles by His own power?



- 6 Which of the following is true about the way Jesus worked miracles?
- a. He always respected a person's personal faith and freedom.
 - b. He used His miracles to teach about faith, forgiveness of sins, and giving thanks to God.
 - c. They were not magic tricks performed to entertain people.
 - d. All of the above.
- 7 Jesus' miraculous healings showed the _____ power of God's _____ and _____. His exorcisms defeated the effects of _____.
- 8 One of the greatest proofs of Jesus' divinity is that His _____ continued His mission of _____ and _____ in His _____ after He had ascended into Heaven.
- 9 Why do you think it was important that the Apostles performed miracles in Jesus' name?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 10 What was the ultimate goal of the healings and miracles the Apostles performed by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- _____
- _____
- _____



Miracles of Jesus

Directions: Look up and read the given accounts of Jesus' miracles the Bible. Write a brief summary for each one. Then **identify** which type of miracle is demonstrated by each account.

Types of Miracles

Supply

Healing

Nature

Supernatural

Miracle	Summary	Type
1 Matthew 8:1–4		
2 John 2:1–11		
3 Mark 8:22–26		



Miracle	Summary	Type
4 Mark 4:35–41		
5 Luke 9:10–17		
6 Luke 4:31–37		
7 John 6:16–21		
8 Mark 5:35–43		



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

by François-Joseph Navez • 1823





The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

Directions: **Reflect** on the painting. Then **discuss** the questions with your group.

Conversation Questions

- 1** What stands out to you about this painting?
- 2** How does this painting make you feel?
- 3** How would you describe the way Jesus looks? What clues in the painting tell us that it is the Risen Jesus?
- 4** This painting is called the *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*. The word *incredulity* means “disbelief.” How does this painting depict St. Thomas’ disbelief in Jesus’ Resurrection?
- 5** How would you describe the Apostles in this painting? What are their reactions to Jesus and what is happening before them?
- 6** How would you have responded if you were in the room when Jesus appeared?
- 7** After reflecting on the painting and Scripture story, what can we learn about how God responds to us if we ever struggle to believe in Him?



Divine Evidence: Jesus' Glorious Resurrection

Directions: **Read** about the greatest proof of Jesus' divinity of all, His glorious Resurrection. Then **answer** the questions.

Take a moment to create a plan in your mind to make a ham and cheese sandwich. It might include taking two pieces of bread, placing them on a plate, putting a couple slices of ham on one piece of bread, and putting a slice of cheese on top. Then you might spread some mayonnaise on the other piece of bread, and then put the two sides together.

We make plans all the time, for things both great and small. Often, we succeed in carrying out our plans and evaluating whether our plan worked.

God's Plan

God had an infinitely greater plan than our own daily plans. He sent His only Son to become man — Emmanuel, “God with us” — to carry out His plan of salvation: to reveal Himself to us so that we can know and love Him and to save us from sin.

The first part of Jesus' plan came on the night before He died on the Cross, during the Last Supper. There, He gave His disciples — and us — the Eucharist, His true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under that appearance of bread and wine. He commanded them to repeat this sacred meal “in memory of” Him (Luke 22:19), which we faithfully do at every Mass.

The second part of Jesus' plan came the next day when He suffered and died on the Cross. His willing sacrifice brought salvation to the world and, three days later, led to the glorious triumph of the Resurrection.

The Resurrection

Jesus' Resurrection is the most important event in Salvation History. Without it, as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, “our faith is in vain” and we would still be in our sins. In other words, if Jesus had not risen from the dead, Christians would be wasting their time.



Christ on the Cross by Eugène Delacroix (1846).



The Resurrection of Christ by Maerten de Vos (ca. 1564).

Thankfully, Christ did not just die. He did rise from the dead, and we are saved from our sins. Christ's victory over sin and death is won not just by His Passion and Death, but also in His glorious Resurrection. How can we know that He truly rose from the dead? Let us look at three ways.

The Empty Tomb

On the third day after Jesus was crucified, on the first Easter Sunday, His tomb was discovered empty. The empty tomb by itself is not enough to prove Jesus' Resurrection, but it supports the Apostles' claim that He rose again. The Gospels tell us that the Jewish leaders tried to make people doubt the news of the Resurrection. They spread the false rumor that the Apostles stole Jesus' body. They could not have accused the Apostles of this unless there really was a burial site that was found empty.

The Gospel Accounts of Jesus' Risen Appearances to the Apostles

The Gospel accounts of the Resurrection show that the Apostles were not expecting to see Jesus again after He died on the Cross. They record how the Apostles doubted the Resurrection at first. When the Risen Jesus appeared to them, Jesus had to reassure them that it was Him and His actual, spiritually transformed body they were seeing.

St. Paul's Testimony to the Resurrection of Jesus

St. Paul recorded a list of witnesses to the Risen Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 and stated that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people, most of them still living. St. Paul was basically saying, "If you don't believe me, go ask all 500 of them!" This list would have been important as legal evidence.

After sharing the evidence of these witnesses, St. Paul then highlighted a problem: either these witnesses believed Jesus is God, or they did not. In either case, it would make no sense for them to falsely claim they saw Him risen.

For those who believed Jesus is God, lying about His Resurrection would have been a terrible crime: breaking God's Commandment against bearing false witness. It also would have undermined the Christian Faith and caused many people to leave the Church. Likewise, it would be absurd for a non-believer to claim Jesus had risen from the dead if they did not believe He had. Spreading the news of the



Resurrection meant conflict with both the Jews and the Romans, leading to active persecution, torture, and even death. Why would an unbeliever willingly put himself in so much danger for a lie?

The most reasonable conclusion is that these witnesses were telling the truth — Jesus really and truly rose from the dead. And if He rose from dead, He is really God, as He claimed to be.

Conclusion

Ultimately, we must remember that faith in Jesus requires more than just evidence that He is God. While we can be absolutely confident in His divinity — that He is Emmanuel, “God with us” — there is a personal choice involved. Even faced with all the evidence in the world, we still must choose to believe in Him, accept His teachings, and follow Him.

1 God revealed Himself to us so that we can _____ Him and _____ Him and so that He could _____ us from sin.

2 What are the two parts to how Jesus carried out the Father’s plan?

Part 1: _____

Part 2: _____

3 Jesus’ _____ is the most important event in _____.

4 What fact about Jesus’ Resurrection did even Jesus’ enemies admit was true?

5 The Apostles waited with expectation for Jesus to rise from dead.

True

False

6 What did Jesus have to do for the Apostles when He appeared to them after His Resurrection? Why?



7 How many witnesses did St. Paul suggest people could ask about Jesus' Resurrection?

8 Which of the following is NOT true about the witnesses of the Risen Jesus?

- a. Lying about His Resurrection would have been a terrible crime.
- b. Their reports of the Resurrection brought peace between the Romans and the Jews.
- c. False claims about the Resurrection would have undermined the Christian Faith and caused many people to leave the Church.

9 If Jesus really rose from the dead, then He really is _____ as He claimed to be.

10 Why does faith in Jesus require more than just evidence that He is God?



God with Us Crossword

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle by solving the clues with words from the word bank. Be sure to **write** your answers on the lines provided and in the puzzle. You may refer to all three readings from this lesson to help find the answers.

Word Bank

ANNALS	EMMANUEL	KERYGMAS
CATHOLIC	EUCCHARIST	MIRACLE
CONVERSION	EXORCISM	PROPHECY
DIVINE REVELATION	HOLY SPIRIT	RESURRECTION
ISAIAH	JESUS	TOMB

ACROSS

- 3 The earliest information we have about Jesus contained in statements about the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. _____
- 6 Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under the appearance of bread and wine.

- 8 The ultimate goal of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and miracles. _____
- 9 "God saves" _____
- 11 An ancient history of Rome that speaks of Jesus, His trial, and Crucifixion.

- 12 This was found empty on the first Easter Sunday, a fact even Jesus' enemies did not deny. _____



- 13 God's revelation of Himself and that He loves us unconditionally, has a plan for our lives, and has saved us from sin. _____
- 14 A type of miracle by which a demon is cast out of a possessed person. _____
- 15 A supernatural act of God that shows His power over all things. _____

DOWN

- 1 The Old Testament prophet who foretold of Christ's coming and that He would be Emmanuel. _____
- 2 The Church Jesus founded during His earthly life. _____
- 4 Jesus' return from the dead on the third day after His Crucifixion; the most important event in Salvation History. _____
- 5 The gift of the Holy Spirit that allows the recipient to understand God's will for the future. _____
- 7 Jesus sent Him to His disciples on Pentecost to embolden them to go out into the world, work miracles in His name, and proclaim the Good News of salvation.

- 10 "God with us" _____

The Mission of the Apostles Crossword

