

Session 3

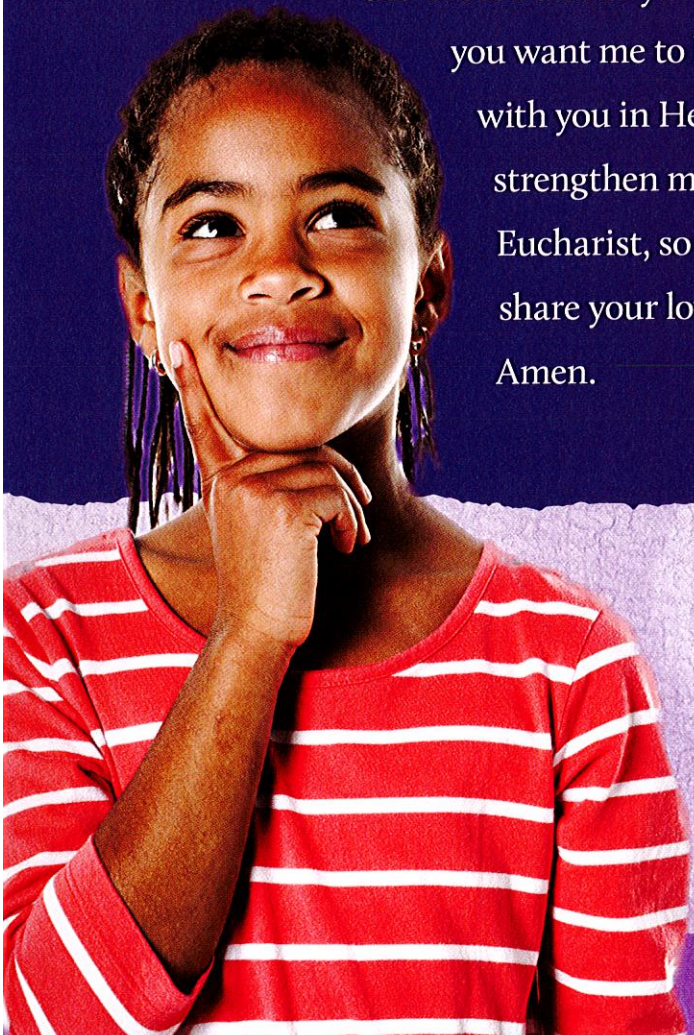
The Death and Resurrection of Jesus



Let's Pray

Dear Jesus,

I believe that you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. I believe that you died on the Cross because you love me, and you want me to live forever with you in Heaven. Please strengthen me with the Eucharist, so that I can share your love with others. Amen.



Introduction

Have you ever wondered about Jesus's Death on the Cross? Why was Jesus willing to endure the suffering of his Crucifixion? The answer is love. Jesus loved you so much that he was willing to give everything, even his life, for you. And he wants to continue to share his life and love with you in the Eucharist! In the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross is made present, when we receive the Body of Christ at Holy Communion. The Eucharist is the most important sacrament because it makes Jesus present to us.

Key Words

Crucified

To put to death by nailing or tying a person to a cross as a form of punishment.

Sabbath

The seventh day of the week, or Saturday. It was the day of worship for the Jewish people.



Let's Read God's Word

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

From John 19:28–20:10

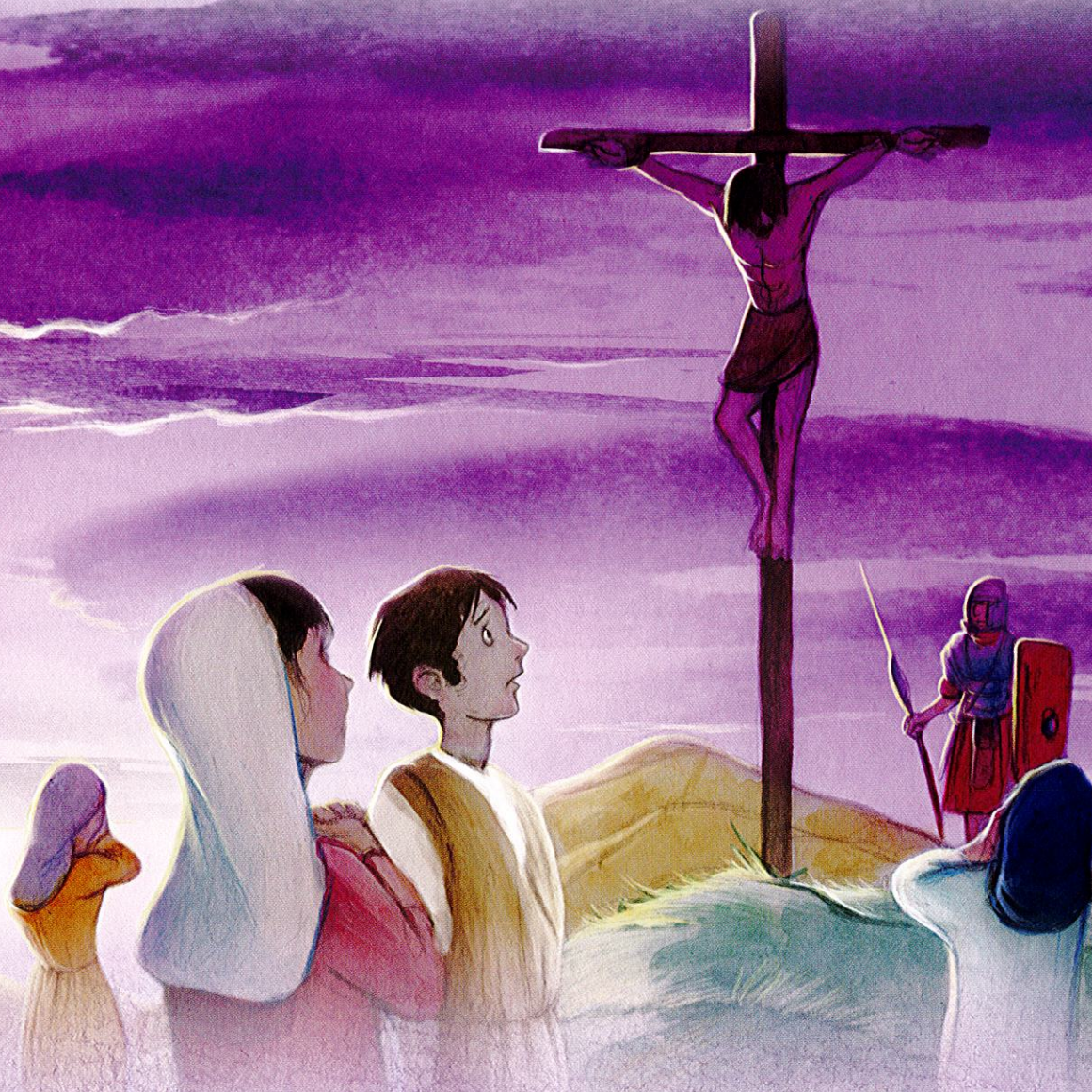
When Jesus was on the Cross, he said, “I thirst.” One of the soldiers soaked a sponge in vinegar and held it up on a stick to offer Jesus. When Jesus drank the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.” Then he died.

None of Jesus’s bones were broken when he was **crucified**. But to make sure that he had really died, one of the soldiers stuck a spear into his side. When he did this, blood and water flowed out of Jesus’s side.

Some of Jesus’s friends took his body down from the Cross. They buried him in a new tomb that was nearby. They had to bury him quickly before the **Sabbath** started.

Very early on Sunday morning, the third day after he died, one of the women who followed Jesus came to the tomb. Her name was Mary Magdalene. When she arrived at the tomb, she saw that the stone covering the opening was removed and the tomb was empty! She ran back to tell Peter and John.

When they heard the news, Peter and John raced to the tomb. When they got there, all they found were the linen cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus's body when he was buried. Jesus was not in his tomb! He had risen from the dead, just as he said he would!



Let's Talk About It

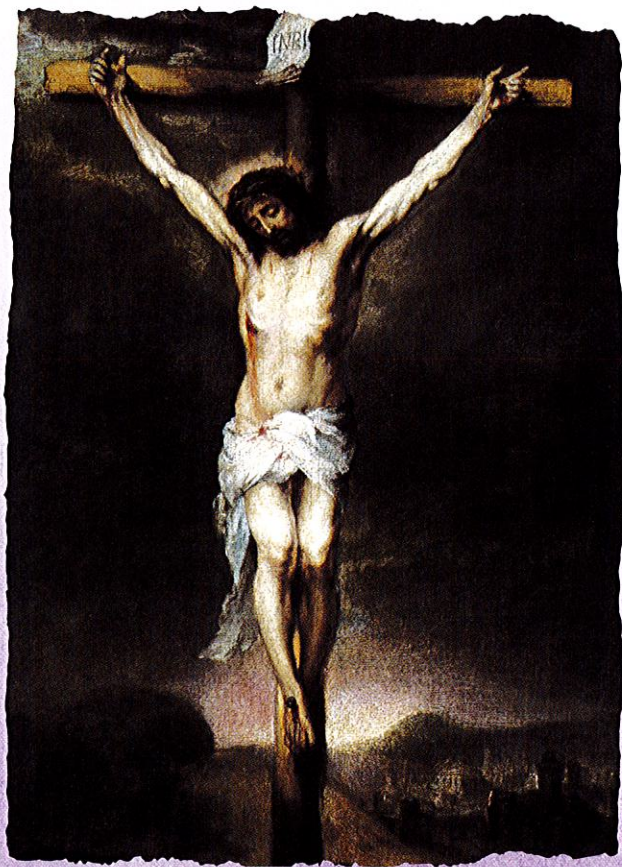
How would you feel if you had found Jesus's tomb empty on the first Easter Sunday?

☩ Let's Learn About Our Faith

Called to Be Witnesses

The punishment for sin is death, but Jesus died on the Cross for our **salvation**.

Through his Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into Heaven, he saved us from our sins and opened the gates of Heaven so that we can live with him forever.



Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. In the Passover, the Jews had to sacrifice a male lamb without any defects. And they couldn't break any of the lamb's bones. Then they ate the lamb in the Passover meal.

Jesus is the Son of God, which means that he never sinned. None of his bones were broken when he was crucified. He is the perfect Lamb of God. Because of his great love for us, Jesus offered himself to God the Father as a sacrifice on the Cross, and he gives himself to us as spiritual food in the Eucharist.

After Jesus's Death on the Cross, he was buried in the tomb. But three days later, he rose from the dead. After his **Resurrection**, Jesus taught his disciples for forty days. He promised them that he would send the Holy Spirit. Then he ascended into Heaven to be with the Father. This event is called the **Ascension**.

Jesus kept his promise on the Feast of **Pentecost**. Fifty days after Jesus's Resurrection and ten days after his Ascension, Mary and the Apostles were gathered together in prayer. There was a mighty wind, and tongues like fire rested on them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

They received the strength and courage to be witnesses for Christ. Immediately they went out and started telling everyone the Good News of Jesus Christ. On that day, many people believed and were baptized.

At Baptism, the Holy Spirit makes us members of the Church, the **Body of Christ**. As members of the Body of Christ, we share in Jesus's mission to bring God's love to everyone.

Key Words

Salvation

The forgiveness of our sins and healing of our friendship with God so that we can be united with him now on earth and for all of eternity in Heaven.

Resurrection

Jesus's rising from the dead on the third day after his Death on the Cross. We call this special day Easter!

Ascension

When Jesus went up into Heaven, Body and Soul, forty days after his Resurrection.

Pentecost

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles, which is the beginning of the Catholic Church.

Body of Christ

Another name for the Church.

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Key Words

Witnesses

People who tell others the truth about what they have seen and heard. We are called to be witnesses to God's love.

We do this by being faithful followers of Jesus and by being **witnesses** and sharing his message of God's love. The Eucharist strengthens us to carry out the mission of Jesus.

Let's Talk About It

In what ways can you be a witness of Christ to your family and friends?



Did You Know?

Jesus Is the Lamb of God

Before Holy Communion, the priest takes the Host and breaks it. The people say:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Then the priest raises the Host and says:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

The people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.



Did You Know?

Source and Summit

The Church calls the Eucharist the “source and summit” of the life of the Church.

The Eucharist is the most important part of being Catholic.

In the Mass, Jesus’s sacrifice on the Cross is made present once again. Jesus only died on the Cross once, but each time we go to Mass his perfect sacrifice on the Cross is made present once again. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus strengthens and renews in us this beautiful gift of salvation.

The Holy Spirit

The Blessed Trinity is one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus told his Apostles that when he returned to the Father in Heaven he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them always. The Holy Spirit strengthens us with his gifts. He reminds us of everything Jesus taught us. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. This makes us temples of the Holy Spirit. At Confirmation we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did at Pentecost, increasing and deepening the grace of our Baptism. In both Baptism and Confirmation, a special oil called **chrism** is placed on our foreheads, and we are anointed with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, he fills us with **Sanctifying Grace**. This is the gift of God’s own divine life in us to make us holy. The Holy Spirit also gives us **Actual Grace**, which helps us in each moment to love God and make the right choices.

Key Words

Chrism

The blessed oil used for anointing in Baptism and Confirmation. This oil is a sign that we are receiving the Holy Spirit.

Sanctifying Grace

The gift of God’s own divine life in us that makes us holy.

Actual Grace

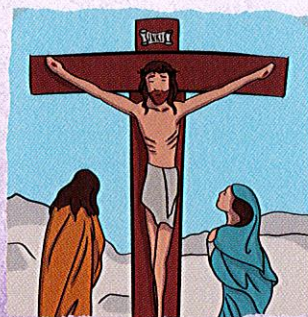
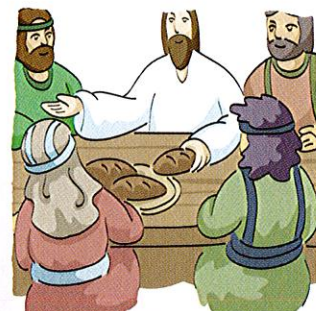
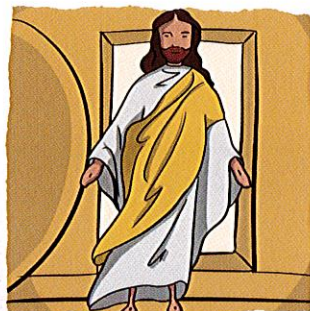
God’s gift to help us in each moment to love God and make the right choices.



Let's Do Activities

Jesus Came to Earth

Everything Jesus did on earth was for us. He loved us so much that he came to earth as a baby. He lived with us, taught us about God, and later died for our sins. He wants us to know him and experience his love. But most of all, he wants us to be united with him in Holy Communion and to live with him in Heaven some day. **Put the number of the correct name for each of these events of Jesus's life, and see how he shows his love for us!**

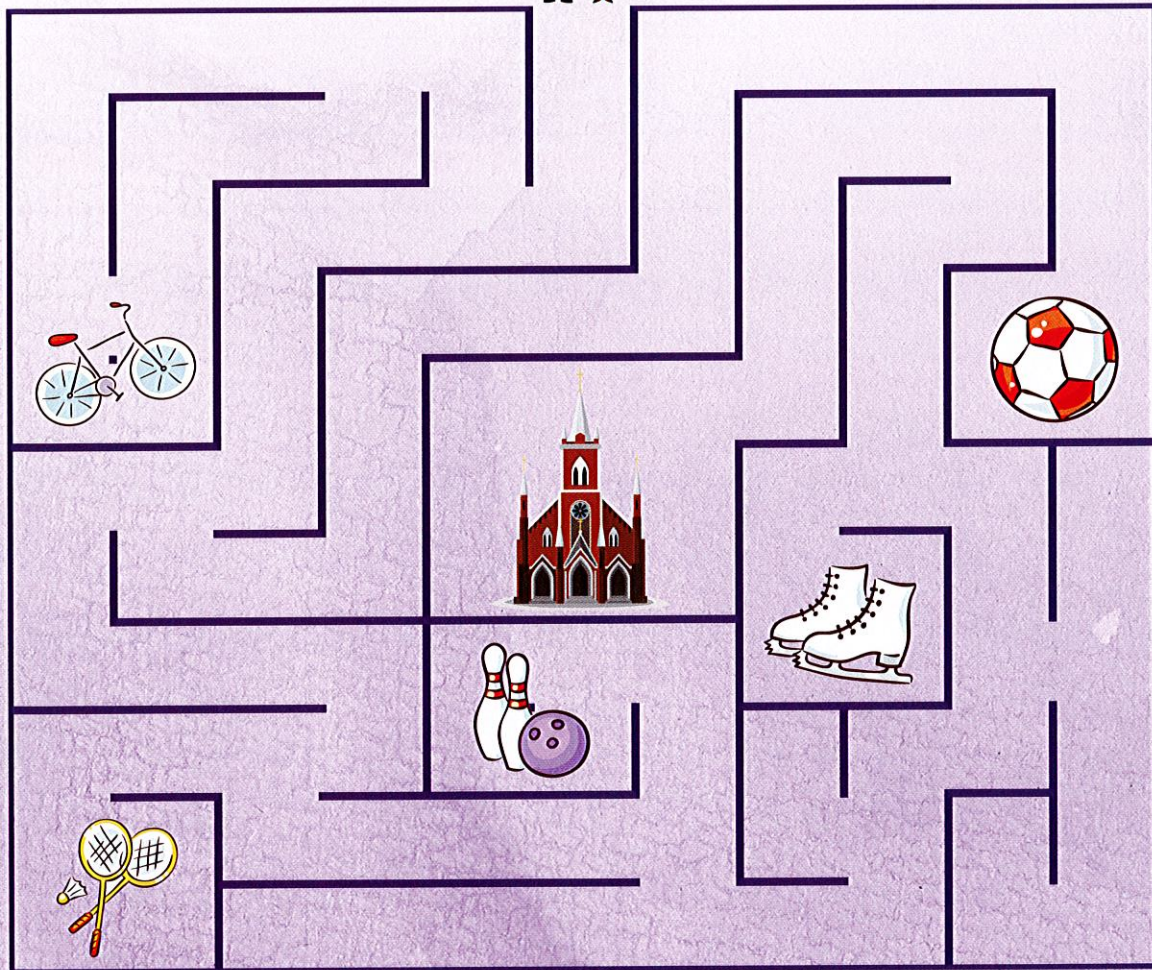


Word Bank

1. The Nativity
2. The Last Supper
3. Crucifixion
4. Resurrection
5. Ascension
6. Pentecost

A-MAZE-ing Faith

The Eucharist is the most important part of our Faith. We receive Jesus's very life in our souls! **The family below needs help to get through the maze of distractions and find their way to Mass. Help them so they can receive Holy Communion at Mass!**



Let's Recall and Reflect

How is Jesus the perfect sacrifice for our sins?

What is our mission as members of the Body of Christ? How does the Holy Spirit strengthen us for this mission?

Why did Jesus die on the Cross? Jesus died on the Cross to save us from our sins and open the gates of Heaven so that we can live with him in Heaven some day.

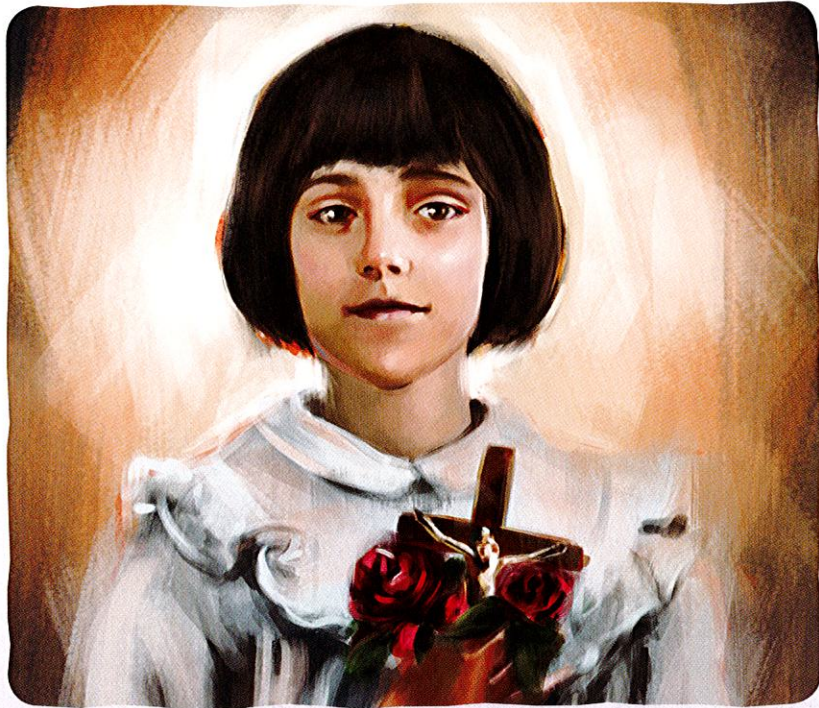
What is the Resurrection? What is the Ascension? The Resurrection is Jesus's rising from the dead on the third day after his Death on the Cross. The Ascension is when Jesus went up into Heaven, body and soul, forty days after his Resurrection.

What is Pentecost? Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the Apostles, fifty days after Jesus's Resurrection—ten days after Jesus ascended into Heaven. Pentecost is the beginning of the Church.

What is Sanctifying Grace? The gift of God's own divine life in us that makes us holy.

What is Actual Grace? God's gift to help us in each moment to love God and make the right choices.

Story of a Saint



Venerable Antonietta Meo (1930–1937)

Venerable Antonietta Meo could be the youngest saint ever canonized—she lived to be just six years old. She had painful bone cancer at age five and had to have her leg amputated. Even with this suffering, she stayed cheerful. She often wrote letters to Jesus, asking for his grace to bear her pain, wanting to suffer just as he did. She couldn't wait to receive Jesus in Holy Communion so she could be with him here on earth, even as she prepared to be with him in Heaven. Antonietta knew that her mission from God was to offer her suffering for sinners so that they could share in Jesus's Resurrection.

Let's Pray

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 shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths that the holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Amen.

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

—John 3:16

Let's Read a Story

Trading Places

The Perry family had finished dinner. Nick and Samantha put the dirty dishes on the counter. It was their brother Andrew's turn to load the dishwasher. It was their sister Liz's turn to scrub the pans. Mr. Perry put away the different sauces they used for the tacos Mrs. Perry had made.

"Are you going to tell us the story about Old Stockyard Willis?" Nick asked his father. Nick had seen an article in the boxes of family keepsakes. He had been curious about it all afternoon.

Mr. Perry looked at Mrs. Perry. She raised her eyebrows.

"It's not a pleasant story. Are you sure you're old enough to hear it?" Mr. Perry asked.

"Yes!" the twins shouted.

"I'm not," Liz joked. "I'm only ten."

Their father sat down at the table. He folded his hands in front of him. "Old Stockyard Willis panned for gold," he said.

"They found his buried treasure in a box at school," Sam said.

"He wasn't very good at finding gold," their dad said. "So he worked for the local mining company. That's how he met my great grandfather."

Nick perked up. "He knew Great-Great Grandpa?"

Mr. Perry nodded. "Your great-great grandfather worked in the mines when he was a young man. He worked shifts with Old Willis. They became friends. Your Great-Great Grandpa gave Willis the silver crucifix they found in that box."

"So, what happened to him?" Nick asked.

"Old Willis knew the mine shafts really well. He complained that they weren't safe. The company didn't shore them up very well," Dad said.

“Shore?” Sam asked.

Mrs. Perry said, “It’s when they put in beams and pillars to keep the roof from caving in.”

Mr. Perry continued, “One day your Great-Great Grandpa was sick with a bad fever. But he was determined to go to work. Old Willis stopped by, took one look at him and said, ‘You need to stay in bed. I’ll take your shift at the mine.’”



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“Your Great-Great Grandpa argued, but Old Willis wouldn’t let him get out of bed,” their dad said. “That night the top of the mine collapsed on Old Stockyard Willis. It killed him.”

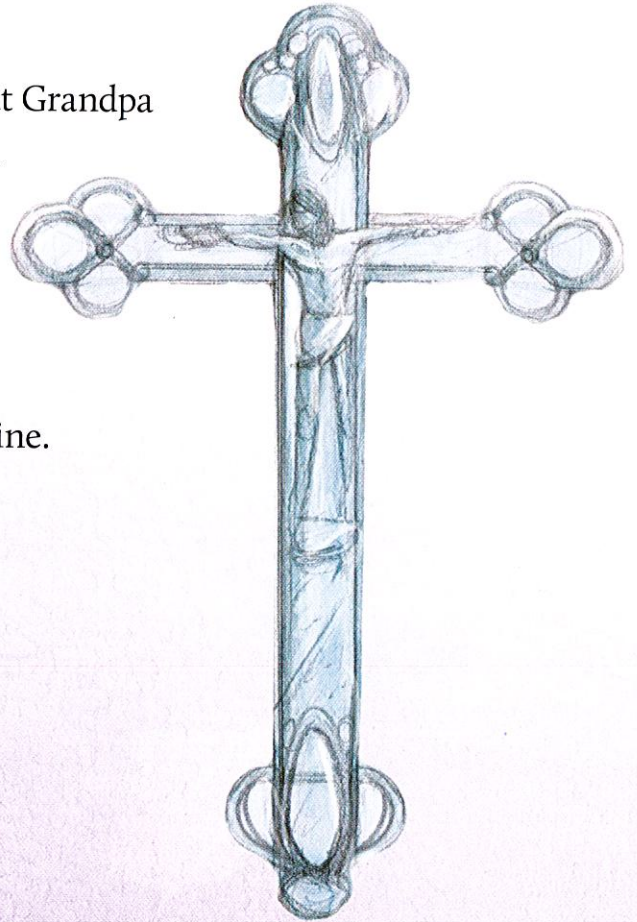
The whole family was silent.

Sam shook her head and said, “If Great-Great Grandpa had gone to the mine that night, then he would have died.”

“And we wouldn’t be here now,” Nick added.

“That’s true,” Mr. Perry said. “Old Willis took your Great-Great Grandpa’s place at the mine. He knew it wasn’t safe, so he was risking his life. You’re here because someone you didn’t know sacrificed for his friend and died.”

Nick thought about Old Stockyard Willis’s silver crucifix.



Let's Talk About It

Old Stockyard Willis gave up his time and even his life to help a sick friend. Describe a time when someone gave up something for you. How did it make you feel?

When we give up things for others, you act like Christ who sacrificed himself for us. What are some little things that you can do or give up for our family and friends?

What are some ways that we can thank Jesus for what he did for us?