

FULL NAME _____

FAMILY HANDOUT 3



No matter what you have done or where you have come from, God wants you to know his love. God welcomes you with open arms. He is inviting you to turn to him. It is through Jesus' life, death and resurrection that you can know God and his love for you.

LOGOS



What do you think the Catholic logo should be? Have fun drawing it here:

Children read what's in the coloured boxes

The cross can be considered the logo or symbol of Christianity – a symbol for the death of Jesus.



Parents read these bits

If you think about it, it is a bit weird how we wear crosses around our necks to represent our religion.

Most often, we remember famous people for great events in their lives. But Jesus, the most famous person in history, seems to be remembered, most of all, for his death on a cross.



Question 36: Did Jesus really die on the cross? (p.65)

So, why does Jesus' death matter to us today?



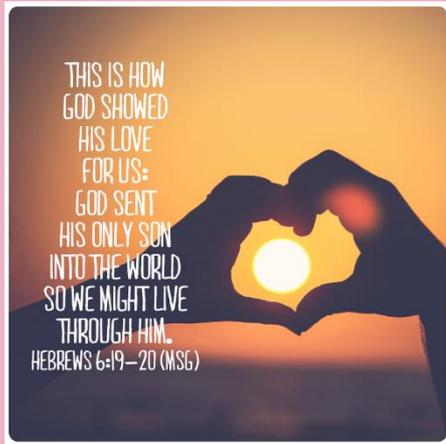
JESUS IS GOD



All of the amazing things that Jesus said, that Jesus did, taught and claimed about himself show us that he was more than just a good man, that he was God.

By becoming human, Jesus shows us **even just through his birth how much God loves us**, how much he cares about us, and how much he wants us to know that.

Remember, God is not a man sitting on a cloud with a long beard looking down at us, slightly disappointed and so that is why he sent his son. **God became Man in Jesus so that we can know how much he loves us.**



Jesus did not come to change God's mind about us. He came so that we could change our minds about God.



He came so that we could change our minds about ourselves (that we are loved) and each other (that they are loved).

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

“ he humbled himself & became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ”
Philippians 2:8

Scapegoat is one made to bear the blame for the wrongs of others.

Jesus died on the cross because the authorities at the time did not like what he was saying or doing. So, they made him the **scapegoat** and had him killed.

On the cross, all human sin met Jesus: like greed, envy, hate, anger, violence. Jesus was sinless and did not deserve to die, yet he took that all sin on himself and was overwhelmed by it and died.



But then the most surprising thing happened. Three days later, Jesus was alive again! They killed him, but he came back to life even better than he was before. So the rulers failed; they killed Jesus to get rid of him, but **he came back again to live forever.**



Jesus defeated death, showing us that sin and darkness, although they still exist, do not have the last word. Because Jesus overcame death, we know that we will also overcome death someday and live forever as Jesus does. **The cross is a victory.**



WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN TO US?

GOD IS WITH US

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. 2 Corinthians 1:4 (The Message)

Through Jesus' passion and death, he shows us that **he is with us in our suffering** because he also suffered.

Every time we are in pain or not happy we can look at the cross, we can remember that Jesus has been through it too.



We can also remember that Jesus Christ defeated death through his resurrection – **we can get through it.**



Are you or is there someone you know who is going through a hard time at the moment? Why not say a prayer together to God, remembering that he is with us all in our suffering?

GOD FORGAVE

“Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ Luke 23:34”

On the cross, Jesus didn't get angry or want revenge; instead, he forgave. **Jesus stopped the cycle of hate.** Jesus asks us to “take up our cross and follow him”, which means to forgive as he forgives.



Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? It might be a brother or sister or a friend who has done something to upset you. Together, why not say a prayer to God to give you the strength to forgive them like Jesus forgave on the cross?

GOD MADE THE WAY

FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER
DEATH NOR LIFE
ANGELS NOR DEMONS
THE PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE
NOR ANY OTHER POWER
NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH
NOR ANYTHING IN CREATION
CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE
LOVE OF GOD
IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
ROMANS 8:38 NIV

Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, he made a way for us to have a relationship with God. Isn't that amazing?



YOUCAT
for
Kids

Question 140:
How can I hear
God? (p.198)



If you struggle to believe that God loves you, then why not say a prayer together to the Holy Spirit who helps us believe?



GOOD NEWS



Have fun doing the following activity together. You will need a page from a newspaper or a piece of paper.

“In newspapers we find both good news and some bad news.”

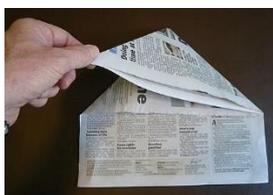
Take a sheet of paper or newspaper.

“I’d like to share with you one news story which is good news for everybody.”



Fold the top left corner of the sheet over as shown in the photo.

“God sent his son Jesus from heaven to earth to show us just how much he loves us. This is good news.”



Fold the paper again to form a “house shape”.

“Jesus grew up in a family and when he became older he healed people, and taught people about God and his love for us.”



Tear the paper downwards in a straight line.

“Some people believed that Jesus was God’s Son but others wanted to kill him. Jesus was captured and put under trial.”

Now **tear** the other side. You should end up with an arrow shape.

“Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus friends were very sad. This seemed like bad news to them and good news to those who wanted Jesus dead.”



Crumple up the torn bits of paper in your hand and throw them in the bin. The remaining paper should look like an arrow.

“They wanted to get rid of Jesus, so his body was placed and sealed in a tomb.”



Now **open** the arrow to reveal the paper cross.

“Though Jesus suffered and died on the cross he was prepared to do that so we could be forgiven for the wrongs we do (sins).”

Place your palm over the cross. Jesus wants to be friends with God and to follow him today.

“The Good News is that Jesus came back to life again and he promises those who believe in him eternal life – life forever with God. That’s good news that’s certainly worth sharing with everyone!”



WHAT IS SIN?



During Jesus' passion and death, the worst of humanity came to the surface: violence, anger and hate. When you hear about it, you might think, how could people have treated Jesus that way? The truth is, this happens around us all the time, in our schools and the local area.

People are made fun of, mocked, left out, taken advantage of and hurt every day.



The Bible says that deep down, we are all broken and brokenness leads us to act in ways that hurt us, and hurt others. The Bible calls this brokenness, **sin**. The Bible also tells us that Jesus died on the cross to **take away our sin**.

? What do you think "sin" is?

Try to answer the questions together



Question 55: How do we recognise sin? (p.95)
Question 81: What is a sin? (p.132)

A STORY ABOUT MAKING GOOD CHOICES



Jesus tells us a story about how to make good choices. **Find & chat about** the parable of the man with two sons in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 21 verses 28 to 30 (**Matthew 21:28-30**).



PARENTS, WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

- The two sons were asked the same question. **How did they both respond?** Even though the first son said no, eventually he did go to help.
- Jesus wants us to realise that **what we do is more important than what we say we will do**.
- People who commit sins will go to heaven if they are sorry for them.



Question 57: How does God deal with sin? (p.96)
Question 21: Does God guide my life? (p.38)



MAKING GOOD CHOICES

God has given everyone a way of telling whether what we do or say is right or wrong. He gives us a **conscience** – it's the little voice within us, helping us to know right from wrong. Sometimes we have to listen very closely to hear that voice. Our parents, teachers and the Church help us to **form** our conscience.



We all make mistakes. Sins are more than mistakes. Write an "A" in the box if the action was an accident. Write an "S" in the box if it was a sin.

An accident: An action not done on purpose. Accidents are not sins.

A choice to sin: Sin is a bad action done on purpose. Or it is choosing not to do something good on purpose. You know it is wrong, and you do it anyway, it is a sin.

Your dad asks where your homework is but you didn't do it, so you lie and say you don't know.

OR

Your dad asks where your homework is but you forgot where you put it and tell him that.

You drop your sister's favourite toy, and it breaks.

OR

You are angry with your sister, so you break her favourite toy.

Your mum asks you to clean your room, but you decide to watch TV instead.

OR

Your mum asks you to clean your room, but your school bus comes, and you can't do it right now.



A parent warns a child not to play football near houses. The child chooses to play anyway and kicks the ball. **What might happen (consequences)?**



Ask each other.

- How easy do you find it to say sorry?
- How do you feel when someone says sorry to you?
- Have you ever chosen to do something that you knew was wrong? What happened afterwards?
- How important are love and forgiveness in your family?

YOU

CAT

for Kids

Question 113: How do I know whether I am doing something good or bad?



THE EFFECTS OF SIN

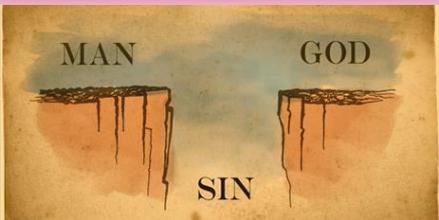


Some might say, “Well, if we all sin, then we are all in the same boat, and it doesn’t matter if we sin”. It **does** matter that we sin. Sin can hurt us and others.

Sin can **pollute** our lives.



Imagine you are walking along the beach on a lovely sunny day eating a yummy cup of ice-cream with your friend. Then a bird poos onto your ice-cream. Your friend tries to scoop out the poo and says, “I’ve got nearly all of it out!” You think, “There is still no way I’m going to eat it!” It is like that with sin. Even a little bit of sin can pollute our entire heart.



Sometimes we might find we keep repeating sins – this is the **power of sin**. It’s got a grip on us and can make us feel like we are chained up.

Sin can also build up a wall between us and others. If we don’t stop it, sin eventually builds up a wall between God and us – this is the **partition of sin**.



“The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.”
Pope Francis



Question 56: What does sin do to us? (p.95)

THE “GOOD PERSON” TEST



Here is a common thought: I know I’m not perfect but deep down, I’m a good person, especially when you compare me to...

Write the name someone who you think is not as good as you.

But then you might think that you’re not as good as someone else.

Write the name someone who you think is better than you.



However, this is **not** how God sees us. He doesn’t compare us to each other. St Paul said:

“ All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *Romans 3:23* ”

All of us have fallen short of God’s standards. We are all sinful people and in need of forgiveness.





What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole. 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Message Bible)



FAMILY PRAYER – PRAYING AT HOME



Take it in turns to say the prayer to each other. Say the name of the person you are praying for first.

“ _____ ”

no matter what you have done
or what you have failed to do,
God wants you to know his love.

God welcomes you with open arms.

He is inviting you to turn to him.

Jesus' life, death and resurrection
made a way for you to know
God's special love for you.

Thank you God! Amen.”



Time to learn a traditional
prayer – the Apostle's Creed



Question 13: How do you
say the creed? (p.28)

