



CHALLENGE & CONQUEST YOUTH MINISTRY
ONE WEEK SAMPLE CURRICULUM
EASTER EDITION

Friendship
Challenge
Catholic Service

BEFORE YOU START

In order to get the most out of your free week of activities, you should understand a few of the Challenge and Conquest **METHODS OF MINISTRY**. The curriculum is designed to be used with these specific methods in mind.

GENDER SPECIFIC

Start off by splitting your group into boys and girls. For some parts of the meeting they will be together but other parts they will be in smaller gender specific groups.

TEAM BASED

Now split the group into teams of 6- 10 kids. If you have a large group, you can split them into teams by ages (5th & 6th grade and 7th & 8th grade).

TEEN LED

This is the secret to the meeting's success – choose the oldest teens in your group to lead the smaller teams you have formed. It helps that they are about 2 years older than the group they are leading.

SERVICE DRIVEN

We try to make service a part of every meeting. On our websites you can find many examples of popular Challenge & Conquest service projects to do at Eastertime.

To find out more about our **METHODS OF MINISTRY**, download our free Info Book from our websites.



CONQUEST
FORGED IN VIRTUE. CALLED TO SERVE.
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

CONTACT US!

CUSTOMERSERVICE@MISSIONNETWORK.COM

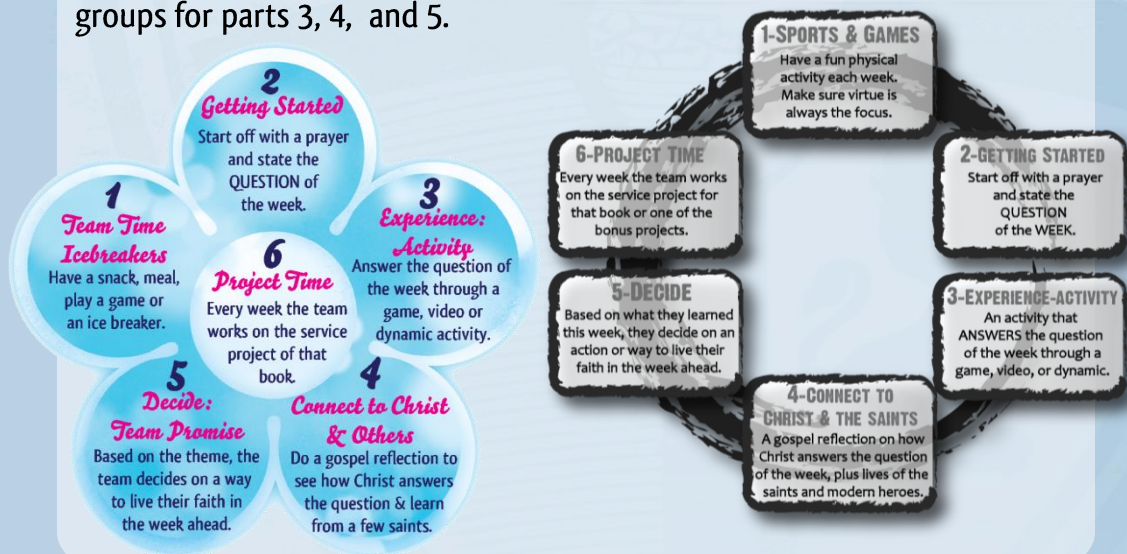
www.challengeyouthministry.com

www.conquestyouthministry.com

1 855 556-6872

6 PARTS OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Both Challenge and Conquest have 6 parts to the weekly activities. The free week of activities follows this format. You can have all the teams together in a large group for parts 1, 2 and 6. Try to give them a chance in their small groups for parts 3, 4, and 5.



HOW TO USE THE FREE CURRICULUM

ASSEMBLE THE TEAM Meet with the team leaders and print off copies of this e book for them. Go through the steps and choose the activities that they think would work best with their age group and their teams. Work with them to prepare supplies.

STEP 1 Choose an icebreaker, sport or game to play for first 15 or 20 min. This is an optional step but gives the youth leaders an opportunity to come up with something fun.

STEP 2 The question of the week is the theme of the activity. We try to help the teens discover the answer to the question by the end of the meeting. The Question of the week for the free curriculum is **"Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise from the dead?"** Have the team leaders read over the Youcat numbers that answer the question and the points presented in the free curriculum.

STEP 3 With the team leaders read through the different parts of the meeting and divide up who will prepare each part. There are printable items at the end of the booklet and online videos.

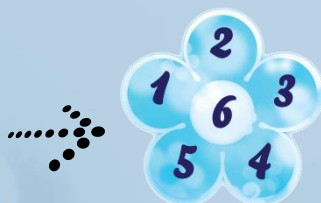


WEEKLY CURRICULUM SAMPLE

Print a copy of this section for the Challenge team teen leaders.

This sample week of curriculum is meant to be a guide to help you lead your team's weekly meeting & activities. Each weekly meeting is an opportunity to help your team members discover something new about God, themselves and the world around them. We all have questions in our hearts and Challenge gives you a time to work together to discover the answers to those questions .

Look on the corner of the page
for the flower to keep track of
each part of the meeting .



Week 1:

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS & RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Before: Prep & Plan

This section is meant to be a guide to help you prepare this week's meeting & activity for your team.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: *Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise from dead?*

DEEPER NEED WE ARE RESPONDING TO: I need to have a new relationship with God.

CONVICTIONS & DECISIONS TO REACH THIS WEEK: God loves me and I can get to know Him. I want to respond to God by loving Him.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION? Jesus died on the cross to redeem us and save us from our sins. The resurrection of Jesus is a sign of hope and that God conquers evil.

MAIN IDEAS FROM THE YOCAT:

The answer to this week's question can be found in YOCAT #96-109, #277 which are found on the Meeting Guide Sheet and are summarized below.



These ideas from the YOCAT will help you answer this week's question. Highlight the main ideas that jump out at you so that you can have them clear.



#96: *Why was a man of peace like Jesus condemned to death on a Cross?* Jesus posed a decisive question to his contemporaries: Either he was acting with divine authority, or else he was an impostor, a blasphemer, and a violator of the Law and who had to be called to account.

#97: *Are the Jews guilty of Jesus' death?* No one can assign collective guilt for the death of Jesus to the Jews. Instead, the Church professes with certainty that all sinners share in the guilt for Jesus' death.

#98: *Did God will the death of his only Son?* The violent death of Jesus did not come about through tragic external circumstances. Jesus was "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). So that we children of sin and death might have life, the Father in heaven "made him to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21).

#99: *What happened at the Last Supper?* Jesus washed the feet of his apostles on the evening before his death; he instituted the Eucharist and founded the priesthood of the New Covenant.

#100: *On the Mount of Olives on the night before his death, did Jesus really experience fear of death?* Since Jesus was true man, he truly experienced fear of death on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had to fight in order to consent interiorly to the Father's will.



Passion (Latin *passio* = sickness, suffering): term designating Christ's suffering.

#101: Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross, of all places? Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by his perfect love.

#102 Why are we too supposed to accept suffering in our lives and thus “take up our cross” and thereby follow Jesus? Christians should not seek suffering, but when they are confronted with unavoidable suffering, it can become meaningful for them if they unite their sufferings with the sufferings of Christ.

#103: Was Jesus really dead? Jesus really died on the Cross; his body was buried. All the sources testify to this. The soldiers even make an explicit determination of death: They open the side of Jesus' dead body with a lance and see blood and water come out.

#104: Can you be a Christian without believing in the Resurrection of Christ? No. “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor 15:14).

#105: How did the disciples come to believe that Jesus is risen? The disciples, who before had lost all hope, came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection because they saw him in a different way after his death, spoke with him, and experienced him as being alive.

#106: Are there proofs for the Resurrection of Jesus? There are no proofs for the Resurrection of Jesus in the scientific sense. There are, however, very strong individual and collective testimonies by a large number of contemporaries of those events in Jerusalem.

#107: Through his Resurrection, did Jesus return to the physical, corporeal state that he had during his earthly life? The risen Lord allowed his disciples to touch him; he ate with them and showed them the wounds of his Passion. Nevertheless, his body belonged no longer only to this earth.

#108: What changed in the world as a result of the Resurrection? Because death is now no longer the end of everything, joy and hope came into the world. Now that death “no longer has dominion” over Jesus, it has no more power over us, either, who belong to Jesus.

#109: What does it mean to say that Jesus ascended into heaven? The Ascension of Christ marks the end of forty days during which the risen Lord was especially close to his disciples. At the end of this time, Christ enters into the glory of God.

#277: What are the Stations of the Cross? Following Jesus on his Way of the Cross by praying and meditating on the fourteen Stations is a very ancient devotion in the Church, which is practiced especially in Lent and Holy week.



DON'T FORGET

Print out the Meeting Guide from the Team Leader USB drive or online resource center for this week. The Meeting Guide Sheet for the team members has the complete numbers from the Youcat, gospel quote, saint stories and team discussion questions to help answer the question of the week.

Week 1:

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS & RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Before: Prep & Plan

THIS WEEK'S MEETING GUIDE SHEET:




Weekly Meeting Guide

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

GOSPEL



ANSWERS

WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE, THEY CRUCIFIED HIM AND THE CRIMINALS THERE, ONE ON HIS RIGHT, THE OTHER ON HIS LEFT. THEN JESUS SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." ON THE THIRD DAY, THEY WENT TO THE TOMB. THEY FOUND THE STONE ROLLED AWAY FROM THE TOMB; BUT WHEN THEY ENTERED, THEY DID NOT FIND THE BODY OF THE LORD JESUS— LUKE 23: 26-43 & LUKE 24:1-12


SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ST VERONICA

St Veronica is remembered in the 6th station of the cross for the kindness and charity she showed to Christ in wiping her face. Even before the resurrection, she showed her love for Christ. We need to have that same faith and love for Christ.

BLESSED TERESA BRACCO

As a young girl and throughout her adolescence Blessed Teresa was often found in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She spared no sacrifice to nourish her love for Christ in the Eucharist, walking over a mile to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. She appreciated the sacrifice Christ made for her on the cross.




**TALK
ABOUT IT!**

TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

High School BOOK 4 WEEK 1

7

**TIP**

Getting ready is the first step to a great weekly meeting and activity with your team. Remember – your whole meeting should be a series of activities and experiences that help the girls on your team answer the question of the week. There should not be a “talk” where the girls are just listening.

This Week's Meeting at a Glance

- 1** Team Time
- 2** Get Started: Prayer & Question
- 3** Experience:-Activity: Beat the Feat Game
Videos/ Team Discussion
- 4** Connect-Gospel Reflection:
Lk 23:26-43, 24:1-12
- 5** Saints : St Veronica/ Teresa Bracco
Decide: Team Promise
- 6** Project Time!-Wrap Up

MATERIAL YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS WEEK'S MEETING:



Computer to show videos
2 soda plastic soda bottles taped together with large candies in one of them
6- 8 rolls of toilet paper or crepe paper
Baseball cap with 2 tea bags taped/stapled to it

WHAT IS ON THE TEAM LEADER USB DRIVE OR ONLINE THAT CAN HELP FOR THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES?



Youcat Meeting Guide

Week 1:

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS & RISE FROM THE DEAD?

1 Team Time

What is the plan this week for the beginning of the meeting? A game? Fun idea for snack? Special occasion? Icebreaker?

2 Getting Started

Start off with a prayer. You can say a Hail Mary, Glory Be or the Holy Spirit Prayer.

Who is there this week ?

Let your team know the question of the day: Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise from the dead?

Let them know what else you have planned for the meeting.

3 Experience – Activity:

ACTIVITY 1: BEAT THE FEAT GAME



Explanation: This game is a elimination competition. Three players will do three different tasks and the first person to finish wins and moves onto the next round. Depending on how many people are on your team, you will probably have 3 first rounds and then the winners of those 3 rounds will compete against each other. Ideally, you should try to make it work out so

that the person does not repeat the same task in the next round. The 3 “feats” are:

Feat #1- Tea Party: Before the meeting attach 2 teabags to a baseball cap (with tape or staples). The player has to put on the baseball hat and try to get the two tea bags to land on the visor of the cap by swinging their head. No hands allowed. The tea bags must stay on the visor for at least 60 seconds.

Feat #2 – Soda Rattle: Before the meeting take two empty plastic soda bottles and remove the lids. Fill up one bottle with gumballs ,peanut M & Ms or Lemonheads (Make sure the candy is not too small). Then tape the two bottles together with duck tape so that the mouths of both bottles face each other. The goal of this feat is using only one hand (at a time) the player needs to shake or swirl the bottles to empty the candy from one bottle to the other.

Feat #3- Unravel Roll: Set up the toilet paper or streamer rolls at the player's feet with the player holding 1 end of 1 roll in each hand. The goal is for the player to unspool the roll by moving their arms in a circular motion. They cannot kick or grab the spool directly. If it breaks, they can pick up the end





Discussion: Take a moment after the game to talk to the team about what this game has to do with the theme of the week. What do they think these three games have to do with Christ's death and resurrection?

The Unravel Roll game is easy – man became unraveled in sin and offended God year after year so he sent his Son to reset things and save us. The Soda Rattle game explains how Jesus took on all our sins. The candy represents all our offenses to God and Jesus took those on himself to save us. The Tea Party game represents how Jesus' death and resurrection elevated mankind to a new level of being redeemed creatures.

ACTIVITY 2: VIDEO ANSWERS

Explanation: Watch the videos which touch on the topic of the week. You can choose the ones that you think would best reach your team. After watching the videos, get their feedback and how they think the videos relate to the question of the week.

VIDEO



ANSWERS

Palm Sunday

<http://youtu.be/Y3Vor55BoE0>

C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - Why Did Jesus Suffer?

<http://youtu.be/mogjBRR94QM>

Where's the Body?

<http://youtu.be/unk6AjBBncE>

C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - How Do We Know Jesus Rose?

<http://youtu.be/NXaVfoWDcB4>

ACTIVITY 3: TEAM DISCUSSION ABOUT THE YOUCAT NUMBERS



Explanation: Since this is year we are focusing on doing a YOUCAT study each week, we will take a moment each week to actually talk to your team about the question of the week and the numbers from the YOUCAT found on the Meeting Guide Sheet.

- 1) The first thing to do is to read the numbers from the YOUCAT with everyone. You can assign each girl to read one of the numbers.
- 2) After each number ask if anyone has any questions about what it means. Give examples of things you maybe did not understand at first and take advantage of the definitions and explanations found throughout the YOUCAT in the margins to help better explain.
- 3) Ask how each number of the YOUCAT helps answer the question of the week. Go through and help them see that the Church does help us find answers to our deepest questions.

Week 1:

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS & RISE FROM THE DEAD?

4

Connect ➔ *To Christ: Gospel Reflection*



TIP

Remember – the gospel reflection is a moment to help the girls understand how Jesus responded to this week's question with his life or his words in the gospel.

Choose one of the girls to read the passage.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 23:26-43 AND LUKE 24:1-12

As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of

James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone.



GOSPEL INSIGHTS

In this passage, we see the passage about the death and the resurrection of Christ. These are passages that we get used of hearing in Church and especially during Holy Week. But we have to remember to read between the lines and look deep to see how the heart of Jesus felt during these difficult moments of his passion. We should also see the incredible hope that he brought when he rose from the dead. Think of what was going through the heads of the apostles - Jesus died. They saw him breath is last and then all of a sudden his tomb is empty and he shows up to talk to them. It was a sign of his power and proved to them that he was God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT

Why do you think you would have done if you were there and saw Jesus carrying the cross? What do you think you would have done if you were there and Jesus appeared to you after he rose from the dead? Do you ever think of the Resurrection and the hope it brings to us as Christians?

HOW DID CHRIST HELP US ANSWER THIS WEEK'S QUESTION IN THIS PASSAGE?

Christ answers the question directly in the passage by showing us that his death was necessary to show us the greatness of his Resurrection.

Connect ➡ Saints and Stories



TIP

Remember – your team and you are not the only people in the world who have asked the question. Let's talk about other people who have asked themselves this same question and found an answer.

St Veronica



The woman of Jerusalem who wiped the face of Christ with a veil while he was on the way to Calvary was known as St Veronica. According to tradition, the cloth was imprinted with the image of Christ's face." The legend of Veronica became one of the most popular in Christian lore and the veil one of the beloved relics in the Church. According to legend, Veronica bore the relic away from the Holy Land, and used it to cure Emperor Tiberius of some illness. The veil was subsequently seen in Rome in the eighth century, and was translated to St. Peter's in 1297 by command of Pope Boniface VIII. The relic is still preserved in St. Peter's, and the memory of Veronica's act of charity is commemorated in the Stations of the Cross. While she is not included in the Roman Martyrology, she is honored with a feast day. Her symbol is the veil bearing the face of Christ and the Crown of Thorns.

Week 1:

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS & RISE FROM THE DEAD?

4

Connect → *Saints & Stories*

Blessed Teresa Bracco



Teresa Bracco was born in 1924 in a small village in Italy. Her parents were humble and devoutly Catholic farmers. From an early age she showed signs of great piety, particularly a love of the Eucharist and a tender devotion to the Virgin Mary. After a long day of tiring work, her father would lead the family in reciting the Rosary. Teresa learned to pray by following her parents' example.

The formation she received at home was strengthened by the catechesis given by an exceptional parish priest, who gave her many religious books to read but, most importantly, inspired her by his holy life.

At school, Teresa's teachers marveled at her exemplary conduct. As a young girl and throughout her adolescence she was often found in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She spared no sacrifice to nourish her love for Christ in the Eucharist, rising early in the morning and walking over a mile to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. She spent the rest of her day in work and prayer. One of her most striking virtues, however, was her modesty in speech and dress. She instinctively fled from trivial conversations. One witness said: "She was different from the other girls".

At the age of nine, she saw a picture of Dominic Savio, with the caption: "Death rather than sin". She exclaimed: "That goes for me!". She cut out the picture, pasted it on a card and hung it over her bed.

When she was 19, guerrilla warfare intensified in the region near her home. The mountains and woods gave hiding places for those fighting or avoiding authorities. One day a fierce clash occurred between the resistance and German troops. The next day the soldiers returned to collect their dead: they burned farms, looted homes and terrorized the people. They seized three girls, one of whom was Teresa. She resisted and was killed in 1944 when she was only 20 years old. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II.



5 Decide → Team Promise



TIP

This is the part of the meeting when you help your team to come to a decision to live their lives differently after discovering the answer to the question of the week and connecting to their own life. Ask them these questions as a recap of the meeting & come up with a good team promise.



What did we find out in the activity, gospel and saints? What is the answer to the question of the week?

Jesus died on to cross out of love for us and to redeem us from our sins. His Resurrection shows that he conquered death and sin. The gospel passage helps us to understand what the apostles went through witnessing Jesus' death and resurrection. The saints show us what it is to live with hope and love for our Lord.

How can this meeting and question effect my life this week and in the future?

Every day I have the opportunity to think of Jesus on the cross and the hope he gives us.

What are we going to decide together to do differently this week? What is our team promise?

(Ask the girls first because it needs to be their decision.)

What was our team promise last week? Did we do it?

6 Project Time!

What do we need to work on this week during the meeting for our project?

What do we need to work on after our meeting to be ready for next week?

Don't forget to end the meeting with a prayer!

CONQUEST



CONQUEST

FORGED IN VIRTUE. CALLED TO SERVE.
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKLY CURRICULUM SAMPLE

Print a copy of this section for the Conquest team teen leaders. It is the same question and theme as the girls but adapted specifically for boys.

challenge

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

PREP & PLAN THE ACTIVITY

This section is meant to be a guide to help you prepare the activity for your team

QUESTION :

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

NEED WE ARE RESPONDING TO:

I need to have a new relationship with God.

CONVICTIONS & DECISIONS TO REACH IN THE ACTIVITY:

God loves me and I can get to know him. I want to respond to God by loving him.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION?

Jesus dies on the cross to redeem us and save us from our sins. The resurrection of Jesus is a sign of hope and that God conquers evil.



TIP

These ideas will help you answer this week's question. Highlight the main ideas that jump out at you so that you can have them clear in your mind.

MAIN IDEAS FROM THE YOUCAT:

THE ANSWER TO THIS WEEKS QUESTION CAN BE FOUND IN THE YOUCAT: #96-109, #277 WHICH ARE FOUND ON THE MEETING GUIDE SHEET AND ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.



#96: Why was a man of peace like Jesus condemned to death on a Cross? Jesus posed a decisive question to his contemporaries: Either he was acting with divine authority, or else he was an impostor, a blasphemer, and a violator of the Law and who had to be called to account.

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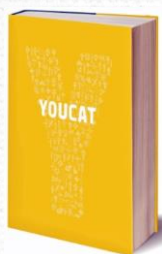
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#99: What happened at the Last Supper? Jesus washed the feet of his apostles on the evening before his death; he instituted the Eucharist and founded the priesthood of the New Covenant.

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

PREP & PLAN THE ACTIVITY

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If you have a YOUCAT make sure you use it.

These numbers in this book are shortened to highlight the main ideas.

The Meeting Guide Sheet for the team members have the entire number of the YOUCAT as well.

#100: On the Mount of Olives on the night before his death, did Jesus really experience fear of death? Since Jesus was true man, he truly experienced fear of death on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had to fight in order to consent interiorly to the Father's will.

PASSION (Latin *passio* = sickness, suffering): term designating Christ's suffering.

#101: Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross, of all places? Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by his perfect love.

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#277: What are the Stations of the Cross? Following Jesus on his Way of the Cross by praying and meditating on the fourteen Stations is a very ancient devotion in the Church, which is practiced especially in Lent and Holy week.

HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE THE ANSWER AND MAIN IDEAS IN YOUR OWN WORDS?



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WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

PREP & PLAN THE ACTIVITY

THIS WEEKS MEETING AT A GLANCE

1	SPORTS & GAMES: BEAT THE FEAT GAME	30 MIN
2	GETTING STARTED	5 MIN
3	EXPERIENCE ACTIVITY: VIDEO ANSWERS: 4 VIDEOS	15-20 MIN
4	CONNECT: TO CHRIST- GOSPEL REFLECTION: LK 23:26-43, 24:1-12 TO THE SAINTS- ST VERONICA / TERESA BRACCO	15-20 MIN
5	DECIDE: COMMITMENTS	5 MIN
6	PROJECT TIME & WRAP UP	20 MIN


MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS WEEK:

- A computer or tablet to show videos
- Beat the Feat Game
 - 2 empty plastic soda bottles (20oz) with large candies in one of them. (Peanut M&M's or gumballs or lemonheads)
 - Duct tape roll (to tape two plastic bottle necks together)
 - 6-12 rolls of toilet paper
 - Baseball cap with 2 teabags taped or stapled to the front bill



WHAT IS ON THE TEAM LEADER USB DRIVE OR ONLINE RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK?

- FILE: HS-Book4_Week1_Meeting_Guide.pdf
- VIDEO: HS-BK4-WK1-Palm Sunday
- VIDEO: HS-BK4-WK1-C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - Why Did Jesus Suffer?
- VIDEO: HS-BK4-WK1-Where's the Body?
- VIDEO: HS-BK4-WK1-C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - How Do We Know Jesus Rose?

CHECK THE

USB DRIVE



SPORTS AND GAMES

You can choose to play any traditional sport or game, or try the suggested activity this week.

BEAT THE FEAT!

CHECK IT OUT:

Can you compete to BEAT THE FEAT?

MAKE IT HAPPEN:



1. This game is a elimination competition. Three players will do three different tasks and the first person to finish wins and moves onto the next round. Depending on how many people are on your team, you will probably 3 first rounds and then the winners of those 3 rounds will compete against each other. Ideally, you should try to make it work out so that the person does not repeat the same task in the next round. The 3 “feats” are:
 - A. **Feat #1- Tea Bash:** Before the meeting attach 2 teabags to a baseball cap (with tape or staples). The player has to put on the baseball cap and try to get the two tea bags to land on the visor of the cap by swinging their head. No hands allowed. The tea bags must stay on the visor for at least 60 seconds.
 - B. **Feat #2 – Soda-Pop Rattle:** Before the meeting take two empty plastic soda bottles and remove the lids. Fill up one bottle with gumballs ,peanut M & M’s or Lemonheads (Make sure the candy is not too small). Then tape the two bottles together with duck tape so that the mouths of both bottles face each other. The goal of this feat is using only one hand (at a time) the player needs to shake or swirl the bottles to empty the candy from one bottle to the other.
 - C. **Feat #3- Unraveled:** Set up the toilet paper or streamer rolls at the player’s feet with the player holding 1 end of 1 roll in each hand. The goal is for the player to unspool the roll by moving their arms in a circular motion. They cannot kick or grab the spool directly. If it breaks, they can pick up the end.

WRAP IT UP:

Take a moment after the game to talk to the team about what this game has to do with the theme of the week. What do they think these three feats have to do with Christ’s death and resurrection? The Unraveled feat is easy – man became unraveled in sin and offended God year after year so he sent his Son to reset things and save us. The Soda-Pop Rattle feat explains how Jesus took on all our sins. The candy represents all our offenses to God and Jesus took those on himself to save us. The Tea Bash feat represents how Jesus’ death and resurrection elevated mankind to a new level of being redeemed creatures.

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

GETTING STARTED

List each member in attendance, and record a check mark if they brought their Conquest Member Book and are wearing their T-shirt

ATTENDEES

DATE:

NAME	MEMBER BOOK	T-SHIRT
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

OPENING PRAYER

Ask a team member to lead the opening prayer (Invocation of the Holy Spirit) in the Conquest Member book. Ask the guys if they have any special intentions.



Remind your team members to use their Conquest member books to record notes!

WEEK # 1

1 2 3 4 5 6

EXPERIENCE: DYNAMIC ACTIVITY



Remember – the activity is supposed to help the members have an experience that leads them to answer the question of the week.

VIDEO ANSWERS



VIDEO



ANSWERS

Watch the videos on the Conquest YouTube Channel – High School Team Leader Playlist which touch on the topic of the week. You can choose the ones that you think would best reach your team. After watching the videos, get their feedback and how they think the videos relate to the question of the week.

1. PALM SUNDAY
2. C4: IGNITE YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH - WHY DID JESUS SUFFER?
3. WHERE'S THE BODY?
4. C4: IGNITE YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH - HOW DO WE KNOW JESUS ROSE?

DISCUSSION ABOUT YOUCAT NUMBERS



EXPLANATION: Since this is year we are focusing on doing a YOUCAT study, we will take a moment each week to actually talk to your team about the question of the week and the numbers from the YOUCAT found on this weeks **Meeting Guide Sheet**.

1. The first thing to do is to read the numbers from the YOUCAT with everyone. You can assign each guy to read one of the numbers.
2. After each number ask if anyone has any questions about what it means. Give examples of things you maybe did not understand at first and take advantage of the definitions and explanations found throughout the YOUCAT in the margins to help you to better explain.
3. Ask how each number of the YOUCAT helps answer the question of the week. Go through and help them see that the Church does help us find answers to our deepest questions.

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

CONNECT: TO CHRIST - GOSPEL REFLECTION



Remember – the gospel reflection is a moment to help the guys understand how Jesus responded to the question of the week with his life or his words in the gospel. Choose one of the guys to read the passage.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 23: 26-43 AND 24: 1-12 **CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION**

As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?” Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, “He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God.” Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, “If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.” Above him there was an inscription that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.” The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.” And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these.

CONNECT: TO CHRIST - GOSPEL REFLECTION

things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone.

GOSPEL INSIGHTS:

EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE TO YOUR TEAM SO THAT THEY CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LIFE OF JESUS

In this passage, we see the passage about the death and the resurrection of Christ. These are passages that we get used of hearing in Church and especially during Holy Week. But we have to remember to read between the lines and look deep to see how the heart of Jesus felt during these difficult moments of his passion. We should also see the incredible hope that he brought when he rose from the dead. Think of what was going through the heads of the apostles - Jesus died. They saw him breath is last and then all of a sudden his tomb is empty and he shows up to talk to them. It was a sign of his power and proved to them that he was God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT:



1. Why do you think you would have done if you were there and saw Jesus carrying the cross?
2. What do you think you would have done if you were there and Jesus appeared to you after he rose from the dead? Do you ever think of the Resurrection and the hope it brings to us as Christians?

HOW DID CHRIST HELP US ANSWER THIS WEEK'S QUESTION IN THIS PASSAGE?

Christ answers the question directly in the passage by showing us that his death was necessary to show us the greatness of his Resurrection.

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

CONNECT TO OTHERS: IT'S NOT ONLY YOU



Remember – the goal of this moment is to help the members realize that they are not the only ones who have dealt with this question. Share the story of the saint or other inspirational story.

SAINT STORY:

ST VERONICA



The woman of Jerusalem who wiped the face of Christ with a veil while he was on the way to Calvary was known as St. Veronica. According to tradition, the cloth was imprinted with the image of Christ's face." The legend of Veronica became one of the most popular in Christian lore and the veil one of the beloved relics in the Church. According to legend, Veronica bore the relic away from the Holy Land, and used it to cure Emperor Tiberius of some illness. The veil was subsequently seen in Rome in the eighth century, and was translated to St. Peter's in 1297 by command of Pope Boniface VIII. The relic is still preserved in St. Peter's, and the memory of Veronica's act of charity is commemorated in the Stations of the Cross. While she is not included in the Roman Martyrology, she is honored with a feast day. Her symbol is the veil bearing the face of Christ and the Crown of Thorns.

CONNECT TO OTHERS: IT'S NOT ONLY YOU



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INSPIRATIONAL STORY:

BLESSED TERESA BRACCO



Teresa Bracco was born in 1924 in a small village in Italy. Her parents were humble and devoutly Catholic farmers. From an early age she showed signs of great piety, particularly a love of the Eucharist and a tender devotion to the Virgin Mary. After a long day of tiring work, her father would lead the family in reciting the Rosary. Teresa learned to pray by following her parents' example. The formation she received at home was strengthened by the catechesis given by an

exceptional parish priest, who gave her many religious books to read but, most importantly, inspired her by his holy life. At school, Teresa's teachers marveled at her exemplary conduct. As a young girl and throughout her adolescence she was often found in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She spared no sacrifice to nourish her love for Christ in the Eucharist, rising early in the morning and walking over a mile to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. She spent the rest of her day in work and prayer. One of her most striking virtues, however, was her modesty in speech and dress. She instinctively fled from trivial conversations. One witness said: "She was different from the other girls". At the age of nine, she saw a picture of Dominic Savio, with the caption: "Death rather than sin". She exclaimed: "That goes for me!". She cut out the picture, pasted it on a card and hung it over her bed. When she was 19, guerrilla warfare intensified in the region near her home. The mountains and woods gave hiding places for those fighting or avoiding authorities. One day a fierce clash occurred between the resistance and German troops. The next day the soldiers returned to collect their dead: they burned farms, looted homes and terrorized the people. They seized three girls, one of whom was Teresa. She resisted and was killed in 1944 when she was only 20 years old. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

DECIDE: TEAM COMMITMENT

**LEAD YOUR TEAM TO COME TO A DECISION TO
LIVE THEIR LIVES DIFFERENTLY AFTER THIS
WEEK'S ACTIVITY...**

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION WE STARTED OUT WITH?

Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise from the dead?

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT? WHAT WAS OUR ANSWER?

Jesus died on the cross out of love for us and to redeem us from our sins. His Resurrection shows that he conquered death and sin. The gospel passage helps us to understand what the apostles went through witnessing Jesus' death and resurrection. The saints show us what it is to live with hope and love for our Lord.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENTS

Every day I have the opportunity to think of Jesus on the cross and the hope he gives us.

WHAT IS SOMETHING WE CAN WORK ON TOGETHER AS A TEAM AND PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE?

We can all commit as a team to pray the Stations of the Cross this week, preferably on a Friday.

OUR TEAM COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK:

PROJECT PLANNING

THIS WEEK'S PROJECT ACTION ITEMS

WHO	ACTION ITEM	NOTES

WRAP UP & CLOSING PRAYER

V: We give you thanks Almighty God for all your gifts, living and reigning now and forever.

R: Amen.

V: Christ our King!

R: Thy Kingdom come!

V: Mary Most Pure, Queen of the Family!

R: Pray for us!

WEEK # 1

1 2 3 4 5 ..6

**PROJECT PLANNING
& WRAP UP**



CONQUEST

FORGED IN VIRTUE. CALLED TO SERVE.
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY



MEETING GUIDES & PRINT OUTS

Print a copy of this section for the team teen leaders and a copy of the meeting guide for the girls and boys on each team.

Each meeting guide sheet has:

- The question of the week
- A few YOUCAT numbers that help answer the question
- A passage from the Gospel that helps answer the question
- A recap or quote from the saint and stories of the week that help answer the question
- Some team discussion points to help to discover the answer to the question
- A place to jot down the answer of the week in your own words.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE



WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

GOSPEL



ANSWERS

WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE, THEY CRUCIFIED HIM AND THE CRIMINALS THERE, ONE ON HIS RIGHT, THE OTHER ON HIS LEFT. THEN JESUS SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." ON THE THIRD DAY, THEY WENT TO THE TOMB. THEY FOUND THE STONE ROLLED AWAY FROM THE TOMB; BUT WHEN THEY ENTERED, THEY DID NOT FIND THE BODY OF THE LORD JESUS" LUKE 23: 26-43 & LUKE 24:1-12

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ST VERONICA

St Veronica is remembered in the 6th station of the cross for the kindness and charity she showed to Christ in wiping her face. Even before the resurrection, she showed her love for Christ. We need to have that same faith and love for Christ.



BLESSED TERESA BRACCO

As a young girl and throughout her adolescence Blessed Teresa was often found in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She spared no sacrifice to nourish her love for Christ in the Eucharist, walking over a mile to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. She appreciated the sacrifice Christ made for her on the cross.



TALK
ABOUT IT!

TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



#96 WHY WAS A MAN OF PEACE LIKE JESUS CONDEMNED TO DEATH ON A CROSS?

Jesus posed a decisive question to his contemporaries: Either he was acting with divine authority, or else he was an impostor, a blasphemer, and a violator of the Law and who had to be called to account. In many respects Jesus was a unprecedented challenge to the traditional Judaism of his time. He forgave sins, which God alone can do; he acted as though the Sabbath law were not absolute; he was suspected of blasphemy and brought upon himself the accusation that he was a false prophet. All these were crimes punishable under the Law by death.

#98 DID GOD WILL THE DEATH OF HIS ONLY SON?

The violent death of Jesus did not come about through tragic external circumstances. Jesus was "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). So that we children of sin and death might have life, the Father in heaven "made him to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21). The magnitude of the sacrifice that God the Father asked of his Son, corresponded to the magnitude of Christ's obedience: "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour" (Jn 12:27). On both sides, God's love for men proved itself to the very end on the Cross. In order to save us from death, God embarked on a dangerous mission: He introduced a "medicine of immortality" into our world of death—his Son Jesus Christ. The Father and the Son were inseparable in this mission, willing and yearning to take the utmost upon themselves out of love for man. God willed to make an exchange so as to save us forever. He wanted to give us his eternal life, so that we might experience his joy, and wanted to suffer our death, our despair, our abandonment, our death, so as to share with us in everything. So as to love us to the end and beyond. Christ's death is the will of the Father but not his final word. Since Christ died for us, we can exchange our death for his life

#97 ARE THE JEWS GUILTY OF JESUS' DEATH?

No one can assign collective guilt for the death of Jesus to the Jews. Instead, the Church professes with certainty that all sinners share in the guilt for Jesus' death. The aged prophet Simeon foresaw that Jesus would become "a sign that is spoken against" (Lk 2:34b). And in fact Jesus was resolutely rejected by the Jewish authorities, but among the Pharisees, for example, there were also secret followers of Jesus, like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Various Roman and Jewish persons and institutions (Caiaphas, Judas, the Sanhedrin, Herod, Pontius Pilate) took part in Jesus' trial, and only God knows their guilt as individuals. The idea that all Jews of that time or living today are guilty of Jesus' death is irrational and biblically untenable.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

PASSION (LATIN PASSIO = SICKNESS, SUFFERING): term designating Christ's suffering.

#99 WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST SUPPER?

Jesus washed the feet of his apostles on the evening before his death; he instituted the Eucharist and founded the priesthood of the New Covenant. Jesus showed his consummate love in three ways: He washed his disciples' feet and showed that he is among us as one who serves (cf. Lk 22:27). He symbolically anticipated his redeeming Passion by speaking these words over the gifts of bread and wine: "This is my body which is given for you" (Lk 22:19ff). In this way he instituted the Holy Eucharist. When Jesus commanded the Apostles, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11:24b), he made them priests of the New Covenant.

#100 ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH, DID JESUS REALLY EXPERIENCE FEAR OF DEATH?

Since Jesus was true man, he truly experienced fear of death on the Mount of Olives. With the same human strength that we all possess, Jesus had to fight in order to consent interiorly to the Father's will that he give his life for the life of the world. Abandoned in his darkest hour by everyone, even his friends, Jesus managed after a struggle to say Yes. "My Father, if this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done" (Mt 26:42).

#101 WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO REDEEM US ON THE CROSS, OF ALL PLACES? The

Cross on which Jesus, although innocent, was cruelly executed is the place of utmost degradation and abandonment. Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by his perfect love. God could not show his love more forcibly than by allowing himself in the person of the Son to be nailed to the Cross for us. Crucifixion was the most shameful and most horrible method of execution in antiquity. It was forbidden to crucify Roman citizens, whatever crimes they were guilty of. Thereby God entered into the most abysmal sufferings of mankind. Since then, no one can say "God does not know what I'm suffering."

#102 WHY ARE WE TOO SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT SUFFERING IN OUR LIVES AND THUS "TAKE UP OUR CROSS" AND THEREBY FOLLOW JESUS?

Christians should not seek suffering, but when they are confronted with unavoidable suffering, it can become meaningful for them if they unite their sufferings with the sufferings of Christ: "Christ . . . suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Pet 2:21). Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk 8:34). Christians have the task of alleviating suffering in the world. Nevertheless, there will still be suffering. In faith we can accept our own suffering and share the suffering of others. In this way human suffering becomes united with the redeeming love of Christ and thus part of the divine power that changes the world for the better.

#103 WAS JESUS REALLY DEAD?

Maybe he was able to rise again because he only appeared to have suffered death. Jesus really died on the Cross; his body was buried. All the sources testify to this. In John 19:33, the soldiers even make an explicit determination of death: They open the side of Jesus' dead body with a lance and see blood and water come out. Furthermore, it says that the legs of the men crucified with him were broken—a step that hastened the dying process; this was not required in Jesus' case since his death had already occurred.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

#104 CAN YOU BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

No. "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

#105 HOW DID THE DISCIPLES COME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS RISEN?

The disciples, who before had lost all hope, came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection because they saw him in a different way after his death, spoke with him, and experienced him as being alive. The Easter events that took place in Jerusalem in the year 30 are not a made-up story. Following the death of Jesus and the defeat of their whole cause, the disciples fled ("We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel", Lk 24:21) or else barricaded themselves behind locked doors. Only their encounter with the risen Christ freed them from their paralysis and filled them with an enthusiastic faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and death.

#106 ARE THERE PROOFS FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS?

There are no proofs for the Resurrection of Jesus in the scientific sense. There are, however, very strong individual and collective testimonies by a large number of contemporaries of those events in Jerusalem. The oldest written testimony to the Resurrection is a letter that St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians around twenty years after Christ's death: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:3-6). Paul is recording here a living tradition that was present in the original Christian community two or three years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, when he himself became a Christian—on the basis of his own staggering encounter with the risen Lord. The disciples took the fact of the empty tomb (Lk 24:2-3) as the first indication of the reality of the Resurrection. Women, of all people, discovered it—according to the law of that time they were not able to testify. Although we read about the apostles John that he "saw and believed" (Jn 20:8b) already at the empty tomb, full assurance that Jesus was alive came about only after a series of appearances. The many encounters with the risen Lord ended with Christ's Ascension into heaven. Nevertheless, there were afterward and there are even today encounters with the living Lord: Jesus Christ lives.

#107 THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION, DID JESUS RETURN TO THE PHYSICAL, CORPOREAL STATE THAT HE HAD DURING HIS EARTHLY LIFE?

The risen Lord allowed his disciples to touch him; he ate with them and showed them the wounds of his Passion. Nevertheless, his body belonged no longer only to this earth, but rather to the heavenly kingdom of his Father. The risen Christ, who bore the wounds of the Crucified, was no longer bound by space and time. He could enter through locked doors and appear to his disciples in various places in a form in which they did not recognize him immediately. Christ's Resurrection was, therefore, not a return to a normal earthly life, but rather his entrance into a new way of being: "For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him" (Rom 6:9).

#108 WHAT CHANGED IN THE WORLD AS A RESULT OF THE RESURRECTION?

Because death is now no longer the end of everything, joy and hope came into the world. Now that death "no longer has dominion" (Rom 6:9) over Jesus, it has no more power over us, either, who belong to Jesus.



#277 WHAT ARE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

Following Jesus on his Way of the Cross by praying and meditating on the fourteen Stations is a very ancient devotion in the Church, which is practiced especially in Lent and Holy week.

#109 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN?

With Jesus, one of us has arrived home with God and remains there forever. In his Son, God is close to us men in a human way. Moreover, Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32). In the New Testament, the Ascension of Christ marks the end of forty days during which the risen Lord was especially close to his disciples. At the end of this time, Christ, together with his whole humanity, enters into the glory of God. Sacred Scripture expresses this through the images of "cloud" and "heaven" or sky. "Man", says Pope Benedict XVI, "finds room in God." Jesus Christ is now with the Father, and from there he will come one day "to judge the living and the dead". Christ's Ascension into heaven means that Jesus is no longer visible on earth yet is still present.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross are:



1. Jesus is condemned to death.



2. Jesus takes up his Cross.



3. Jesus falls the first time.



4. Jesus meets his sorrowful Mother.



5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross.



6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



7. Jesus falls the second time.



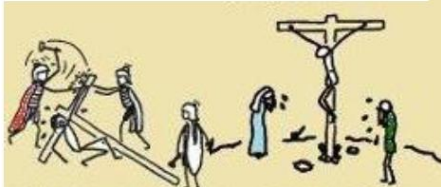
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



9. Jesus falls the third time.



10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.

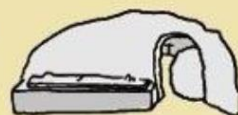


11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

12. Jesus dies on the Cross.



13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross and presented to his sorrowful Mother.



14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



Weekly Meeting Guide



WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID HE RISE FROM THE DEAD?

GOSPEL



ANSWERS

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ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



Weekly Meeting Guide

YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



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Jesus posed a decisive question to his contemporaries: Either he was acting with divine authority, or else he was an impostor, a blasphemer, and a violator of the Law and who had to be called to account. In many respects Jesus was a unprecedented challenge to the traditional Judaism of his time. He forgave sins, which God alone can do; he acted as though the Sabbath law were not absolute; he was suspected of blasphemy and brought upon himself the accusation that he was a false prophet. All these were crimes punishable under the Law by death.

#98 DID GOD WILL THE DEATH OF HIS ONLY SON?

The violent death of Jesus did not come about through tragic external circumstances. Jesus was "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). So that we children of sin and death might have life, the Father in heaven "made him to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21). The magnitude of the sacrifice that God the Father asked of his Son, corresponded to the magnitude of Christ's obedience: "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour" (Jn 12:27). On both sides, God's love for men proved itself to the very end on the Cross. In order to save us from death, God embarked on a dangerous mission: He introduced a "medicine of immortality" into our world of death—his Son Jesus Christ. The Father and the Son were inseparable in this mission, willing and yearning to take the utmost upon themselves out of love for man. God willed to make an exchange so as to save us forever. He wanted to give us his eternal life, so that we might experience his joy, and wanted to suffer our death, our despair, our abandonment, our death, so as to share with us in everything. So as to love us to the end and beyond. Christ's death is the will of the Father but not his final word. Since Christ died for us, we can exchange our death for his life

#97 ARE THE JEWS GUILTY OF JESUS' DEATH?

No one can assign collective guilt for the death of Jesus to the Jews. Instead, the Church professes with certainty that all sinners share in the guilt for Jesus' death. The aged prophet Simeon foresaw that Jesus would become "a sign that is spoken against" (Lk 2:34b). And in fact Jesus was resolutely rejected by the Jewish authorities, but among the Pharisees, for example, there were also secret followers of Jesus, like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Various Roman and Jewish persons and institutions (Caiaphas, Judas, the Sanhedrin, Herod, Pontius Pilate) took part in Jesus' trial, and only God knows their guilt as individuals. The idea that all Jews of that time or living today are guilty of Jesus' death is irrational and biblically untenable.



Weekly Meeting Guide

PASSION (LATIN PASSIO = SICKNESS, SUFFERING): term designating Christ's suffering.

#99 WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST SUPPER?

Jesus washed the feet of his apostles on the evening before his death; he instituted the Eucharist and founded the priesthood of the New Covenant. Jesus showed his consummate love in three ways: He washed his disciples' feet and showed that he is among us as one who serves (cf. Lk 22:27). He symbolically anticipated his redeeming Passion by speaking these words over the gifts of bread and wine: "This is my body which is given for you" (Lk 22:19ff). In this way he instituted the Holy Eucharist. When Jesus commanded the Apostles, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11:24b), he made them priests of the New Covenant.

#100 ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH, DID JESUS REALLY EXPERIENCE FEAR OF DEATH?

Since Jesus was true man, he truly experienced fear of death on the Mount of Olives. With the same human strength that we all possess, Jesus had to fight in order to consent interiorly to the Father's will that he give his life for the life of the world. Abandoned in his darkest hour by everyone, even his friends, Jesus managed after a struggle to say Yes. "My Father, if this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done" (Mt 26:42).

#101 WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO REDEEM US ON THE CROSS, OF ALL PLACES? The Cross on which Jesus, although innocent, was cruelly executed is the place of utmost degradation and abandonment. Christ, our Redeemer, chose the Cross so as to bear the guilt of the world and to suffer the pain of the world. So he brought the world back home to God by his perfect love. God could not show his love more forcibly than by allowing himself in the person of the Son to be nailed to the Cross for us. Crucifixion was the most shameful and most horrible method of execution in antiquity. It was forbidden to crucify Roman citizens, whatever crimes they were guilty of. Thereby God entered into the most abysmal sufferings of mankind. Since then, no one can say "God does not know what I'm suffering."

#102 WHY ARE WE TOO SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT SUFFERING IN OUR LIVES AND THUS "TAKE UP OUR CROSS" AND THEREBY FOLLOW JESUS?

Christians should not seek suffering, but when they are confronted with unavoidable suffering, it can become meaningful for them if they unite their sufferings with the sufferings of Christ: "Christ . . . suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Pet 2:21). Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk 8:34). Christians have the task of alleviating suffering in the world. Nevertheless, there will still be suffering. In faith we can accept our own suffering and share the suffering of others. In this way human suffering becomes united with the redeeming love of Christ and thus part of the divine power that changes the world for the better.

#103 WAS JESUS REALLY DEAD?

Maybe he was able to rise again because he only appeared to have suffered death. Jesus really died on the Cross; his body was buried. All the sources testify to this. In John 19:33, the soldiers even make an explicit determination of death: They open the side of Jesus' dead body with a lance and see blood and water come out. Furthermore, it says that the legs of the men crucified with him were broken—a step that hastened the dying process; this was not required in Jesus' case since his death had already occurred.



Weekly Meeting Guide

#104 CAN YOU BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST? No. "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

#105 HOW DID THE DISCIPLES COME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS RISEN? The disciples, who before had lost all hope, came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection because they saw him in a different way after his death, spoke with him, and experienced him as being alive. The Easter events that took place in Jerusalem in the year 30 are not a made-up story. Following the death of Jesus and the defeat of their whole cause, the disciples fled ("We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel", Lk 24:21) or else barricaded themselves behind locked doors. Only their encounter with the risen Christ freed them from their paralysis and filled them with an enthusiastic faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and death.

#106 ARE THERE PROOFS FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS? There are no proofs for the Resurrection of Jesus in the scientific sense. There are, however, very strong individual and collective testimonies by a large number of contemporaries of those events in Jerusalem. The oldest written testimony to the Resurrection is a letter that St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians around twenty years after Christ's death: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:3-6). Paul is recording here a living tradition that was present in the original Christian community two or three years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, when he himself became a Christian—on the basis of his own staggering encounter with the risen Lord. The disciples took the fact of the empty tomb (Lk 24:2-3) as the first indication of the reality of the Resurrection. Women, of all people, discovered it—according to the law of that time they were not able to testify. Although we read about the apostles John that he "saw and believed" (Jn 20:8b) already at the empty tomb, full assurance that Jesus was alive came about only after a series of appearances. The many encounters with the risen Lord ended with Christ's Ascension into heaven. Nevertheless, there were afterward and there are even today encounters with the living Lord: Jesus Christ lives.

#107 THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION, DID JESUS RETURN TO THE PHYSICAL, CORPOREAL STATE THAT HE HAD DURING HIS EARTHLY LIFE? The risen Lord allowed his disciples to touch him; he ate with them and showed them the wounds of his Passion. Nevertheless, his body belonged no longer only to this earth, but rather to the heavenly kingdom of his Father. The risen Christ, who bore the wounds of the Crucified, was no longer bound by space and time. He could enter through locked doors and appear to his disciples in various places in a form in which they did not recognize him immediately. Christ's Resurrection was, therefore, not a return to a normal earthly life, but rather his entrance into a new way of being: "For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him" (Rom 6:9).

#108 WHAT CHANGED IN THE WORLD AS A RESULT OF THE RESURRECTION? Because death is now no longer the end of everything, joy and hope came into the world. Now that death "no longer has dominion" (Rom 6:9) over Jesus, it has no more power over us, either, who belong to Jesus.

#277 WHAT ARE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

Following Jesus on his Way of the Cross by praying and meditating on the fourteen Stations is a very ancient devotion in the Church, which is practiced especially in Lent and Holy week.

#109 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN?

With Jesus, one of us has arrived home with God and remains there forever. In his Son, God is close to us men in a human way. Moreover, Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32). In the New Testament, the Ascension of Christ marks the end of forty days during which the risen Lord was especially close to his disciples. At the end of this time, Christ, together with his whole humanity, enters into the glory of God. Sacred Scripture expresses this through the images of "cloud" and "heaven" or sky. "Man", says Pope Benedict XVI, "finds room in God." Jesus Christ is now with the Father, and from there he will come one day "to judge the living and the dead". Christ's Ascension into heaven means that Jesus is no longer visible on earth yet is still present.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross are:



1. Jesus is condemned to death.



2. Jesus takes up his Cross.



3. Jesus falls the first time.



4. Jesus meets his sorrowful Mother.



5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross.



6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



7. Jesus falls the second time.



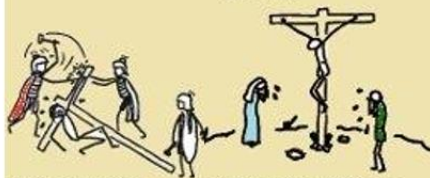
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



9. Jesus falls the third time.



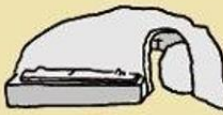
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.



11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.



12. Jesus dies on the Cross.



13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross and presented to his sorrowful Mother.

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



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The logo is set within a heart-shaped frame. The word 'Challenge' is written in a large, stylized, cursive font. Above it, 'Friendship' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below 'Challenge', 'Catholic' is written on the left and 'Service' is written on the right, both in smaller, sans-serif fonts. The entire logo is surrounded by intricate, hand-drawn floral and heart patterns in blue, pink, and purple.