

## First Communion Prep: The Greatest Story

(Week of Mar. 21)

*“Truly this man was the Son of God!”* MK 15:1-39

*It is through the Sacred Scriptures and the Liturgy of the Word that we learn our story.*

*This coming week we celebrate the Annunciation and then Palm Sunday – the two events begin the Christmas story and the Easter story and the Greatest Story of our salvation.*

**GATHER:** Salvation History Concentration. Print out two copies of the [Salvation History Pictures](#) and tape them to regular playing cards to play a game of concentration!

**CONNECT:** What do all the pictures have in common? They are part of [The Greatest Story](#) ever! The best part is this is OUR story, and today we will look more closely at how the story is continuing.

### EXPLORE: Grade Level Activities

God reveals his plan for our lives through Sacred Scriptures and Mass on Sunday. We gather at church to worship God in the way that Jesus taught us to.

Lesson Outline

- **Pages 80-83, Video 1**
  - Make the point that “during Mass God transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus through the priest.” Explain what a **rite** and **liturgy** mean.
  - Ask your child if they recognize anything in the pictures on page 82-83
    - The cup the priest is holding is called the chalice.
    - The outer garment worn by the priest is called a chasuble.
    - The altar is the table where bread and wine are consecrated.
  - Today, we will explore the first two parts of the Mass—**Introductory Rites** and the **Liturgy of the Word**.
  - **Postures at MASS:** It is important to practice the postures that we use during Mass (sit, stand kneel, genuflect, etc) As we look at each part of the mass, ask your child to recall when we during the Mass we sit, stand and kneel.
- **Pages 84-89, Video 2, Introductory Rites**
  - Procession, Sign of the Cross, Penitential Rite (*On page 87 the picture depicts the story of the women at the well—John 4:1-42*) and The Gloria
- **Pages 90-103, Video 3, The Liturgy of the Word**
  - Begin your discussion by stating that there are 2 main sections of the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament)
  - Discuss the parts of the Liturgy of the Word: The First Reading from the Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading from the New Testament, The Gospel Reading, homily, the Creed
  - **Video 4, The Creed**
  - **Video 6, Parts of the Bible**
  - Activities: Liturgy of the Word crossword puzzle and Profession of Faith Stain glass worksheet found in Winter/Spring Activity packet.

Summarize the main points of Session 3:

- God reveals his plan for our lives through the bible and Mass.
- Jesus is the greatest teacher who ever lived.
- On Sunday we worship God
- Mass is a great way to thank God for all his blessings.

**Reflect:** Read the Sunday Gospel **Jesus’ Sacrifice** (Mar. 28, MK 15:1-39). You can also pray the Gospel by listening to the Stations of the Cross for [Families](#) or [Children](#), or view it on our [CATHOLIC KIDS CONNECTION!](#)

**Live It:** This week, we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on Thursday – this is the day that we remember Angel Gabriel coming to Mary, it begins the Christmas story. Then on Sunday, we will celebrate Palm Sunday – this is the day we remember Jesus coming into Jerusalem, it begins Holy Week and the Easter Story. Two really big events in the Greatest Story that show us how much God loves us. He came down to earth to be one of us, and then suffered and died for us. Your challenge for this week is to remember how much God loves you, and to show Him how much you love Him. Each day, find a way to do something kind and special for someone in your family (clean up after dinner, play a game with a sibling...). When we show others kindness and love, we show God how much we love Him.