



VISIONS

Where Do We Meet Jesus Today?

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Circle the words for ten places or moments in which Jesus is present to us today. Then find their matching symbols in the border and draw a line from the word to its symbol. Hint: Look for the Seven Sacraments first.

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.

Taking a Walk WITH GOD

As the number of people suffering from depression, addiction, and suicidal thoughts increases, one group of teens took to the streets last summer to help. Setting out on the morning of August 21 from St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Augusta, Maine, eleven teenagers walked seventy miles over four days. Their intent was to pray and raise awareness for people who have been affected by these struggles. It was the second year in a row that the teens made the long pilgrimage.

“The prayer and sacrifice we are offering are ways to reach those who have been affected,” says Patrick Carter, who walked and helped organize the event. “Especially for people who haven’t told anyone about their depression or suicidal thoughts,



we ask God to give them the grace to seek help.”

The group carried a distinctive flag that bears a scallop shell (the traditional pilgrimage symbol) in purple and teal (colors associated with suicide awareness). As they walked, the pilgrims attracted the attention of passing cars and even the news media as they prayed the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Divine Office for those who are suffering and for the souls of those who have died from suicide.

“Going down the road, there were so many honks and waves from the public,” Patrick says.

“It was great.” In addition to interview requests from the local media, many people stopped and asked questions. “They were all really supportive because most of them know people who suffer from depression or who have committed suicide, so it hit home for them.”

Patrick says that he and the other pilgrims are not trained in treating or talking people through these issues. “We are here to pray that God will give people the grace to seek out help. And there’s plenty of help out there—counselors, groups, and much more. The amount of effort it takes to seek help is staggering, and without God, it



would be really, really hard,” he said.

The idea for the pilgrimage began with Father Seamus Griesbach, the vocation discernment director for the diocese of Portland, Maine, who had been encouraging the teens to do something for the community. “Father Seamus told us about some of the pilgrimages he had done, and we thought that was a really great idea,” Patrick says.





Once the teens decided to make a pilgrimage, the next step was choosing a purpose, Patrick says. “We thought and prayed about it for quite a while.” After one of the teens’ moms suggested the issues, Patrick says that everyone agreed. “Many of us have friends who have suffered from depression, addiction, and suicidal thoughts,” he explains.

The group covered twenty-one miles each day. Along the way, the group relied on community support and camped out on the front lawns of friends who live along the route. “We asked if they would be able to provide dinner and breakfast for us. All of them said yes, so we had wonderful meals that kept us going throughout the day.” A support vehicle loaded with food and water met the teens at various locations along the route.

Support even came in from strangers. “The number of people who stopped and donated food or water or money to our cause was just amazing,” Patrick says.

One of the most eye-opening experiences for

the teens was discovering how they could rely on one another. “I was the one who ended up getting the most blisters, which was funny because I was the one planning the whole thing,” Patrick says. “I’ve

always been the kind of guy who felt like he could do it all on his own, but when I was the one struggling and had guys encouraging me, or hanging back a little bit just to talk, it made me realize that in our faith we can’t do it alone, no matter how hard we try. We have to have the support of our community. If it weren’t for those other guys, I wouldn’t have been able to make it the full seventy miles.”

For many of the pilgrims, every step on the journey was a test of their abilities. Patrick says, “They didn’t think they could do the whole thing. But when they finished, they really discovered that with God, everything is possible.”

The pilgrimage ended with a Mass at St. John’s Catholic Church in the city of Bangor. Patrick says they were all tired but they couldn’t keep from smiling. “You’re just so full of joy and happiness because you know that God was with you the whole time and because of all the people you helped along the way. It makes the sacrifice and the pain so worth it.”

Do you like to hike? Maybe a pilgrimage is right for you. You don’t necessarily have to walk seventy miles, but whatever distance you choose, Patrick, who is now a student at the University of Maine in Augusta, has a word of advice: plan. “Make sure everything is planned out completely, and know your route well. Even if you don’t think about it, bathroom breaks are very important! Make sure that there are as few surprises as possible, but leave the rest up to God.”

Not a walker? That’s OK. Patrick says there are lots of other things you can do. “We really need young people to take the initiative and show the love that the Church offers.” He encourages anyone with ideas for evangelizing or helping others to try it out. “It doesn’t matter how young you are. If you work at it, and it is a good idea that will really help people, God will be with you. It will come to fruition.”

“TALK”

- 1** What was the most surprising thing Patrick and others discovered along the way of their pilgrimage?
- 2** Think of something surprising you have discovered about your faith recently. What was it and how did you feel about it?
- 3** How can you tell if someone is struggling with depression? Together with your class, discuss ways you can help someone who is suffering.

SUNDAY GOSPEL

3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13–35

Jesus' Friends Recognize Him

Narrator 1: On the first day of the week, Cleopas and another disciple of Jesus made their way to a village named Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked, they discussed all that had happened to Jesus. Jesus came near and began to walk along with them. However, they didn't recognize him.

Jesus: What are you discussing?

Cleopas: Are you the only person in Jerusalem who does not know the things that went on there these past few days?

Jesus: What sort of things?

Disciple 1: Everything that had to do with Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people. Our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free.

Cleopas: Not only that, but today, the third day since these things happened, some women of our

group brought us astonishing news. They went to the tomb before dawn but couldn't find Jesus' body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said. But they did not see Jesus.

Jesus: What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Did not the Messiah have to undergo all this so as to enter into his glory?

Narrator 2: Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of Scripture that referred to him. They neared the village to which the two were going, and Jesus acted as if he were going farther.

Disciple 1: Stay with us. It is nearly evening—the day is practically over.

Narrator 1: So Jesus went in to stay with them.

Narrator 2: When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took

bread, blessed it, broke the bread, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus, who then vanished from their sight.

Cleopas: Were not our hearts burning inside us as he walked with us and explained the Scriptures?

Narrator 1: The two got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled.

Disciple 2: The Lord has been raised!

Disciple 3: It is true! He has appeared to Simon Peter.

Narrator 2: Then they told everyone what had happened on the road and how they recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread.

TALK

- 1 How do his followers recognize Jesus?
- 2 What songs about Jesus' new life do you especially like?
- 3 What customs in your parish church express our joy about Jesus' Resurrection?



and DOCTRINE

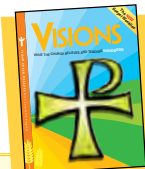
Connecting GOSPEL

Jesus Is Always with Us

The Risen Jesus is present with us in words, actions, and people. Jesus is present in the actions of the sacraments. Jesus welcomes us into his family in Baptism, seals us with the Spirit in Confirmation, shares his love in the Eucharist, and forgives our sins in Penance and Reconciliation.

At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is present in the person of the priest who celebrates the Eucharist, in the Word (the Bible), and in the assembly gathered to pray in his name. Jesus is present whenever two of us gather to pray in his name. "The Church is the Body of Christ" (CCC, 805).



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shares the Scriptures with his disciples. The Scriptures are there for us to learn from and to share with others. Turn to pages 16–17 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*. Work through the three situations in the "What Do You Say?" activity.



- 1 How do we remain close to friends and family who are not able to live close to us?
- 2 Jesus comforts his friends by sharing Scripture and breaking bread. In what ways do you feel close to God when you receive Holy Communion at Mass?

Why Do Catholics Go to Mass?

Catholics go to Mass because we believe that we meet Jesus there. Every Sunday, we become the Body of Christ, the community of Jesus' followers.

When Jesus was with his friends at their Last Supper before his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, he shared bread and wine with them. "He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you'" (Luke 22:19–20).

Cleopas and his friend, whom we meet in this Sunday's Gospel, had forgotten these words until the stranger broke the bread and passed it to them. Cleopas

nudged his friend and said, "That's Jesus!" They recognized Jesus in the familiar action of breaking bread and sharing it.

At Mass, we read Scripture and break bread and share it, just as Cleopas, his friend, and the stranger did. We believe that we meet Jesus in this action. "Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations," Catholic bishops from all over the world wrote at the Second Vatican Council. He is present in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in his words, and "when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them' (Matthew 18:20)" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 7).

Many other Christian denominations do not attach the same importance to the regular celebration of the Eucharist as Catholics do. It is part of the family tradition of Catholics to go to Mass. Many people even attend Mass daily. Some go because it is a time of quiet and prayer in their day. For others, the small faith community that gathers for daily Eucharist is important. Celebrating the Eucharist unites us with Catholics all over the world, as well as with those who have lived before us.

We can pray the Rosary by ourselves. We can meditate by ourselves. But we can't celebrate the Mass by ourselves. When Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me," he meant "Whenever you

gather together to break the bread and share it, remember me." We always celebrate the Eucharist together. Every person is important and helps make the celebration happen.

Catholic FAITH WORD

MASS Another name for the Eucharist. The Mass is the Church's central act of public worship. At Mass, Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and his Resurrection are made present to us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

What is a way you participate in the Mass in your parish? Put a ✓ by ways you are involved now. What ways would you like to be involved? Put an X by a way or ways you will be involved by this time next year.

- Attend Sunday Mass
- Attend daily Mass
- Train as an altar server
- Sing in the choir
- Volunteer to be an usher
- Read at Mass
- Play an instrument
- Bring up the gifts
- Distribute Communion
- Teach religion class
- Write petitions
- Decorate the church

What kind of community do you experience at Sunday Mass? At Mass in your school or youth group?

What would make the Mass more an experience of community for you?

Have you ever gone to daily Mass? Make a commitment to attend daily Mass this summer, even if only for a short period of time. Find out what you can learn about the Eucharist from participating every day.

Saint Paul's Missionary Travels

Who is the deacon who is Paul's friend?

Romans 16:1

1 Thessalonians 2:7

Paul was so fond of this Church he said he loved the people like a

What does Paul tell people to wear?

Ephesians 6:13

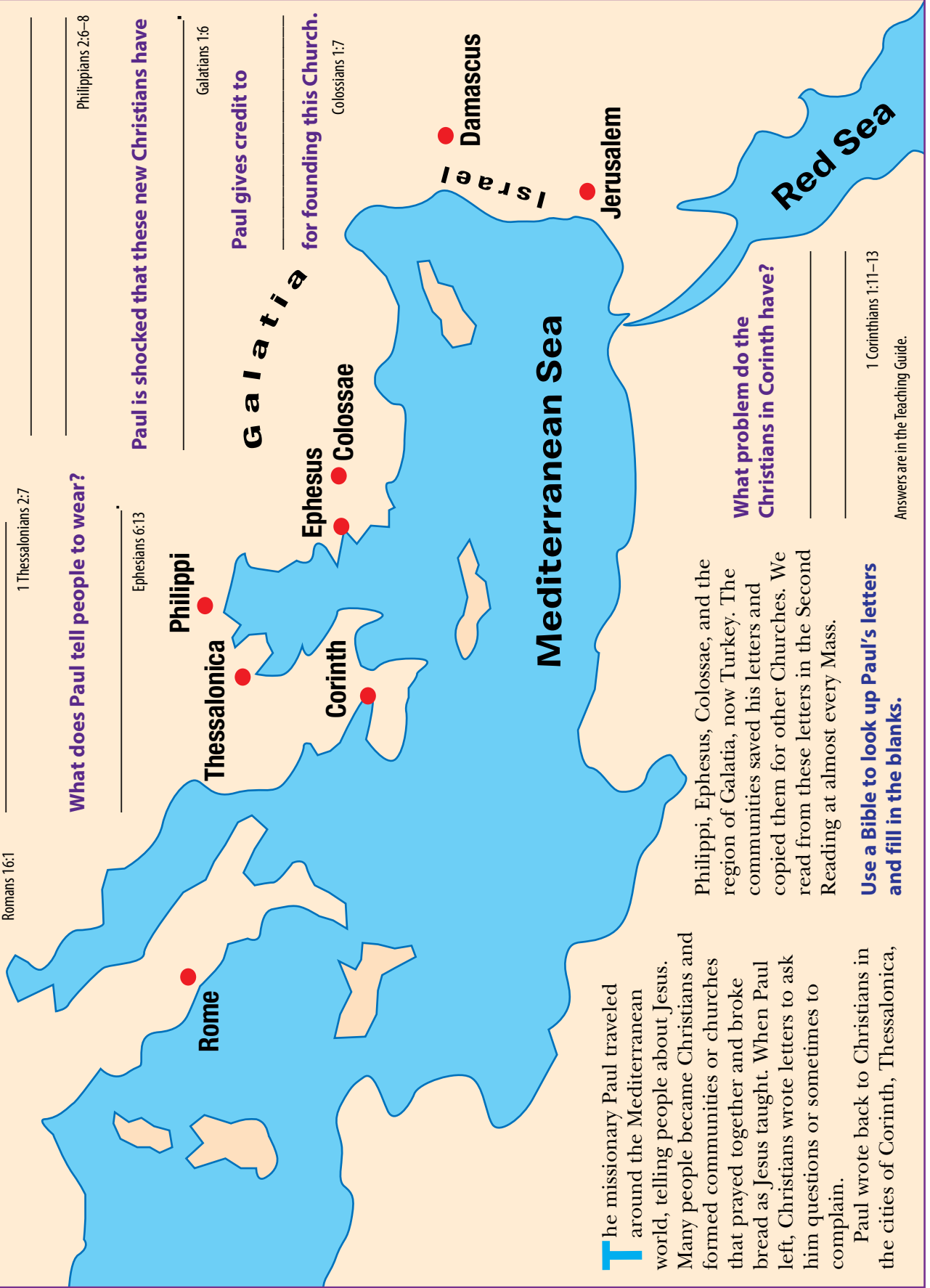
Philippians 2:6-8

Paul is shocked that these new Christians have

Galatians 1:6

Paul gives credit to

Colossians 1:7



The missionary Paul traveled around the Mediterranean world, telling people about Jesus. Many people became Christians and formed communities or churches that prayed together and broke bread as Jesus taught. When Paul left, Christians wrote letters to ask him questions or sometimes to complain.

Paul wrote back to Christians in the cities of Corinth, Thessalonica,

Philippi, Ephesus, Colossae, and the region of Galatia, now Turkey. The communities saved his letters and copied them for other Churches. We read from these letters in the Second Reading at almost every Mass.

Use a Bible to look up Paul's letters and fill in the blanks.

What problem do the Christians in Corinth have?

1 Corinthians 1:11-13

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.

Scripture Study and Emmaus Walk

Prepare to take an Emmaus walk like the two disciples in Sunday's Gospel.

Cut out the four question cards at the bottom of the page. Fold them or put them in envelopes or in your pocket. Then work together in groups of four

to write responses to the questions on pages 7 and 8.

Find a partner and take an Emmaus walk around your church or school block. Every few minutes, one person reads one of the questions, and the other person answers. Walk a little between questions.

What surprises Cleopas when the stranger asks what they are talking about?

Why do Cleopas and the other disciple leave Jerusalem and walk home to Emmaus?

What do you imagine the two disciples are saying as they walk along?

Who were the women who went to the tomb? What did they find? Read Luke 24:1-11. Why don't Jesus' disciples believe them?



What do you imagine the two disciples are saying as they walk along?

Who were the women who went to the tomb? What did they find? Why don't Jesus' disciples believe the women?

WHY DO CLEOPAS AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE LEAVE JERUSALEM AND WALK HOME TO EMMAUS?

What SURPRISES Cleopas when the STRANGER ASKS what they are talking about?

How is Jesus' conversation with the two disciples like the Liturgy of the Word at every Mass?

What are Jesus' actions after the three sit down to eat? How are Jesus' actions like the priest's actions during the Eucharistic Prayer?



➤ For **free** at-home activities, visit [@gospelweeklies.com/seasonal](https://gospelweeklies.com/seasonal)

What do the disciples mean that their hearts were burning when they heard Jesus explain Scripture?

Why do the two disciples finally recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread?

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



Pray

Jesus, our hearts are full of love for you. Help us to notice your presence with us. Amen.



Think

When do I recognize that Jesus is with me?



Act

Jesus is present to us in a special way in the Eucharist. Visit the tabernacle in your church. Note that Jesus' Body—in the form of bread—is present in the tabernacle whenever the sanctuary lamp is lit. Thank Jesus for the special gift of his presence.

What are Jesus' actions after the three sit down to eat? How are Jesus' actions like the priest's actions during the Eucharistic Prayer?

Why do the two disciples **FINALLY RECOGNIZE** Jesus in the breaking of the bread?

What do the disciples mean that their **hearts were burning** when they heard Jesus explain Scripture?

How is Jesus' conversation with the two disciples like the **Liturgy of the Word** at every Mass?