

## FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 4

Ages 3-8

1. **Mary received special gifts from God. Do you know what they are?** Mary is the Mother of God, she was born without the stain of original sin, and when she passed away, she was taken body and soul up to heaven! **Do you know of anyone else who had these gifts?** No, Mary was the only one!
2. **The 4th Sunday of Easter has a special name- it is called Good Shepherd Sunday. Do you know why?** The Gospel reading comes from the book of John and is the story of the Good Shepherd. **Who is the Good Shepherd?** Jesus is! He cares about and loves his sheep and knows them by name. He is also the protector of sheep, and is willing to lay down His life for them. **Who do you think Jesus's "sheep" are?** We are his sheep! Jesus loves us very much and wants to protect us from bad things like sin. He wants us to follow Him and spend forever with Him in Heaven!
3. **May 13th is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima. Who is our Lady of Fatima?** Our Lady of Fatima is the name we use for Mother Mary when she appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal beginning in 1917. The children's names were Lucia (9), Jancinta (8), and Francisco (6) and they were taking care of their sheep when they first saw the Blessed Mother. She appeared to them in a beautiful white gown and held a white rosary of pearly beads in her right arm. Our lady visited them six times- always on the 13th of the month. She came to tell the world how much she loves us. She asked that every day we say a rosary and at the end of each mystery pray, *"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Your mercy."* **Do you know the name of this prayer?** It is called the Fatima Prayer. Mary told us that if we pray the rosary every day, there will be peace.
4. **What is a miracle?** A miracle is when something incredible happens that only God can do! The Bible is filled with stories of miracles. **Can you think of any miracles that Jesus performed?** He healed the blind, the sick, turned water into wine, and many many more! Jesus rising from the dead is the greatest miracle of all! Have you ever heard of the miracle of the sun? The miracle of the sun happened during

Mary's sixth visit to Fatima in 1917. It had been raining when it suddenly stopped and the sun came out shining brightly. Then the sun started casting beautiful colored lights from it and looked like it was moving toward earth, bobbing up and down, when it suddenly stopped and went back into the sky. Many people witnessed the miracle that day (between 70,000-100,000 people) and it changed their lives forever. They turned from sin and committed their lives to Jesus and prayers to Mother Mary!

- 5. What does it mean to be obedient?** Being obedient means to be willing to do whatever God asks of us. Mother Mary is the perfect example of obedience. When the Angel Gabriel visited her and asked her to be the Mother of God, she responded "yes!" She knew it would not be easy- it would be very difficult. But her humble obedience played the biggest role in the story of salvation- without her, where would we be today?! Obedience can also apply to our relationship with our parents. It's very important to be obedient to our parents and to do what they ask us. They love us and we have to trust that they know what is best for us! When we are obedient to our parents, it makes God happy!

**Review Question: Who do we celebrate during the month of May? Mother Mary!**

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