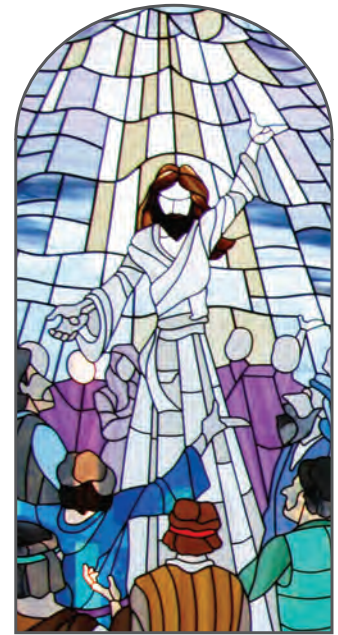
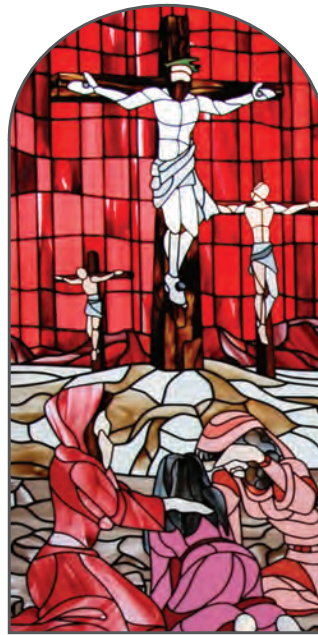


Faces of the Savior

By Shari Miller

Leader's notes and Bible passages for this study available online or by calling the LWML Office. [All references taken from the ESV]



Think of various pictures of Jesus that you have seen. What is your favorite depiction of Jesus? Why? Share with a partner or small group.

Some years ago, I read a children's book in which the author told the life of Jesus from birth through resurrection. This book always intrigued me because the illustrator chose never to show the face of Jesus. Instead, the reader observed through the illustrations of Jesus' hands and feet but never Jesus' face. During this study, we will look at the various "faces" of the Savior and the significance of those "faces" for each believer.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, Your name, Lord, is majestic above all! We thank You for sending Your own Son to be our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We rejoice that He faced death on a cross to blot out the sins of all. We thankfully bask in the forgiveness won by His perfect life, suffering, and death on the cross ... for us! Thank You for the Your Holy Spirit who enables us to turn our eyes and faces in faith to our Savior. Please bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In the Old Testament, no one would survive in the presence of God, unless God allowed it. According to **Exodus 33:20–23**, what does God say would happen to Moses if he saw the face of God? Why? See **Exodus 33:5a**. _____

Isaiah 6:1–7 gives us the vision of this prophet when he saw God. When Isaiah beheld God's glory, what did he know about himself? _____

However, what is the Gospel message in this passage? _____

Read **John 1:14–18** and **John 14:6**. As New Testament people, how are we privileged to see the Father? _____

Let's take a few moments now to look at the faces of our awesome Savior in His Word.

The Face of the Son

Read **Luke 2:7**. Imagine the face of the Baby Jesus. What feelings do you experience as you remember that this Baby was "born to die" for the sins of the world? _____

In **Matthew 3:16–17**, what face of the Savior do you see? What expression do you imagine on His face? What is the significance of the Father's words? _____

The Face Transfigured

Read the account of Jesus' Transfiguration in **Matthew 17:1–8**. What face of the Savior were the disciples privileged to view? _____

How were the Father's words similar to Jesus' Baptism? _____

What additional statement does God add? _____

Read further in **Matthew 17:22–23** shortly after the Transfiguration. What did Jesus know was about to happen? Do you think that the disciples were "listening"? _____

The Face Set to the Task

Luke 9:51: *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.* Define the phrase “set his face.” See also **Isaiah 50:7.** _____

According to **Philippians 2:1–11**, what task was Jesus resolved to face? _____

Faith Talk: Have you ever “set your face” to a particular task? Was the task a difficult one? Was Jesus’ task a difficult one?

The Face Crucified

Read the following passages and identify specific phrases that indicate the physical description of the Suffering Servant, the Savior.

Isaiah 50:6 _____

Isaiah 52:13–15 _____

Isaiah 53:1–6 _____

Mark 15:16–20; 33–37 _____

Faith Talk: Describe in your own words the face of the Savior in the above passages. How could that description help you in sharing your faith in Jesus?

The Face Resurrected

The account of Jesus’ appearance to Mary after His resurrection is found in **John 20:11–18**. Why do you think that Mary did not initially know who Jesus was? How did she recognize Him?

Read the following accounts of Jesus’ appearing after His resurrection. Identify who saw Him and what truths they learned from Jesus. **John 20:26–29** _____

Luke 24:30–32 _____

The Face Victorious

What specific phrases in these passages describe the glorious and victorious face of Jesus?

Revelation 1:12–16 _____

Revelation 22:1–5 _____

Read the following. What does a believer’s “face” look like?

Psalms 34:4–7 _____

1 Corinthians 13:12 _____

2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 4:5–6 _____

As stated earlier in this study, **Exodus 33:20** says: “But,” he [God] said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” In his commentary on this verse, Martin Luther states: “He [God] says, ‘Man shall not see Me and live.’ Therefore, He put before us an image of Himself because He shows Himself to us in such a manner that we can grasp Him. In the New Testament, we have

Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, absolution, and the ministry of the Word.” (Luther’s Works, American Edition, Volume 2, Page 46.) Discuss this quote in light of your Christian life in the past, present, and future.

Faith Talk: Sin, death, and the power of the devil, as well as worldly concerns, often cause us to neglect the Means of Grace (God’s Word and Sacraments) in our lives. How can you take fuller advantage of these gifts that our Lord offers? Be specific. Share with a partner or the small group.

If Time Permits: During this study, or on your own, look up the following accounts from Jesus’ life. Imagine the varied faces of our Savior in these verses. Share with a friend or in a small group. Perhaps you can think of more.

John 4:1–30: Woman at the well

John 8:1–11: Woman caught in adultery

Mark 11:15–19: Cleansing the temple

Matthew 23:37–39: Weeping over Jerusalem

John 11:1–44: At the tomb of Lazarus

Luke 19:28–40: Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 26:36–46: Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22:54–62: Peter’s betrayal

Faith Walk

1. Thank your Savior daily for His grace and mercy in your life.
2. Turn your eyes to Jesus by participating daily in the study of God’s Word.
3. By the power of the Spirit, share with at least one person the face of Jesus that you are privileged to know and the hope that you have in Him.

Closing Litany: Psalm 67

ALL: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

Leader: That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

ALL: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

ALL: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

ALL: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us! Amen.

Sing together Renew Me, O Eternal Light (*LSB* #704; *LW* #373; *TLH* #398).

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