

WE BELIEVE

God promised to send a Savior.

We learn from the Old Testament that God would never stop loving people and forgiving them. Yet humanity could not undo the effects of original sin. Humanity needed God's help. So God promised to send a Savior. God's people believed that when the Savior came, he would fully restore their friendship with God.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to the people on God's behalf and reminded them of the way God wanted them to live. Isaiah told of someone who would come to free humanity from sin and restore their friendship with God. Isaiah described this person as the *suffering servant*.

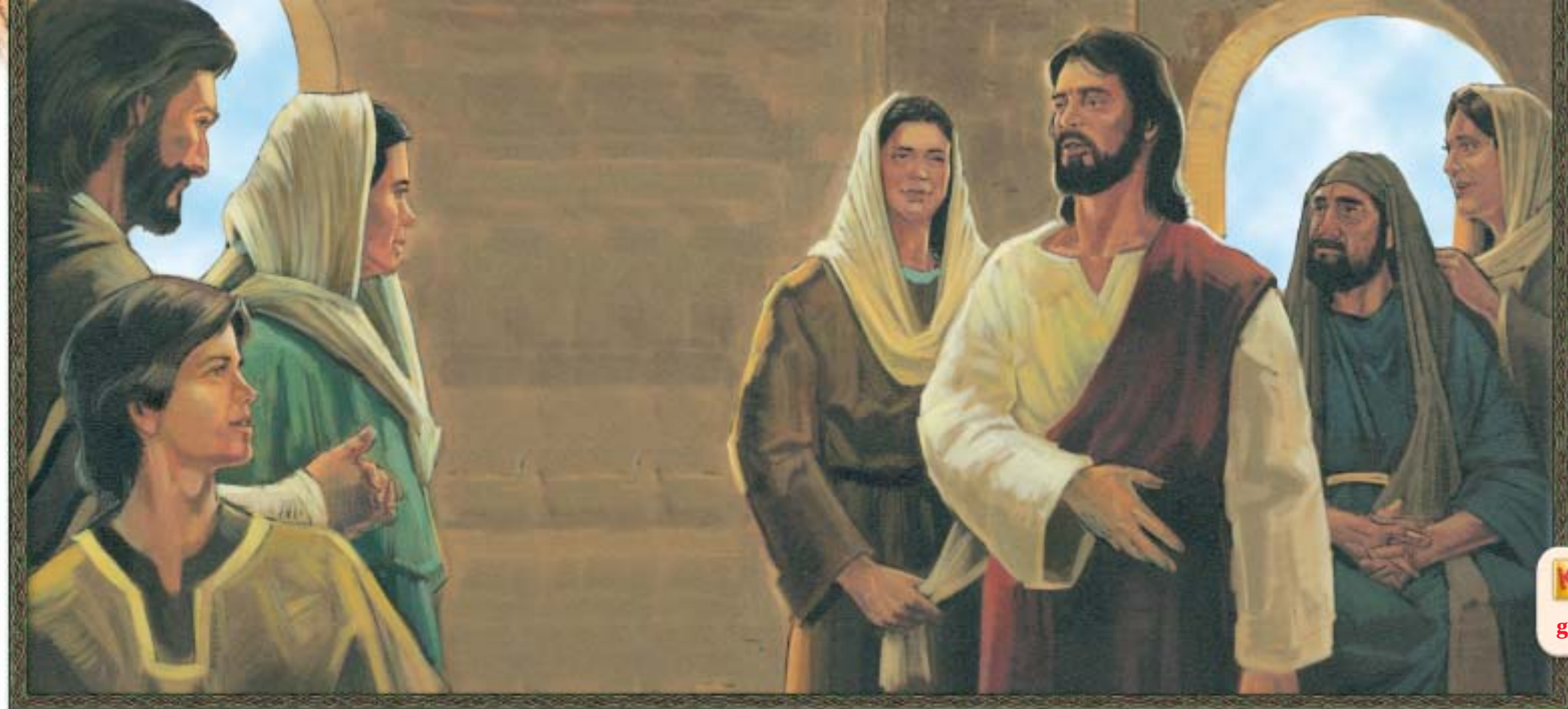
"Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear."

(Isaiah 53:11)

Christians believe that this suffering servant is God's own Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is truly divine and truly human, and he fulfilled all that God promised. For our sake Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save all people from sin and to bring us the hope of new life. As Saint Paul wrote, "For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The New Testament contains four books about Jesus' life and teachings: the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The word *gospel* means "good news." The **gospel** is the good news about God at work in Jesus Christ.

In the gospels we read of Jesus' work to bring hope to the poor and suffering, freedom to those who are persecuted, and healing to those who are sick. From the gospels we learn that through his life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus Christ makes it possible for all humanity to again share in God's life.



Key Word
gospel (p.330)


As Catholics...

We call our share in God's life and friendship *grace*, and we receive grace through the sacraments. A sacrament is an effective sign given to us by Jesus through which we share in God's life.

There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Jesus instituted, or began, the sacraments so that his saving work would continue for all time.

The sacraments join Catholics all over the world with Christ and with one another.

How are the sacraments an important part of your life and the life of your family?

 With a partner discuss ways you show that you share in God's life and friendship. Draw or write about one way here.

