

BE MY DISCIPLES (DECEMBER OUTLINE)

“Throughout the year you have the opportunity to enter into the mystery of faith with your children and walk with them as they learn what it means to know, love, and serve God.”

CHAPTER 5

Grade 1 - Mary, the Mother of Jesus

“God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus; Mary loves and trusts God”

Grade 3 - Jesus is Risen!

“Jesus suffered and died on the Cross to save all people from their sins; Jesus rose from the dead.”

Grade 4 - The Son of God

“Jesus is the only Son of God; everything Jesus did was a sign of God’s love for the people.”

Grade 5 - Jesus Christ, Son of God

“Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah; Jesus is Lord, true God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity; Mary is the Mother of the Church.”

Grade 6/7 - Son of God, Son of Mary

“Jesus is the Messiah; God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin to be the mother of his son.”

Theme: Jesus, the Messiah

“You are the Messiah, the son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)

Main Focus

- Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

*God, the Father of all,
Bless our family
As we learn about your Son,
Sign of your love and mercy,
Son of Mary,
The Christ,
The Messiah,
And Lord.
Amen.*

What do we know already about Jesus as the Son of God?

Have the children fill in the blank: "Jesus is _____." Suggestions may include that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and also the son of Mary. Suggest stories from the Bible where we learn about who He is.

In the Book

Pg. 47 - Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. Point out that in this chapter they will discover that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Pg. 48 - This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently.

Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 49 - read Faith Focus question. Pages 49-51 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children what new things God is doing in their family. Discuss their answers. Ask what they have learned about the new things that came because of Jesus Christ.

Pg. 49 - read and discuss the potential answers to the following question: What other names and titles does our family use for Jesus, the Messiah?

Pg. 52 - this page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 53 - have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: *God our creator,
We are thankful for the time we have shared today.
Be with us as we pray together.*

Each person will say: *"God, I am thankful for _____ because _____."*

All: *Help us to be like the Holy Family and the First Disciples.*

Leader: *Father in Heaven, we give you thanks and praise for our daily. Bless us and help us show our love for you and for one another as the Holy Family and First Disciples did. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.*

All: *Amen.*

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CHAPTER 6

Grade 1 – Jesus Shares God’s Love

“Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us; Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead and is alive.”

Grade 3 – The Gift of the Holy Spirit

“God the Father sent the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name to be with the Church; The Holy Spirit came to the disciples and helped them teach about Jesus.”

Grade 4 – The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

“Jesus celebrated the Last Supper; Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for us; Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to his father in Heaven.”

Grade 5 – The Paschal Mystery

“The Passover; the Paschal Mystery; by His Paschal Mystery Christ freed people from sin and death gaining for all the promise and hope for eternal life.”

Grade 6/7 – The Suffering Servant

“The Paschal Mystery; Jesus Christ suffered death for the redemption and salvation of humanity.”

Theme: Children of Light

“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8-10)

Background

During this chapter your children will learn that Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us; Jesus died on the Cross, rose from the dead, and is alive; He returned to his father in Heaven; God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples teach others about Jesus; the Paschal Mystery is Jesus’ Passion, death, resurrection, and glorious ascension. They will also learn of how the Gift of the Holy Spirit empowers and guides us. They will reflect on how they can be “Children of the Light.”

Main Focus

- The Paschal Mystery is the mystery of Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- We live as children of the light when we live our faith in the paschal mystery.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

God our loving Father,

We ask you to bless and be with our family as we learn more about the Death and Resurrection of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We pray that your Holy Spirit may be our guide as we grow in our love of you and learn what it means to live as children of light.

Amen.

What do we know about Jesus suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. For the younger children ask if they know what the last two words mean. Explain to them that we believe that Jesus Died on the Cross, was raised to new life, and returned to his father in Heaven.

In the Book

Pg. 55 - Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. Point out that in this chapter they will be learning what it means to be a child of the light.

Pg. 56 - This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently.

Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 57 - read Faith Focus question. Pages 57-59 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children what their family does that is pleasing to the Lord.

Pg. 60 - this page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 61 - have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: *God, Our creator, We are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together...*

Reader: *"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:8-10)*

Leader: *Jesus, the depth of your love for us is overwhelming. You gave your life for us. May our lives lead others to discover your love for them. In your name we pray.*

All: *Amen.*

BE MY DISCIPLES (DECEMBER OUTLINE)

CHAPTER 7

Grade 1 – The Holy Spirit, Our Helper

“The Holy Spirit helps and teaches us to pray and gives us the gifts to help us love God and others. The Holy Trinity is One God in Three Divine Persons.”

Grade 3 – The Church

“The Church is the holy People of God; All the people of the Church are called to live holy lives and help others know and follow Jesus.”

Grade 4 – Receive the Holy Spirit

“Jesus promised that He and the Father would send the Holy Spirit; The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost; the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church continues the work the Father sent Jesus to do.”

Grade 5 – Many Gifts, One Spirit

“Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Church as her Advocate, Teacher, and Sanctifier; The Holy spirit makes the Church holy.”

Grade 6/7 - The Holy Spirit

“The Holy Spirit is at work bringing about God’s plan of Salvation within the Church and strengthening the church to be a sign of Christ’s love; the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us continue the mission of the Church.”

Theme: Be My Witnesses

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be the witnesses.” (Acts of the Apostles 1:8)

Background

The main focus of this chapter is that the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray and gives us the gifts to help us love God and others. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who is our helper and teacher. The Holy Spirit came to the Disciples at Pentecost. It also teaches us that all people of the church are called to live holy lives and help others to come to know and follow Jesus. The Holy spirit helps us to continue the mission of the Church.

Main Focus

- Jesus promised that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers in Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit helps us “be witnesses” for Jesus.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Spirit of God,

Who came in wind and fire,

Fill our hearts with courage and strength to be witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Help us grow closer to you.

Amen.

What do you know about the Holy spirit?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Explain to them that we see the Holy Spirit as a teacher or guide to help us be witnesses to Jesus in the world.

How do you witness to the presence of Jesus Christ in the world?

In the Book

Pg. 63 - Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. Point out that in this chapter they will be learning what it means to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

Pg. 65 - This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently.

Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 65 - read Faith Focus question. Pages 65-67 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children in what ways are members of their families Jesus' witnesses at home, school and work.

Pg. 68 - this page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 69 - have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Loving God, we are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together.*

Reader: *"But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts of the Apostles 1:8)*

All: *Amen.*

BE MY DISCIPLES (DECEMBER OUTLINE)

Chapter 8

Grade 1 – The Church

“The Holy Spirit helps all members of the Church; The Church helps us do what Jesus taught; The saints help us live as followers of Jesus.”

Grade 3 – The Communion of Saints

“The church is the Body of Christ and the communion of Saints; Saints are those people whose love for God is stronger than their love for self or anyone else.”

Grade 4 – The People of God

“The Church is the Body of Christ, the People of God, and the Communion of Saints; Jesus founded the Church on Saint Peter the Apostle; Jesus announced the Kingdom of God.”

Grade 5 – Thy Kingdom Come!

“The Church is made up of the lay faithful, the ordained, and members of the consecrated life; the Church has four Marks; members of the Church work together for the coming of the Kingdom of God.”

Grade 6/7 – The Mystery of the Church

“Jesus is the Head of the Church; the Holy Spirit strengthens the church to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic; the Kingdom of God is present in the Church.”

Theme: Go and Make Disciples

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)

Background

The main focus of this chapter is that the Holy Spirit helps all members of the Church and the Church helps us to do what Jesus taught. The saints also help us to live as Jesus' followers. The Church is the People of God, the Communion of Saints, and the Body of Christ. Jesus founded the Church on Saint Peter the Apostle. Jesus announced the coming of the kingdom of God. The church is one, holy and apostolic. And Lastly Jesus is the Head of the Church.

Main Focus

- The Church is the People of God.
- We belong to the Catholic Church.
- The Church lives out the command of Jesus to “Go make disciples.”

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

God of all people,

Bless us and be with us as we learn how to live as the People of God.

Amen.

What does it mean to be People of God?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples would include that it means to be part of the church and to follow God's teachings, trying to help others learn and know the love of God.

In the Book

Pg. 71 - Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. Point out that in this chapter they will be learning ways that we come to see works of God.

Pg. 72 - This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently.

Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 73 - read Faith Focus question. Pages 73-75 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children who told and taught members of our family about Jesus.

Pg. 76 - this page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 77 - have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: *God of all people, we are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together...*

All: *[Pray the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed together (page 258)]*

All: *Amen*