

Our Lenten Walk with Jesus

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 25, ages 4-5

Lesson 25 Goal

- Your child will learn about the last days before Jesus died, with a focus on Holy Thursday and the special meal Jesus shared with his disciples.

Key Points

- Before he died on the Cross, Jesus shared a special meal with his friends.
- Even though he was afraid, Jesus wanted to do what God the Father asked him to do.



Parent Reflection

Jesus gave himself in a special way on that night before he died as he washed the disciples' feet and then when he established the Eucharist—Jesus' perpetual gift of self to all Christians in every generation. The next day, Jesus gave his life on the Cross. Out of love for his Father and for us, he expressed his commitment to follow the Father's plan, saying, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

If we spend time in prayer, reflection, and the reading of Scripture, we will inevitably encounter calls from God that make us uncomfortable. We may hear God asking us to do something that would mean giving of ourselves in a new or unexpected way. We may be called to "give up" something that would feel like a real sacrifice. Much of our willingness—and ability—to answer these calls depends on our capacity to see our actions as conscious "choices" rather than as things we are forced to do or to say.

Reflection Question

With what issues in my life do I need to say, "Not my will, but yours be done"?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- large, plastic bowl
- plastic pitcher (empty)
- towel or apron
- small paper plates

- small pieces of crackers
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say, *“Today for our prayer, we are going to ask Jesus to help us have courage to do something hard for someone else.”*

Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Dear Jesus, our friend and our God, please help us be kind and loving to others even when it is hard. Please give us courage. Amen.”

Discovering

At the Last Supper. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Last Supper.

Ask your child, “What are some things Jesus did at the Last Supper?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. At the Last Supper. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. The Last Supper (Dramatic Play). With your child, use the props to act out the Scripture story of Jesus washing the feet of his Apostles and then sharing a special meal with them.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Peter Claver. Show your child the picture of Saint Peter Claver on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Peter to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child:

- ▶ If Jesus saw a person being mean to another person, what do you think he would have done?
- ▶ If you see someone being mean to another person, what could you do?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Peter Claver using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud

with your child:

“Dear Jesus, you showed us that we should help one another. Give us the courage to follow your example, and help us grow in our love for you. Amen.”

Saint Peter Claver

Helping Others as Jesus Did

Father Peter Claver walked down a crowded and busy street. He had a hard job to do. He was going to help some people. Some were sick. Some were hungry. Others were frightened. These people were sick, hungry, and frightened because others had treated them very, very badly.

Peter carried a bag filled with medicine for the sick people. He had food and water for the hungry. Of course, he would talk and pray with those who were frightened.

He had done this work for many years, so he knew how he would feel when he arrived. Peter would be sad and upset. It was very hard work to do.

But Peter kept walking, because he knew that Jesus had also done hard things for other people.

Peter remembered the story from Scripture when Jesus washed the Apostles' feet to show them they must help others as he had helped them. Peter knew the suffering people were also God's people, and deserved to be treated with respect and care.

Peter believed God wanted him to do this important work. So even though doing this work would make him upset and sad, he shifted his bag of medicine and food to his other shoulder, and prayed that God would give him courage to do the hard job.

Whenever Peter had done this work before, God always seemed to give him enough courage. God would this time, too.

DRAW



**Saint
Peter Claver,
pray for us!**