

Table of Contents

UNIT 1 Creator and Father

Session 1	Created to Be Happy	3
Session 2	Created to Be Together	11
Session 3	God Is Our Father	19
Session 4	Jesus Is With Us	27
Session 5	Review	35



UNIT 2 Son of God, Son of Mary

Session 6	Jesus' Good News	43
Session 7	Following Jesus	51
Session 8	Jesus Gathers Disciples	59
Session 9	Jesus Dies and Rises	67
Session 10	Review	75



UNIT 3 Community of Jesus

Session 11	Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit	83
Session 12	The Catholic Church	91
Session 13	The Church Prays	99
Session 14	Mary Is Holy	107
Session 15	Review	115



UNIT 4**Meeting Jesus****121**

Session 16	Sacraments of Initiation	123
Session 17	Celebrating Reconciliation	131
Session 18	Celebrating the Eucharist	139
Session 19	Christian Living	147
Session 20	Review	155

**UNIT 5****Living Like Jesus****161**

Session 21	Faith, Hope, and Charity	163
Session 22	Making Good Choices	171
Session 23	Living as God's Children	179
Session 24	All Life Is Sacred	187
Session 25	Review	195

The Year in Our ChurchThe Year in
Our Church**201**

Advent	203
Christmas	207
Lent	211
Holy Week	215
Easter	219
Pentecost	223
All Saints Day	227

Prayers and Practices of Our Faith**231**

Knowing and Praying Our Faith	234
Celebrating Our Faith	246
Living Our Faith	259
Songs of Our Faith	264
Understanding the Words of Our Faith	281
English Glossary	281
Spanish Glossary	297

Son of God, Son of Mary

Unit 2



Saint Scholastica and Saint Benedict

Saint Scholastica and her twin brother Saint Benedict lived in the hills of northern Italy. When they grew up, they each started a religious community.



Saint Scholastica and Saint Benedict

Saint Scholastica and her brother Saint Benedict grew up together in the hills of northern Italy. They were best friends. When they moved apart, they missed each other very much.

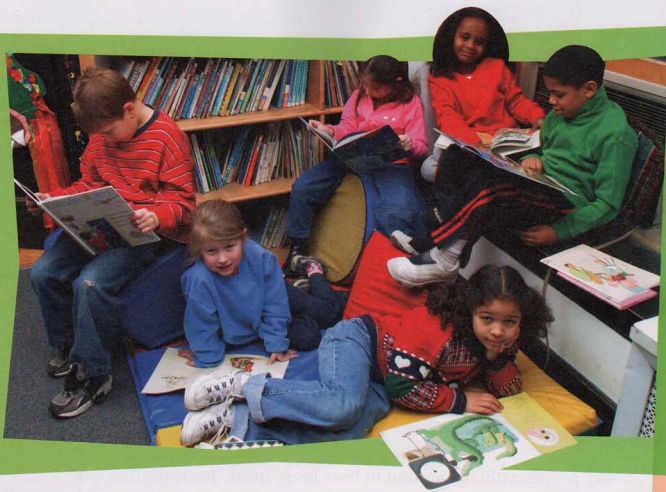
Benedict went to study in Rome. Scholastica stayed close to home. She loved to study and to take care of people who were poor or sick.

Later Scholastica started a community of nuns. It was about five miles from the monastery where Benedict had started a community of monks. Scholastica and Benedict met once a year in a little house nearby. They prayed and talked about their love of God.

At the end of one visit, Scholastica asked her brother to stay longer. When he refused, she prayed that he would stay. A powerful storm started and Benedict could not leave. Scholastica explained that since he would not listen to her, she had asked God. She said God had heard her prayer. They talked and prayed all night. Scholastica's feast day is February 10. Benedict's feast day is July 11.

Jesus' Good News

Session 6



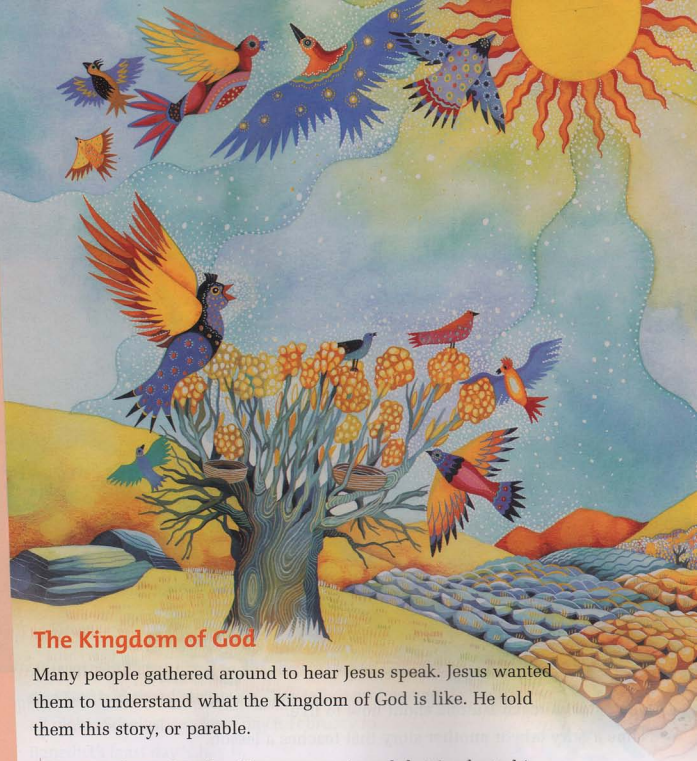
Many stories teach lessons about how to live.

Name a fairy tale or another story that teaches a lesson.



PRAYER

Jesus, my teacher, help me to understand your stories, so they can help me to know and love God and others.



The Kingdom of God

Many people gathered around to hear Jesus speak. Jesus wanted them to understand what the Kingdom of God is like. He told them this story, or parable.

“The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that is planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it grows to be the largest of plants. It becomes a bush so large that birds come and nest in its branches.”

adapted from Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus used this story to show how, with God’s help, a great, welcoming kingdom can grow from small beginnings. Small acts of kindness can help many people feel welcomed by God.

Saint Benedict Serves the Kingdom

Benedict, twin brother of Scholastica, founded a **monastery** in Monte Cassino in Italy. This was the home for a group of men called monks who wanted to work and pray together.

Benedict wrote rules for how the monks should live. He taught the monks that they could praise God by daily work and prayer. They worked on the land, prayed, and copied the Bible by hand. Benedict's motto was "pray and work." Several of Benedict's rules are listed below.

Some monks left and started other monasteries. Saint Benedict's work was like planting a mustard seed. The small seed of his monastery sprouted many branches.



Seek Jesus' love above all else.

Do not speak evil of others.

Let a wise man stand at the gates of the monastery to greet visitors.

A brother's clothing should be suited to the weather where he lives.



Did You Know?

The name *Benedict* means "blessed." A benediction is a blessing.

We Serve God's Kingdom

The Kingdom of God calls us to follow Jesus by loving one another and living according to God's rule and direction.

During his life in Nazareth, Jesus worked hard and observed the rules of the Jewish faith. He loved all people. Jesus showed that we can serve God's kingdom in our daily lives.

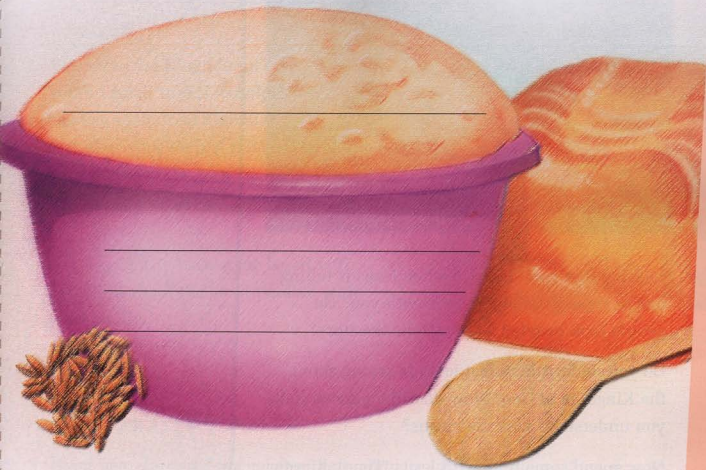
Here is an example of what Jesus meant. Anna, a third grader, goes to Mass with her family. One Sunday, the priest said there were children in the parish who needed hats and gloves for winter. Anna went home and returned with a pair of warm mittens. Her friend Tara saw her and did the same thing. Soon many others did too. Anna's small beginnings served God's kingdom.



Can You Be Like Yeast?

When we make a loaf of bread, we add just a little yeast to make the dough rise. Yeast is like the mustard seed—a little bit makes a big difference.

Small things we do can be like yeast. By doing small things, we can serve God's kingdom. On the rising dough below, write one small thing you can do to serve the kingdom. On the bowl, write how this act helps the kingdom to grow.



Reading God's Word

Jesus told the people a parable about yeast. He said the Kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman mixes with wheat flour to make dough rise. Even though the amount of yeast is small, it can make the dough rise.

adapted from Matthew 13:33



PRAYER

Jesus' parables are like puzzles. When Jesus told them, people sometimes asked for help to understand them. Think about the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast.



Imagine that you are there when Jesus is telling one of these parables. Who is with you? Do people look puzzled as Jesus tells the story?

Do you understand what Jesus is saying about the Kingdom of God? How does the parable help you understand what he means?

Now spend some time with Jesus. Thank him for telling stories to help you understand God's direction in your life. Tell him one thing you will do to serve God's kingdom.

Faith Summary

Jesus' parables teach us that we can serve the Kingdom of God in our own lives. Jesus teaches us that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Word I Learned

monastery

Ways of Being Like Jesus

You serve the Kingdom of God when you do small things to help others. You can say something nice to a classmate and offer your help at home when it is needed.

With My Family

Ask a parent to bake some bread with you. Talk about the yeast parable with your family.

Living My Faith



PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching me the importance of all the things that I do. Help me as I try to make a difference.

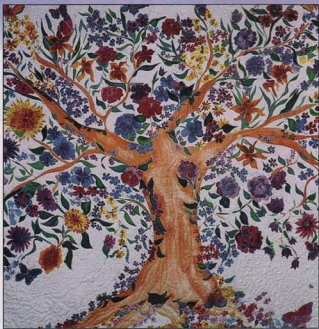
My Response

Think of a small project to help someone in need in your school, neighborhood, or parish. Encourage others to join you. Draw a picture of what you will do.



RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

Beginning Small

Our children are fascinated with how and why things grow. Either in school or at home, they may at some time have taken a small seed, planted it, watered it, and, with patience, watched it grow. Perhaps the plant had to be transplanted into a larger pot or into the ground to give its roots room to spread. From the tiniest beginnings, flourishing plants grow. It is no surprise that when Jesus spoke to his people in an agricultural society, he used this image to describe the growth of the Kingdom of God. In the same way, relationships within families are built on small acts of kindness and consideration. These small acts provide the foundation every family needs to grow together when facing the stresses of daily life.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss together what you can do this week for family time. You might share a bag of popcorn and a rental movie, play a board game, take a walk, or have ice cream cones. Plan a special time when the family can be together.

Spirituality in Action

Encourage your child to keep in mind the small things that he or she can do to serve God's Kingdom. These may include being polite and friendly or helping friends or family members without being asked. Praise your child for doing small favors for others.



Hints for at Home

This is a good opportunity for the family to read the Bible together. You could read the mustard seed parable in Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, and Luke 13:18-19. Discuss the lesson that Jesus was teaching. Talk about how the wording of the parable may vary, but the message remains the same. Discuss how Jesus used simple stories to explain complex ideas.



Focus on Prayer

Your child has read and talked about the parables of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32) and the yeast (Matthew 13:33). Talk



about these stories with your child. Help your child to understand that his or her commitment to love others serves the Kingdom of God.

Review

Session 10



Jesus' life on earth is a loving example of how we should live. Jesus invites us to be helpers in the Kingdom of God. We do this by answering his call to serve and care for others.



PRAYER

Jesus, my teacher, help me learn from the example of your life so that I can learn to show my love for others.

Faith Summary

Through his parables Jesus teaches us how to find God in our everyday lives. As God's Son he shows us how to love God and others by the example of his own life.

Jesus calls us to obey the Ten Commandments and challenges us to do more. Grace helps us to become followers of Jesus.

The apostles and disciples accepted Jesus' mission to proclaim God's kingdom. Jesus also invites us to proclaim the kingdom and serve others in his name.

Jesus suffered and died for us. Through his life, death, and resurrection we are saved.

A Symbol of New Life



Each of the pictures above is a symbol of new life or resurrection. Can you tell why?

Sometimes we think of the cross as a symbol of being saved. Why do you think the cross makes us think of being saved?

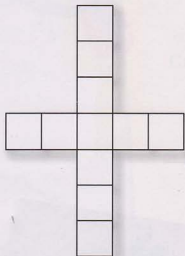
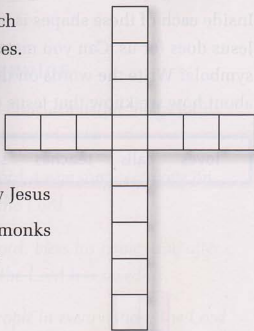
Crossword Puzzles

Look back on the unit to find words that match the clues below. Write the words on the crosses. Talk about these words.



Across: story told by Jesus

Down: place where monks live, work, and pray



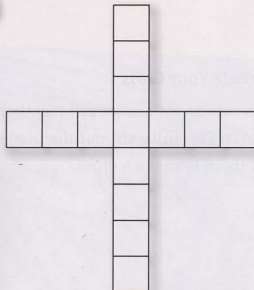
Across: fisherman who followed Jesus

Down: type of seed that grows into a large bush



Across: what Jesus sent his followers on

Down: special friends of Jesus



What Does Jesus Do?

Inside each of these shapes is a symbol or picture of something Jesus does for us. Can you match the action words with their symbols? Write the words on the lines near the shapes. Then talk about how we know that Jesus does these things for us.

loves calls teaches saves helps



Create Your Cross

These shapes can be put together to make a cross. Carefully cut out the pieces. Use all five of them to make a cross.





PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: *The Lord has done wonderful things for us.
Let us sing praise to God.*

Group A: *Sing to the Lord a new song; everyone on
earth, praise the Lord.*

Group B: *Sing to the Lord, bless his name; day after
day say that the Lord has saved us.*

Group A: *Tell all the people in every nation, the Lord
does wonderful things for us.*

Group B: *For the Lord is great and worthy of praise;
we respect him above all else.*
[adapted from Psalm 96:1–4]

Leader: *Let us close by proclaiming Jesus' Death
and Resurrection.*

All: *We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.*

Living My Faith

Ways of Being Like Jesus

You are like Jesus when you show concern for others. If someone seems to be having trouble, ask how you can help. Take a few minutes to listen to him or her and offer your support.



With My Family

Think of a small activity you can do with a relative. Perhaps you can do a craft or an art project.



PRAYER

*Jesus, my Savior, thank you for calling me to love God and others.
Help me follow your invitation to spread God's word.*

My Response

Jesus teaches us that all our actions are important, no matter how small. Think of one thing that you can do to make someone's life a little easier. Write a sentence about it.

