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BACKGROUND

The Mystery of Love

The mystery of the Incarnation—the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, taking on flesh and becoming fully human while remaining divine—is a mystery of divine love beyond the comprehension of the human mind and heart. What kind of life on Earth did the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus, live?

Ordinary Life

Jesus could have been a monarch so splendid that he would make the greatest kings the world has ever known blush with envy. He could have been whoever and whatever he wanted to be. And who did this Incarnate Son of God, the Holy One of God, choose to become? Instead of ruling by regal pomp or power, the Son of God chose to identify himself by humility, servanthood, and suffering. God's own Word to us could not have more clearly revealed this:

Who, . . . though he was in the form of God, . . .
he emptied himself, . . .
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6–8

Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God, took on the life most common to humans, that of powerlessness, obedience, and poverty. By doing so he showed us how the human condition could be transformed into the Kingdom of God.

The Christ

Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, is the Christ. The English word *Christ* is from the Greek word *Kristos*, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew *masch* (Messiah), a word meaning “anointed.” Jesus Christ, anointed by the Holy Spirit to be Priest, Prophet, and King, established a kingdom that would last forever.



The true meaning of Christ's kingship was revealed only after his Crucifixion, Death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension. By his Paschal Mystery, Christ effectively destroyed death's power and gave people the promise of eternal life. He freed people from the tragic death-bearing consequences of sin and opened the way to new and everlasting life.

In Jesus we have the promise of life in the Kingdom of God. He invites us to a life of holiness—to a life of everlasting communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Way of Jesus

Jesus is the truth, the life, and the way (see John 14:6). Like Jesus, we are to trust in the Father, whom we address and know as Abba. In childlike surrender, we trust in the providential care of our heavenly Father, who knows our needs.

We seek first the kingdom, and then all we need will be ours as well (see Matthew 6:33). To those who think that wealth, power, and fame are the paths, or way, to happiness, Jesus proclaims that happiness resides in the poor in spirit and in those struggling to achieve peace (see Matthew 5:3, 9). By his poverty, the Incarnate Son of God shows us how to transform the hardships and sufferings that may come our way.

For Reflection

Who is Jesus for me?

How willing am I to give all for love of God and neighbor?

Teacher to Teacher

The Heart of Christmas

This chapter tells the Christmas story. Get out those bathrobes, pillowcases, and towels. Nothing makes a story come alive more quickly for seven- and eight-year-olds than acting out the Gospel accounts of the Nativity. Enlist the help of parents and set up a video camera. The script in this chapter is short so you could even have two or three casts. Save the video and show it during the Christmas season. The actors and actresses will be delighted!

Jesus' Presence with Us

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we need to remind ourselves that Jesus is present with us whenever we gather in his name. Remind the students that he is uniquely present in every celebration of the Eucharist during which the bread and wine, through the words of the priest and power of the Holy Spirit, become the Body and Blood of Christ. Celebrate with the class that Jesus' presence with us is the real and true reason for our happiness. It gives us the hope that we live out and keep in our hearts. Through this lesson help the students realize that the gift of Jesus' presence is with us, and this is cause for joy.

The Church Teaches...

"The incarnation of the only Son of God is the original inculturation of God's word. The mystery of the incarnation is also the model of all evangelization by the Church" (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 21A).

It is important that teachers introduce their students to the person of Jesus so that they may develop a personal relationship with him.

Further Reading and Reflection

For more related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 51-67 and 456-560; and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 77-87.

Teacher Prayer

Jesus, you are
my Savior—willing to give
all so that I may live.
Help me to be willing to give
myself for others.
Amen.

Lesson Planner

Chapter 5 Jesus, the Son of God

Goal To learn that God sent his Son, Jesus, to restore our friendship with him

LESSON PART	PROCESS	MATERIALS and RESOURCES
DAY 1 EXPLORE Focus To explore how the virtue of mercy leads followers of Jesus to treat others with kindness Pages 65–67	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Proclaim and discuss Isaiah 7:14; 9:5–6 (Promise of Jesus' Birth).▶ Learn and discuss the story of Saint Martin de Porres and how he showed others Jesus loved them. <p>Disciple Power: Mercy</p> <p>Activity: Identify ways to build a merciful world.</p>	Bible Pencils or pens Crayons or markers Globe or world map Enriching the Lesson Teacher Guide, page 131 Literature Connection: <i>Mrs. Katz and Tush</i>
DAY 2 DISCOVER Focus To discover the Covenant—God's special promise and commitment of loving kindness to his people Pages 68–69	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn how the Covenant shows God loves people.▶ Discover that God promised a Savior, Jesus, who is the fulfillment of God's promise. <p>Faith Words: Covenant, Jesus Christ</p> <p>Catholics Believe: Works of Mercy</p> <p>Activity: Use a code to discover an important message about Jesus.</p>	Pencils or pens
DAY 3 DISCOVER Focus To discover how Jesus was born Pages 70–71	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Discover that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the Mother of God. <p>Scripture Story: The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:4-7)</p> <p>Faith-Filled People: The Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>Activity: Create a Nativity rebus.</p>	Bible Pencils or pens Additional Activities Booklet: Activity 5b or see BeMyDisciples.com .
DAY 4 DECIDE Focus To discover how Jesus showed that God always loves people and to decide on a way to be a sign of God's mercy and love Pages 72–73	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn how Jesus showed that God cares deeply for all people. <p>Scripture: The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13, 15–20)</p> <p>Activity: Identify how people care for others.</p> <p>My Faith Choice: Choose how you will live as a sign of God's love.</p> <p>Pray: "Thank you, Holy Spirit."</p>	Bible Pencils or pens Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pantomiming a Scripture Story• Making Headlines Additional Activities Booklet: Activity 5a or see BeMyDisciples.com .
DAY 5 CONCLUDE Focus To praise God for the birth of Jesus Pages 74–76	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ REVIEW Review concepts: Recall, Reflect, and Share.▶ PRAY The Angelus▶ PREVIEW With My Family page and the theme of the next chapter.	Grade 2 Music CD Assessment Tools Booklet: Assessments 1a and 1b

Assign online Chapter Review and interactive Chapter Test at

BeMyDisciples.com

CHAPTER 5



Jesus, Son of God

2 Why is it important to keep a promise?

God made this promise to his people. He said a child would be born to them.

A virgin will have a baby. They will name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, and Prince of Peace. The child will grow up and begin rebuilding a world of kindness and love.

BASED ON ISAIAH 7:14; 9:5-6

2 Who is the child God promised?

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HUMAN METHODOLOGIES

Learning Within the Christian Community. The *National Directory for Catechesis* tells us that the parish is the place “where the Christian faith deepens and where the Christian community is formed” (NDC, 29C). On Day 5, explain to the students that the Angelus was prayed three times a day in ancient times—at 6:00 a.m., at 12:00 noon, and at 6:00 p.m. The church bells rang to call people to prayer wherever they were—at work, at school, or at home—and everyone stopped to pray the Angelus. If your parish rings bells listen to them and pray the Hail Mary. Remind the students that people pray this prayer all over the world. Participating in this tradition can help the students appreciate that we are a universal Church, joined together by our love for Jesus.

Pray

- ▶ Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer. Remind them that God hears us when we pray.
- ▶ Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Ask the children to echo this prayer:
 - Dear Jesus,
 - help us to follow you
 - each and every day.
 - Amen.
- ▶ Call on different students to offer their responses to the opening question. Stress the importance of fulfilling one’s promises.

Reflect

- ▶ Have the students look at the picture and describe what they see.
- ▶ Introduce the Scripture passage, and then have a volunteer read the Word of God from Isaiah.
- ▶ Afterward, observe a moment of prayerful silence.
- ▶ Ask the class to respond to the Scripture question. (*Answer: Jesus*)
- ▶ Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

Focus

Tell the class that they will read about someone whose merciful deeds helped build a world of kindness and love.

Introduce

- ▶ Read Disciple Power with the students. Tell them that when they treat others with care and kindness, they are acting with mercy.
- ▶ Show the students a globe or map on which they can identify the United States and South America. Point out the country of Peru. Explain that most people there live in the high Andes Mountains.
- ▶ Ask the students to listen as volunteers read the story about Brother Martin. Ask them to listen to find out why Martin was so kind.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to read the story one paragraph at a time.

Reinforce

- ▶ Call for responses to the follow-up question.
- ▶ Afterward, share with the students ways they might show mercy. For example, we act with mercy:
 - when someone says something bad about us, and we choose to say something good.
 - when we give someone more than his or her fair share.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to share a work of mercy they have done.



Disciple Power

Mercy

Jesus said, "Blessed are people of mercy." Mercy means great kindness. Mercy helps us act with great kindness toward others no matter what.

The Church Follows Jesus

Brother Martin

Jesus is the child God promised would be born. Jesus taught us how to build a world of kindness, love, and mercy.

Martin de Porres listened to Jesus. He did what Jesus asked his followers to do. Martin joined a group of religious brothers and promised to show people the kindness and love of God.

Brother Martin lived in the country of Peru in South America. He showed people that God always loves them.

Brother Martin cared for sick people. He brought them food and medicine. He helped find homes for children who had no parents. He brought food and clothes to people who did not have the money to buy them for themselves.

All these things Brother Martin did are called Works of Mercy. When we do show mercy, we share God's love with others.

? What are the Works of Mercy that Martin did to help others?



DISCIPLE POWER

Mercy or Kindness. The Hebrew word in the Bible that we translate into English as mercy is *hesed*. This Hebrew word is often connected to the Covenant that God entered into with his people. It is used to describe the unconditional kindness with which God reaches out to his people. Such is the mercy or kindness that we acknowledge when we pray, "Lord, have mercy." Such is the kindness and mercy that we are to offer to one another, especially those who "trespass against us." Help the students appreciate that Jesus asks us to continue his work in the world. We can do this by acting with mercy or kindness toward others. Brainstorm with the class situations in which second graders can act with mercy toward family members, classmates, and neighbors.

Acting with Mercy

When we act with mercy, we are working to build a world of kindness and love. We are doing what Jesus taught us to do. We are following in the footsteps of Brother Martin.

Activity

Follow the footprints. Color the footprints that contain acts of mercy. Draw an X through the footprints that do not show acts of mercy.

Visit people who are sick.



Do not share treats with your sister.



Bring clothes to a homeless shelter.



Talk back to your parents.



Help serve dinner to hungry people.



Always want to be first.



Write how the people in the picture are building a world of mercy. Write one more way that you could help.



TEACHING TIP

Extend the Activity. Enhance and extend the activity by having the students make sets of their footprints. Provide heavy construction paper, markers and scissors. Have the students work in pairs to help trace one another's footprints. Direct the students to cut out the footprints and then to write on each one way they can act with mercy. Either place the completed footprints around the room and "walk a mercy path" with the class, or create a bulletin board on which to post the footprints. Point out how each footprint offers a way to act with kindness and love.

Connect

- ▶ Read aloud the section titled Acting with Mercy.
- ▶ Explain the directions for the activity.
- ▶ Provide crayons or markers and allow time for the students to work individually.
- ▶ Afterward, call on different students to read aloud each footprint one at a time and discuss answers as a class.
- ▶ Remind the students that God built us to act with mercy and help build a world of kindness and love.

Pray

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Have them echo the following after you.

God our Father, /
teach us to be like Brother Martin /
and follow the way of Jesus. /
Help us show mercy to all we
meet. /
Amen.

▶ When the students finish, have them read aloud the devotional message.

▶ Stress again that Jesus Christ is the God and true man, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer. Lead them in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Key Concept

God fulfills his promise in Jesus.

Pray

Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer. Lead the class in praying the Glory Be.

Teach

- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read aloud the Faith Focus question. Tell the students they are going to learn more about a special promise God made.
- ▶ Review the students' earlier discussion about keeping promises. Point out that some promises are easy to keep, while others are very difficult.
- ▶ Together read the Faith Words *Covenant* and *Jesus Christ* and their meanings. Then have the students follow along as you read the section titled God's Special Promise to discover God's promise and how he kept it.
- ▶ Have the students make word cards for both Faith Words on this page.

▶ Invite volunteers to share a work of mercy they have done.

Faith Focus

How did Jesus show that God always loves people?

Faith Words

Covenant
The Covenant is God's promise always to love and be kind to his people.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who became one of us. Jesus is true God and true man.

God's Special Promise

The Bible tells us about a very special promise God made with his people. This promise is the **Covenant**. In the Covenant God promised to always love and be kind to his people.

The Covenant that God and people made began at creation. Our first parents broke the promise they made to God. They sinned. We call this sin Original Sin.

God made the Covenant again with Noah and with Abraham and with Moses. God's people still sometimes broke the Covenant. When they did, God sent people to remind them to keep the Covenant.

**TEACHING VOCABULARY**

Covenant. The word *covenant* refers to a promise entered into by two people or groups. Each person or group pledges to be loyal to their promise by holding up their end of the bargain. Remind the students that while God's people often broke the Covenant they made with God, he always kept his part of the Covenant. Tell them that God's promise to love us will never be broken.

Still, God's people continued to break the Covenant. God then promised to send someone to make God and people friends again. God kept his promise. He sent his Son, **Jesus Christ**.

Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who became one of us. Jesus is true God and true man.

❓ Why did God send his Son, Jesus?

Catholics Believe

Works of Mercy

The Church teaches us the Works of Mercy. They are ways to be as kind and loving to people as Jesus.

Activity

Keeping a Promise

Use this code to discover who Jesus is.



J E S U S I S T H E

S O N O F G O D



Reinforce

- ▶ Ask the follow-up question.
(Answer: to make God and people friends again)
- ▶ Write on the board:
_____ is the Son of God.
_____ is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.
_____ is true God and true man.

- ▶ Invite volunteers to fill in the blank in each sentence.
- ▶ Emphasize that God kept his covenantal promise by sending his Son, Jesus to become one of us.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to name one or two acts of mercy that they identified in the previous lesson. Then, read aloud Catholics Believe about Works of Mercy as a reminder that we are called to love people as Jesus did.

Connect

- ▶ Make sure the students understand the directions to the activity Keeping a Promise. Give them time to discover the hidden message.
- ▶ When the students finish, have them read aloud the decoded message.
- ▶ Stress again that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer. Lead them in praying the Lord's Prayer.

TEACHING TIP

The Nativity Story—Setting the Scene. Prepare the class to better understand the Scripture story of fulfillment of the Covenant in the birth of Jesus. Help the students gain some sense of the land in which Jesus lived. Explain that Jesus lived in Palestine, a land that today includes Israel and the West Bank. In the time of Jesus, the land was ruled by the Roman Empire. The people who lived in Palestine had to do what the Romans told them to do. Once, when the Romans wanted to count all the people living in Palestine, Mary and Joseph had to make a trip to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph's family. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay. An innkeeper let them stay in his stable, or barn. It was there, among the animals, that Jesus was born.

Key Concept

The birth of Jesus is called the Nativity.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer. Pray together as an echo prayer:

Lord Jesus, / you are a precious gift! /
We honor and praise you. / We
thank you for becoming one of us. /
Amen.

Teach

- ▶ Remind the students that God kept his promise to send someone to make him and his people friends again.
- ▶ Ask the class what special promise God made that we celebrate at Christmas. (*God promised to send the Savior.*)
- ▶ Write the word *Nativity* on the board and tell the students that *Nativity* is the name we give the Bible story of the birth of Jesus.
- ▶ Choose volunteers to take the parts of the narrator, Joseph, and the innkeeper. The rest of the group can be the people of the village.
- ▶ Allow the volunteers a few minutes to practice reading and acting out their parts.
- ▶ When the volunteers are ready, have them perform the play.
- ▶ Read the Faith Focus question aloud and ask the students for possible answers.

Faith Focus

What does Saint Luke tell us about the birth of Jesus?

The Birth of Jesus

The Bible tells about the birth of Jesus. We call this story the Nativity.

Narrator Just before Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph stopped to find a room in an inn.

Action Joseph knocks on the door of the inn. The innkeeper opens the door.

Joseph My wife and I need a room. She is going to have a baby.

Innkeeper There are no rooms left. You may stay in the stable.

Narrator Mary and Joseph went to the stable. Jesus was born there.

BASED ON LUKE 2:4-7

The Bible tells us that angels told shepherds about the birth of Jesus. The shepherds went to see Baby Jesus. They were filled with joy. They praised God for what they heard and saw.

- 2 What do we call the story of Jesus' birth?



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TEACHING TIP

Greater Participation. If there are enough students in your class, divide the class into several acting groups. This way all children have the opportunity to participate and feel special. Let each group choose a narrator, innkeeper and someone to play Joseph. Take time to work with each group to be sure they can read the words and understand the directions. Each group may also take some time to create backgrounds and choose props and costumes. Have plenty of newsprint and markers available to work with. If possible, provide costume materials such as cloth, rope, robes, and pillowcases.

Activity

Create a rebus story to show how God kept his promise to send someone to make people friends with God again.

Long ago, **Mary** and Joseph

came to the little town of Bethlehem. They

had to stay in a stable. There, **Jesus**

was born. Some shepherds were watching

their **sheep**. Suddenly an

angel came to them and

told them about the special baby. The

shepherds went and found the baby Jesus

lying in a **manger**.

Faith-Filled People

The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus the Son of God. Mary is the Mother of God. The Church celebrates and honors Mary the Mother of God on January 1.



angel



sheep



Jesus



manger



Mary

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Reinforce

- ▶ Have the students recall when we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus. (*Christmas*) Discuss other ways they may be reminded of God's promise to us. (e.g., *the Nativity scenes set up at church or at home*)
- ▶ Call attention back to page 65. Have the students reread the passage from Isaiah. Ask: Who do you think is the virgin the Bible talks about? (*Mary*)
- ▶ Have a volunteer read Faith-Filled People. Share that Mary is so important because she agreed to be the Mother of God.

Connect

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions.
- ▶ Explain that the students can look at the illustrations on the right side of the page to help them complete the rebus. Make sure they understand that these illustrations are only a guide for their own drawings.
- ▶ When the students finish drawing, have different volunteers read the rebus story, one sentence at a time.
- ▶ Encourage the students to share their finished rebuses with their families.

Pray

Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer. Pray together the Hail Mary.

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE

The Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is honored with many titles that express the Church's faith in her. Many of these titles are named in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Gospel of John refers to Mary as the "Mother of Jesus." Luke's Gospel honors Mary as God's favored one who was full of grace from the very beginning of her existence (*Luke 1:28*). The Gospel accounts name Mary as the mother of the Son of God. Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus, the eternal Son of God. For more information on the Blessed Virgin Mary, go to the Saints Resource at BeMyDisciples.com.

Key Concept

Jesus taught about God's mercy and love.

Pray

Lead the class in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Teach

- ▶ Have a volunteer read the Faith Focus question aloud and invite the students to think silently about how they might answer it.
- ▶ Read aloud the two opening paragraphs of God Cares for All People. Then ask the students to listen for why Jesus fed the crowd as you proclaim the Scripture story.

Reinforce

Have the students respond to the first follow-up question. (*Jesus showed the people God's kindness and mercy by caring about their hunger and feeding them.*)

Connect

- ▶ Ask volunteers to respond to the second follow-up question.
- ▶ Discuss how the students can be signs of God's love when they are kind to others.

Faith Focus

How does Jesus help us come to know God's love?

God Cares for All People

The New Testament tells us that when Jesus grew up, he traveled from place to place. Sometimes he walked. Sometimes he rode a donkey. Sometimes he rode in a boat.

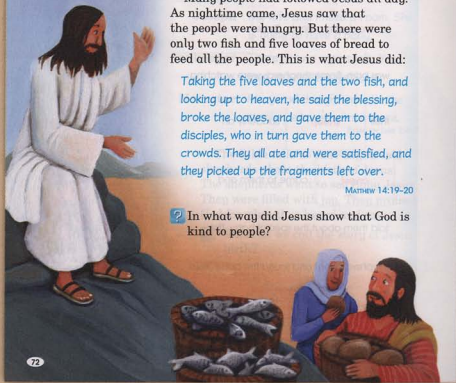
All the things Jesus said and did taught people about God's mercy and love. Mercy means "great kindness." Read this Bible story about God's mercy.

Many people had followed Jesus all day. As nighttime came, Jesus saw that the people were hungry. But there were only two fish and five loaves of bread to feed all the people. This is what Jesus did:

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over.

Matthew 14:19-20

- 2 In what way did Jesus show that God is kind to people?



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TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Moral Formation. The *Catechism* teaches that "the works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily needs" (ccc, 2447). The origin of the Works of Mercy is found in *Matthew 25:31-46*. (See *Catholics Believe* on student page 69.) Reinforce that Jesus tells us that when we do these works we are following him. Recall the kindness Jesus showed in feeding the crowd in the Scripture story. Explain that Jesus shows his love for us and feeds us in the Eucharist. Emphasize that receiving Holy Communion helps us to grow closer to Jesus and to live as his followers.

Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love and mercy. You can be a follower of Jesus. You can be a sign of God's love and mercy, too.

I Follow Jesus

Activity

Signs of God's Love and Mercy

Look at the pictures. How are the people caring for others? Write in each bubble what the helping person might be saying.



My Faith Choice

This week, I promise to live as a sign of God's love and mercy. I will _____



Pray, "Thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping me to live as a sign of God's love and kindness. Amen."

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TEACHING TIP

Writing Stories. The outline in the activity above can be a starting point that enables you to meet the students' individual needs as time allows. The students can use these outlines to tell a fuller story in a way that they best express their learning. For example, students who express themselves best through drawing might create a storyboard showing a beginning, middle, and end for their stories. Students who prefer writing can create a narrative for their stories. Students who express themselves well through movement can work with others to create skits. Try to offer students opportunities for more than one kind of activity in each week's lesson.

Reinforce

Remind the students that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise and the greatest sign of God's love and mercy.

Respond

- ▶ Share a story you have heard or read about recently in which people cared for others as Jesus did.
- ▶ Point out the illustrations on page 73. With partners have the students describe what is happening in each.
- ▶ Introduce the writing activity and give clear directions. Invite the students to fill in the bubbles.
- ▶ Ask several volunteers to share their completed work with the class.

Choose

- ▶ Invite the students to read silently My Faith Choice.
- ▶ Encourage them to write their decisions and to put them into practice this week.

Pray

Invite the class to offer a silent prayer of thanks to the Holy Spirit.

Pray

Begin class by leading the class in the Hail Mary.

Recall

- ▶ Write the words *love* and *mercy* on the board. Ask the class to brainstorm three things they have learned about God's love and mercy for his people. List ideas on the board.
- ▶ Read the To Help You Remember statements aloud, and ask the students to compare them with their ideas.
- ▶ Give instructions for the matching and sentence completion parts of the review activity and allow time for the students to complete them. Ask all to share their work with partners.

Reflect

Give the students a few moments to silently read and think about how they would answer the question, "How do you show God's love and mercy to others?" Then have them write their answers.

Share

Canvas the room for responses. Then have the students turn to page 73 and reread their faith choices. Ask them to think carefully how they will put their choices into action.

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The Covenant is a promise of God's love and mercy.
2. The birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is called the Nativity.
3. Everything Jesus said and did shows us God's love and mercy.

Chapter Review

Recall

Match the words to their meanings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>b</u> 1. Mary | a. This Person is the Son of God. |
| <u>d</u> 2. Nativity | b. She is the Mother of the Son of God. |
| <u>c</u> 3. Joseph | c. He is the foster father of Jesus. |
| <u>a</u> 4. Jesus | d. This is the name we give to the Bible story of Jesus' birth. |

Add letters to complete the words in the sentences.

6. God's promise to always love and be kind to his people is called the

C o v e n a n t.

7. J e s u s is the Son of God.

8. Jesus showed us God's love and

m e r c y.

Reflect

What are the ways that you show God's love and mercy to others?

Share

Share with your class how you know God loves you.

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SPECIAL NEEDS

A Little Extra. Some students may have a difficult time processing words and definitions. For the Recall activity numbers 6–8, students are asked to add letters to complete the sentences. You may want to write in more letter clues to help the students complete the words.

Need: Students with reading difficulties or processing disorders

The Angelus

The Angelus is a prayer that praises God for the birth of Jesus.

- Group 1** The angel spoke God's message to Mary,
- Group 2** and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

All **Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

- Group 1** "I am the lowly servant of the Lord:
Group 2 let it be done to me according to
your word."

All **Hail, Mary . . .**

- Group 1** And the Word became flesh

Group 2 and lived among us.

All **Hail, Mary . . .**



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LITURGY CONNECTION

Praying Antiphonally. The Angelus is often prayed as an antiphon—the prayers are said or sung with one person or group starting a line and another completing it. As you divide the class for the praying of the Angelus, it would be helpful to choose a volunteer to be a prayer leader for each group. Ask the leaders to stand facing the groups and gesture when it is time for their peers to recite the response.

We Pray

- ▶ Tell the students that today they are going to pray the Angelus, a very old prayer of the Church.
- ▶ Point out that the name *Angelus* comes from the word "Angel" in the prayer's first line.
- ▶ Divide the class into two groups. Have each group practice its responses to the prayer. Point out that each one is different.
- ▶ Tell the students that after each response they will pray the Hail Mary together. Explain that they will recite the first part, and they will finish the prayer.
- ▶ Encourage the students to memorize the Hail Mary if they do not know it.
- ▶ Gather the students in the prayer area with their books and call the students to prayer with a brief moment of silence.
- ▶ Pray the Sign of the Cross, and then lead the students in the Angelus.

Preview

- ▶ Have the students carefully tear out pages 75 and 76 along the perforation.
- ▶ Encourage the students to share these pages with their families, and to complete the activities together.
- ▶ If they did not complete the review activity on page 74 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete it with their families at home.
- ▶ Point out the title and theme of the next lesson to the students.

Visit BeMyDisciples.com

- ▶ Take time with the students to explore the many activities and resources available at the *Be My Disciples* Web site.
- ▶ Encourage them to join with their families to discover the many resources available at the Web site.

Before Moving On ...

As you finish today's lesson, reflect on the following question before moving on to the next chapter.

How much quiet time do I allow the students to think about the concepts I am presenting?

With My Family

This Week ...

In Chapter 5, "Jesus, the Son of God," your child learned that:

- ▶ God and his people made the Covenant with one another.
- ▶ The Covenant is the promise of God's love and mercy, and the promise of his people to love and serve God above all else.
- ▶ When Adam and Eve sinned and broke the Covenant, God promised to send someone to renew the Covenant.
- ▶ God fulfilled his promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, who became man and lived among us. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He is the new and everlasting Covenant.
- ▶ The virtue of mercy helps us act with kindness toward others.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, §§ 1-2 and 456-568, and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 77-87.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Luke 2:1-14, about Jesus' birth. Or read the play about the Nativity on page 70. Emphasize that Jesus' birth is the Son of God. Jesus' birth is one of the most important signs that God always keeps his promise to love us.

Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Share ways that your family is already a living sign of God's love and kindness.
- ▶ Jesus told people repeatedly about God's love for them. Look around your home for something that reminds you of God's love. Talk about what it tells you about God's love.

Our Spiritual Journey

Devotion to Mary is a hallmark of Catholic living. Mary is an exemplar of holiness and hope and a witness to faith. She is the Mother of Jesus and our mother, too. Include a devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, in the spiritual journey of your family. In this chapter, your child prayed part of the Angelus. This prayer was traditionally prayed three times a day. Read and pray together the prayer on page 75. Pray the Hail Mary as a family each day.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

BeMyDisciples.com

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Works of Mercy. Write a note to the parents of your second graders, encouraging them to look at BeMyDisciples.com and find the list of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. After discussing the lists, invite families to choose one practical way they can put one of the Works of Mercy into action. For example, each family can donate non-perishable foods to your parish pantry or, with your help in networking, several families can work together to prepare food baskets for parish families in need. Both of these activities are in response to Jesus' command to feed the hungry.

Enriching the Lesson

Literature Connection

Purpose

To reinforce the teaching about kindness (taught on pages 66–67)

Directions

Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco (Dragonfly Books, 1994) illustrates how kindness leads to friendship. This book describes the relationship between a young African-American and Mrs. Katz, a Jewish widow.

- ▶ Brainstorm with the students ways they could make someone who is lonely feel happy.
- ▶ Have the students listen for how Lionel makes Mrs. Katz happy as you read the story.
- ▶ In pairs, have the students retell all the acts of kindness they heard in the story.

Materials

Mrs. Katz and Tush, by Patricia Polacco

Pantomiming a Scripture Story

Purpose

To reinforce the students' understanding of Matthew 14:13–20 (taught on page 72)

Directions

- ▶ Involve the students in a Scripture pantomime of Matthew 14:13–20. The following will help you begin:

People followed Jesus from the towns.
(*Walk in place; put hand over eyes and point to someone up ahead.*)

As nighttime came, Jesus saw that people were hungry.
(*Raise arms above head and pull down the darkness; then hold stomach as if hungry.*)

The disciples had only two fish and five loaves of bread to feed all the people.
(*Raise two fingers, then five fingers on the other hand; point to people all around you.*)

- ▶ Divide the class into several groups and teach each group gestures for one part of the story. When the students are ready, place the groups in the correct sequence and have them pantomime the Scripture story as you read it aloud.

Materials

Bible

Making Headlines

Purpose

To reinforce the students' living of Jesus' teaching about God's mercy (taught on page 72)

Directions

- ▶ Brainstorm with the students ways that they show kindness to one another in the classroom. Tell them you will be observing the ways they care for others.
- ▶ As you observe the students showing care for one another, affirm those behaviors immediately and make a note of them.
- ▶ Start a mini-newspaper. Elicit the help of an aide or parent to type up the short descriptions of kindness you see in the students each week.
- ▶ Include the stories of kindness in the "newspaper" and send copies of the newspaper home with the students.

Materials

copies of children's newspaper for parents