

Contents

Welcome to Be My Disciples. 6

UNIT 1

We Believe, Part One 9

CHAPTER 1 Speak, Lord. 11

FAITH CONCEPTS: faith, Divine Revelation, plan of Salvation, *knowledge*

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:6; Psalm 148:3, 9–10, 13; 1 Samuel 3:9; John 3:16; James 1:22, 25

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Anselm of Canterbury

PRAYER: Act of Faith

CHAPTER 2 The Word of God 23

FAITH CONCEPTS: inspiration of the Bible, Gospel, *reverence*

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:39–41

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Jerome

PRAYER: Meditation

CHAPTER 3 The Holy Trinity. 35

FAITH CONCEPTS: the mystery of the Holy Trinity, Annunciation, Nicene Creed, *wonder and awe*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25:4–5; Matthew 28:19; John 14:26

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint John de Matha

PRAYER: Profession of Faith

CHAPTER 4 Great Is the Lord 47

FAITH CONCEPTS: attributes of God, Abba, Original Sin, *joy*

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 33:4; 99:3; Isaiah 6:3; 40; 49:15–16; 64:7; Matthew 6:9; 1 John 3:1; 4:16; Revelations 1:8; 15:3

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

PRAYER: Prayer of Praise

UNIT 1 Catholic Social Teaching 59

UNIT 1 Review 61

UNIT 2

We Believe, Part Two 63

CHAPTER 5 Jesus Christ, Son of God . . . 65

FAITH CONCEPTS: titles of Jesus, Second Person of the Trinity, Virgin Mary, *faithfulness*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:20–21; Luke 1:35; 2:10–11; 28:11; John 19:26–27

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saints Matthew and Luke, Evangelists

PRAYER: Prayer of Petition

CHAPTER 6 The Paschal Mystery. 77

FAITH CONCEPTS: Passover; the Paschal Mystery, eternal life, *hope*

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12:39; Luke 24:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:12–14, 19

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Veronica

PRAYER: The Exsultet

CHAPTER 7 Many Gifts, One Spirit . . . 89

FAITH CONCEPTS: the Advocate, charisms, Sacred Tradition, *courage*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:16–20; Luke 4:16–19; John 16:5–7; Acts 2:1–2, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; Galatians 5:22–23

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

PRAYER: Prayer for the Spread of the Gospel

CHAPTER 8 Thy Kingdom Come! . . . 101

FAITH CONCEPTS: the four Marks, the laity, the ordained, the faithful, life after death, *peace*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:17–19; 28:19; Mark 1:15; Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 27; 2 Peter 3:13; Ephesians 2:19–20; 4:4–6; 2 Timothy 1:9

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Blessed John Paul II

PRAYER: The Our Father

UNIT 2 Catholic Social Teaching 113

UNIT 2 Review 115

UNIT 3

We Worship, Part One 117

CHAPTER 9 Celebrating the Liturgy . . . 119

FAITH CONCEPTS: the liturgy, the liturgical year, the Seven Sacraments, *perseverance*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75:2; Matthew 28:20

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Blessed John XXIII

PRAYER: Prayer of Praise and Honor

CHAPTER 10 Joined to Christ 131

FAITH CONCEPTS: Christian Initiation, the Rite of Baptism, graces of Baptism, *generosity*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:5

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Nicodemus

PRAYER: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

CHAPTER 11 We Celebrate the Holy Spirit 143

FAITH CONCEPTS: Rite of Confirmation, laying on of hands, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, *understanding*

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16:12-13; Luke 4:18-19

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Missionaries

PRAYER: Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

CHAPTER 12 One Bread, One Cup . . . 155

FAITH CONCEPTS: The Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ, the Mass, *charity*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Óscar Romero

PRAYER: Praise the Gift of the Eucharist

UNIT 3 Catholic Social Teaching 167

UNIT 3 Review 169

UNIT 4

We Worship, Part Two 171

CHAPTER 13 Jesus Heals the Sinner . . 173

FAITH CONCEPTS: Sacraments of Healing, sin, Rite of Penance, *mercy*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:2-3; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:32-33; Luke 23:24; John 20:21-23

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Blessed Charles de Foucauld

PRAYER: Lord, Have Mercy

CHAPTER 14 Jesus Heals the Sick . . . 185

FAITH CONCEPTS: Jesus' healing, the Rite of Anointing, graces of the Sacrament, *kindness*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:5-8, 13; 9:2, 6-8; 9:27-31; John 9:2-3

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Blessed Frances Schervier

PRAYER: Prayer for the Sick

CHAPTER 15 The Sacrament of Holy Orders 197

FAITH CONCEPTS: Sacraments at the Service of Communion, Holy Orders, Rite of Ordination, *faith*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 3:12-15

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Joseph Maria Rubio y Peralta, SJ

PRAYER: Liturgy of the Word

CHAPTER 16 The Sacrament of Matrimony 209

FAITH CONCEPTS: vocation, the Rite of Marriage, domestic Church, *humility*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:28; 2:24; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saint Anne

PRAYER: A Family Blessing

UNIT 4 Catholic Social Teaching 221

UNIT 4 Review 223

UNIT 5

We Live, Part One 225

CHAPTER 17 Called to Holiness 227

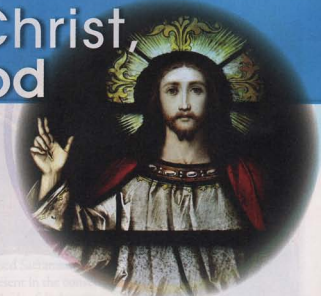
FAITH CONCEPTS: holiness, grace, mortal sin, venial sin, *goodness*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25:4-5; Matthew 5:14-16; John 15:9, 17; Ephesians 3:7-9; 1 Peter 1:15-16

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE: Saints Perpetua and Felicity

PRAYER: Praying a Psalm

CHAPTER 18 Making Moral Decisions	239	CHAPTER 23 Living a Just and Truthful Life	305
<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> free will, conscience, Cardinal Virtues, <i>prudence</i>		<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Commandments, <i>integrity</i>	
<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Psalm 25:4; Mark 14:72		<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Exodus 20:15–17; John 15:5, 11, 13–14; Ephesians 4:25	
<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Saint Catherine of Siena		<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Saint Stephen	
<i>PRAYER:</i> An Examination of Conscience		<i>PRAYER:</i> Psalm 19	
CHAPTER 19 Living the Covenant	251	CHAPTER 24 Lord, Teach Us to Pray	317
<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> Covenant, Ten Commandments, consecration, <i>obedience</i>		<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> the Lord's Prayer, <i>piety</i>	
<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Genesis 7:11–12; 8:21; 15:1–16; Exodus 3:6; Psalm 108:1–2; 117:2; Jeremiah 31:31–33; Matthew 5:17–18; 22:37; Galatians 3:29		<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Psalm 69:14; Matthew 6:9–13; John 17:20–22	
<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Abraham		<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Venerable Pierre Toussaint	
<i>PRAYER:</i> Prayer of Commitment		<i>PRAYER:</i> The Lord's Prayer	
CHAPTER 20 The Beatitudes	263	UNIT 6 Catholic Social Teaching	329
<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, Kingdom of God, <i>justice</i>		UNIT 6 Review	331
<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Matthew 5:3–12		We Celebrate the Church Year	333
<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Saint Damien de Veuster		Exaltation of the Holy Cross	335
<i>PRAYER:</i> Praying the Beatitudes		All Saints	337
UNIT 5 Catholic Social Teaching	275	Advent	339
UNIT 5 Review	277	Immaculate Conception	341
UNIT 6		Our Lady of Guadalupe	343
We Live, Part Two	279	Christmas	345
CHAPTER 21 Love of God	281	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	347
<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> First, Second, and Third Commandments, <i>meekness</i>		Epiphany of the Lord	349
<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Exodus 20:2–3, 7–8; Deuteronomy 6:1–3; Psalm 119:33–34		Ash Wednesday	351
<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> Moses		Lent	353
<i>PRAYER:</i> <i>Te Deum</i> ("You Are God")		Palm Sunday	355
CHAPTER 22 Love of Neighbor	293	Triduum/Holy Thursday	357
<i>FAITH CONCEPTS:</i> Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Commandments, <i>temperance</i>		Triduum/Good Friday	359
<i>SCRIPTURE:</i> Exodus 20:12–14, 17; Psalm 25:4		Triduum/Easter	361
<i>FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE:</i> The Good Samaritan		Ascension of the Lord	363
<i>PRAYER:</i> Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi		Pentecost Sunday	365
		Catholic Prayers and Practices	367
		We Celebrate the Mass	375
		Key Teachings of the Catholic Church	383
		Glossary	391
		Index	396
		Credits	398



BACKGROUND

Encounter with God

The Christian faith is about life—life in communion with the Trinity. By our Christian faith we encounter the living God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In faith we live our relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We respond in faith, hope, and love to Divine Revelation, made known to us most fully in the Person of Jesus Christ and in the saving events of his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

Image of the Invisible God

God is here with us. God is active in our midst. We manifest this truth to others by living our faith and showing the difference faith makes in our own lives and in the lives of all people. We need to boldly and courageously share our faith in Jesus Christ. By our words and actions we need to show that Jesus has touched and transformed our lives.

Jesus is the fullness of God's Revelation to us. All that we need in order to come to know and trust in the mystery of God's love, the message of Salvation, and the mission of the Church has been given to us in Jesus Christ. What is invisible is made visible in Christ. What is spiritual has been made flesh. What is utterly beyond us and almost incomprehensible is made appreciable and incarnated.

Those who knew the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus, during this earthly life and ministry, first encountered his humanity. Gradually he was revealed to be "God's Son." This revelation culminated in Jesus' Death, Resurrection, Ascension, and in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Only little by little did Jesus' first followers come to a full sense that he was truly Lord—a title in Scripture reserved for God alone.

The Life of Faith

God the Father has touched our lives and continues to touch our lives through his Incarnate Son. Through the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, we are saved from our sins. We receive the grace to be healed of what separates us from God and one another and to live in harmony and peace with God and all of creation.

Mary, Our Model

Mary is the single most stunning example of the transforming power of God touching human life. Mary is "full of grace." Uniquely transformed by grace, Mary was free from all sin from the moment of her conception and remained free from sin her entire life. Mary, the Mother of the Church, shows us the way to open our hearts and lives to the love of God.

For Reflection

What are some of the ways I encounter Jesus Christ being present in my life?

How can I share my faith in Jesus with the students?

Teacher to Teacher

The Mystery of Divine Love

The early Church hymn in Colossians 1:15-20 is a poetic expression of the apostolic faith in Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. Since the time of the Apostles, Christians have continued to express the Church's faith in Christ through music and art of all forms. The mystery of why God would take on flesh and become like us in all things except sin can only be explained by the Scripture verse, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). In Jesus we have "come to know and believe in the love God has for us" (1 John 4:16). Incorporating art and music activities in your classes help young people to express their growing awareness of their relationship to the mystery of God.

Expressing Our Faith and Love

There is much about this lesson that might cause the students to claim, "We already know that!" The truth is that the children can probably retell the Christmas story detail by detail. To hear the Good News of the Incarnation as if for the first time is a challenge. Here's a suggestion: try using artistic representations of the Nativity from a variety of cultures to reintroduce this essential part of our faith. The children might be amazed to see Mary and Jesus depicted with Japanese, Hispanic, Black, and other features than the common European features they are used to seeing.

Teacher Prayer

Jesus, you are
my Savior—willing to give
all so that I may live.
Amen.

The Church Teaches...

"Catechesis that is centered on Christ presents Christ first and presents everything else with reference to him, for he is the center of the Gospel message. . . . (Christ) is the point in salvation history toward which the created order proceeds from the beginning of time and the final event toward which it converges" (*National Directory for Catechesis* 25A).

Through living and sharing your faith in Jesus, you can help the students come to know the Lord, their Savior and Redeemer. Encourage them to read Scripture and learn more about Jesus this year.

Further Reading and Reflection

For more related teachings of the Catholic Church on the topic of this chapter, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 422-451, 456-478, 484-507, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 77-87.

Lesson Planner

Chapter 5 Jesus Christ, Son of God

Goal To learn more about Jesus, who is truly God and truly man

LESSON PART	PROCESS	MATERIALS and RESOURCES
DAY 1 EXPLORE Focus To explore the power of faith in Jesus Christ Pages 65–67	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Proclaim and discuss Matthew 1:20–21 (The angel appears to Joseph).▶ Discuss the story of the Madonna and Child in art. <p>Disciple Power: Faithfulness</p> <p>Activity: Reflect on depictions of the Madonna and Child in art.</p>	Bible Pencils
DAY 2 DISCOVER Focus To discover that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world Pages 68–69	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn about the significance of the titles for Jesus. <p>Faith Vocabulary: Christ, Lord</p> <p>Scripture Story: Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:18, 20–23).</p> <p>Faith-Filled People: Saint Matthew and Saint Luke</p> <p>Activity: Identify the titles for Jesus in a word puzzle.</p>	Index cards Pencils and paper
DAY 3 DISCOVER Focus To discover how the titles of Jesus express our faith about who Jesus is Pages 70–71	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Learn about the Incarnation. <p>Scripture: the angel Gabriel's message (Luke 1:35); A savior has been born (Luke 2:11).</p> <p>Catholics Believe: Christmas custom</p> <p>Faith Vocabulary: Incarnation</p> <p>Activity: Decode a message</p>	Pencils
DAY 4 DECIDE Focus To choose a way to faithfully follow Jesus Christ Pages 72–73	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Appreciate Mary as our Blessed Mother and Mother of the Church. <p>Scripture: Behold your son (John 19:26–27).</p> <p>Activity: Design a Web page that tells others about Jesus Christ.</p> <p>My Faith Choice: Choose a way to share faith in Jesus with others.</p>	Additional Activities Booklet: Activities 5a–5b or see <i>BeMyDisciples.com</i>
DAY 5 CONCLUDE Focus To pray a prayer of petition Pages 74–76	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ REVIEW Review concepts: Recall, Reflect, and Share.▶ PRAY Jesus' Holy Name▶ Preview the With My Family page and the theme of the next chapter.	Bible, candle, cross for prayer space, pencils Grade 5 Music CD
		Assessment Tools Booklet: Assessments 5a and 5b

Assign online Chapter Review and interactive Chapter Test at

BeMyDisciples.com

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



EXPLORE how oft can express belief in Christ.



DISCOVER what Jesus' name and titles reveal about Him.



GLORIFY how you will show others that you believe in Jesus.

CHAPTER

5

Jesus Christ, Son of God

- 2 How was your name chosen? What do you know about the meaning of your name?

Names are very important. They can tell us many things about a person. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we hear the story of an angel announcing the Savior's birth and revealing that he is to be given the name Jesus.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name Him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

- 2 What do you think the name *Jesus* means?

65

TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Moral Formation. During this chapter, as you discuss the meaning of the Incarnation, emphasize that this Church teaching tells us that Jesus "put on flesh" or became fully human without giving up being fully God. To illustrate this teaching, invite the students to "put on Jesus." Arrange in advance for them to bring white T-shirts to class. Have them use fabric markers and fabric paints to draw symbols of Jesus. Be sure they add special qualities of Jesus that they want to emulate. As the students work, encourage them to give specific examples of what it means to "put on" Christ. Help them to understand that Jesus' disciples try their best to follow Jesus' teachings in their words and actions. Have them wear the completed T-shirts as a sign of Jesus' presence with them.

Pray

- ▶ Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer.
- ▶ Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Pray the following:

"Lord, God our Father, may we who honor the holy name of Jesus, your Son, enjoy his friendship both in this life and in his kingdom forever. Amen."

Reflect

- ▶ Ask the group to respond to the opening questions. Summarize the introductory paragraph for the young people.
- ▶ Select a volunteer to proclaim Matthew 1:20-21.
- ▶ Ask the group what they think the name *Jesus* means.
- ▶ As the group responds, write their responses on the board without comment. Let them know that they will read about the name of Jesus later in the lesson.

Focus

- ▶ Invite a volunteer to read the different points in Looking Ahead to see what the lesson will cover.
- ▶ Tell the class that they will now read about how some people show their belief in Jesus and his mother, Mary.

Introduce

- ▶ Share with the students that from the earliest days, Christian artists from a diversity of cultures have created images of Mary and Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud or paraphrase *Madonna and Child*.
- ▶ Tell the students that art is one way people can express their faith. Give the students time to look at the art on pages 65–66 and comment on it.
- ▶ Read the discussion question aloud and encourage the students to express their ideas.



Disciple Power

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are twelve signs that we are cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit. When we are faithful, we live according to God's will. We put into practice the teachings of Jesus, the Scriptures, and the Catholic Church.



THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

Madonna and Child

From the beginning of the Church, Christian artists have expressed the Church's devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, through art. They have done this in many ways. They have created paintings, icons, mosaics, frescoes, sculpture and wood carvings.

The Christian devotion to Mary and her son, Jesus, is often expressed through the portrayal of Mary holding the Christ Child. These works of art are called "Madonna and Child." The word *madonna* means "my lady."

Mary Trusted God

God asked Mary to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. Mary trusted in God and said yes to his will with her whole heart. Mary is our model of a faithful disciple. She teaches us to love and obey God and to trust in his will for our lives. When we see the image of Madonna and child, we are reminded of Mary's love and faithfulness.

- 2 What are some of the qualities of Mary that you see in this art?



DISCIPLE POWER

Faithfulness. The gift of faithfulness helps us to live according to God's plan for us. Explain that when we say that God is faithful, we mean that God will never fail us. God is always with us, loving and caring for us. In turn, God asks us to be faithful to him. Help the students better understand this concept by asking them to think of someone they consider to be a good friend. Discuss the qualities they look for in a friend. Invite them to identify ways in which friends show their faithfulness. Conclude by reinforcing how Mary showed her faithfulness to God.

We Honor Mary

In the United States, where Mary is the patron Saint, she is called Mary, the Immaculate Conception. In Washington, D.C., the Church built a basilica to honor Mary. A basilica is a special type of church. This church is called the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This national shrine is the largest Roman Catholic church in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

2 In what ways do you show that Mary is important in your life?

Activity Look at the art of the Madonna and Child. Share what you tell you about the faith of people in Mary and her Child. Check the one you like best. Write a few sentences to explain what it tells you about Mary.

67

TEACHING TIP

Sister Wendy. A Carmelite nun by the name of Sister Wendy Beckett did a lot to make fine art understandable to young people and adults. She was born in South Africa and raised in Scotland. Sister Wendy left her work of teaching and became a contemplative nun. She has written numerous books about art for both adults and children. She also hosted several television series on art in England and in the United States. You might show the class a copy of one of her books, *Sister Wendy's A Child's Book of Prayer in Art* (DK Publishing 1995). Her reflections on the paintings will help the students see art masterpieces as meditations on our relationship with God.

- ▶ Have a volunteer read aloud the remaining paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud the Disciple Power feature, emphasizing that Mary is a perfect example of faithfulness.
- ▶ Have a volunteer read aloud the discussion question. As the students suggest their answers, list their responses on the board. Take a moment to summarize how the students see Mary as a person through their description of her qualities.

Reinforce

- ▶ Invite the students to complete the activity by checking the image they like the best.
- ▶ Summarize the virtue of faithfulness for the group, and discuss how faithfulness is demonstrated in Christian art.

Connect

Point out to the students that art from different cultures expresses the faith of the Church and inspires people to grow in their love of God. Invite the students to share their thoughts about the artwork on page 66, such as which image expresses faithfulness best.

Pray

Have the students pray the Hail Mary together.

- ▶ Ask volunteers to share the titles they use for lessons when they pray.
- ▶ Invite a volunteer to read about Christmas Customs in Catholics Believe.

Pray

Have the students prepare themselves for prayer by being quiet. Pray aloud Isaiah 7:14.

Key Concept

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Lord and Savior of the world.

Pray

Select a student to read aloud Psalm 9:2 for prayer.

Teach

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Focus question. Point out to the students that these pages will explain why Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary.
- ▶ Ask the class to silently read the text.
- ▶ Have the students underline the meaning of the name *Jesus*.
- ▶ Read aloud the discussion question. Encourage the students to describe what they think it means that Jesus is the Savior.

FAITH FOCUS

What does it mean that Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Mary?

FAITH VOCABULARY**Christ**

A title for Jesus that states that he is the Messiah, the One whom God promised to send to save his people.

Lord

A title for Jesus that states that Jesus is truly God.

Son of God, Son of Mary

In Matthew's Gospel we are told that an angel appeared to Joseph, telling him that Mary would give birth to a son whom he was to name Jesus.

Now this is how the birth of the Jesus Christ came about. [B]ehold, the angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream and said, "Joseph, ... it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:18, 20-23

In the Bible, a person's name often describes the role they play in God's plan of Salvation. The Hebrew name for *Jesus* means "God saves." The very name of Jesus reveals that he is the Savior of the world. All of God's promises in the Bible come true in Jesus. Jesus is the center and heart of God's loving plan of Salvation. **Jesus Christ** is the Messiah, the Lord and the Savior of the world.

An illustration of the birth of Jesus from an Asian perspective



2 What does Jesus' name reveal about him?

TEACHING TIP

Group Activity. Here is another way to process the content on these pages. Divide the class into four groups and assign each group one of the names of Jesus: *Jesus*, *Messiah*, *Christ*, and *Lord*. Have the students design a business (or name) card for Jesus on a 3" x 5" card, using the title assigned to the group. Tell the students that a business card gives a name and then a brief (sometimes clever or catchy) description of what the name means. Have each group share their business card with the class. Display them in the class prayer space.

Titles for Jesus

There are also several important titles for Jesus used in the Gospels and by the Church. These express the faith of the Church in who Jesus is and the work the Father sent him to do. Three of these titles are Messiah, Christ, and Lord.

Messiah. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send a messiah. The title messiah means "anointed one." The messiah would be a king who would save, or deliver, God's people from their enemies.

Christ. The English word Christ is used for the Hebrew word messiah and for the Greek word *kristos*. Jesus is the Christ—the Messiah or Anointed One.

Lord. The Israelites used the word *Lord* for God in place of the name *YHWH*. The letters *YHWH* of the Hebrew alphabet are the letters of the name by which God identified himself to Moses (read Exodus 3:11–15). When we call Jesus "Lord," we are professing the faith of the Church, that Jesus Christ is truly God. He is the Son of God, the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus is true God and true man.

Catholics Believe



Christmas Customs

Catholics all over the world express their faith in the incarnation in different ways. In Brazil, families create a *Presépio*, or a manger scene. In Mexico, *Las Posadas*, which begins on December 16, re-enacts the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter. Christians in Uganda greet one another, saying, *Atuzaniwani*, or "He is born born for us."

Key Concept

Jesus' titles express the faith of the Church.

Teach

- Write the three titles on the board and ask the volunteers to call out definitions for each. Point out the similarities between the titles Messiah and Christ. Remind the young people that the title of Lord professes the faith of the Church that Jesus is truly God.
- Ask each student to work with a partner, and assign each pair one of the titles for Jesus. Ask them to determine what each title means.
- Ask volunteers to read aloud the definitions of the words in Faith Vocabulary.

Reinforce

- Invite the students to complete the word activity. Review the answers with them when they are done.
- Distribute index cards and have the students create word cards for *Christ* and *Lord*.

Connect

- Have the students describe how the titles for Jesus help us come to know him. (*The titles of Jesus tell us who Jesus is and the work his Father sent him to do.*)
- Ask volunteers to share the titles they use for Jesus when they pray.
- Invite a volunteer to read about Christmas Customs in Catholics Believe.

Pray

Have the students prepare themselves for prayer by being quiet. Pray aloud Isaiah 7:14.

Activity Titles for Jesus

Jesus is the Savior and Lord. He is the Christ, the Messiah promised by God. Solve this crossword puzzle to find out more about Jesus.

DOWN

- _____ created us.
- The Risen Jesus appeared to the _____.
- _____ is the _____, the Anointed One.
- _____ is true God and true man.

ACROSS

- _____ is a title that expresses our belief that Jesus is truly God.
- Jesus is both God and _____.
- To have faith is to _____.
- Jesus is our _____ because he saves us from sin.



SACRED TRADITION

Biblical Names. In the Old Testament, Hebrew names often had significance in describing a person's role in God's plan. Share the meanings of biblical names with the class. You can find the meanings of many biblical names in a Bible dictionary or in the footnotes on the pages of your Bible. Here are the meanings of the names of some well-known figures in the Bible:

Adam: "man"	Abraham: "the father (God) is exalted"
Sarah: "princess"	Moses: "is born"
Joseph: "let him gather"	Esther: "star"
David: "beloved"	Martha: "lady"

Key Concept

The Church names the mystery of the Son of God becoming man the Incarnation.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer and pray Matthew 16:15–16.

Teach

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Focus and remind the students that it will tell them what they will learn in the session.
- ▶ Remind the students that the name *Jesus* means “God saves.”
- ▶ Have volunteers read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Tell the students to underline the most important faith statement in each paragraph and to give reasons for their choice.
- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read Luke 1:35. Explain that the Church refers to this event as the Annunciation because the angel Gabriel, “announced” to Mary that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus.
- ▶ Invite a volunteer to read Luke 2:10–11. Then ask the students to read the verse in unison.
- ▶ Read aloud the discussion question. Accept reasonable responses, but encourage the students to recall that Jesus’ titles tell us that he is the Savior.

FAITH FOCUS

What is the meaning of the Incarnation?

FAITH VOCABULARY

Incarnation
From the Latin word meaning “putting on flesh,” to have a real body: the Son of God “putting on flesh,” or becoming man, while keeping his divinity.

The Annunciation

The announcement of the coming birth of Jesus was a special moment in the life of the Virgin Mary. We call this moment in the life of Mary the Annunciation.

The angel Gabriel brought Mary a message telling her that God had chosen her to be the mother of his Son. Gabriel said to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son and name him Jesus. When Mary asked how that was possible because she was a virgin, Gabriel replied,

“The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

After the birth of Jesus, Luke’s Gospel tells us that an angel of God appeared to shepherds, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus’ birth. The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”

Luke 2:10–11

- ❓ Why did the Son of God become one of us?



Annunciation.
William Brassey Hole,
(1846–1917)

TEACHING TIP

Art Activity. Bring different types of hats to the class. For example a baseball cap, cowboy hat, visors, football or a fireman helmet, a sun hat, and so on. . . . Put one on at a time and help the young people understand that what we wear or “put on” helps others to know who we are. For your last two hats put on a crown of thorns and a king’s crown to help the group see Jesus as our Savior and King.

The Incarnation

The Church names the mystery of the Son of God becoming man the **Incarnation**. The word *incarnation* means "putting on flesh." This word names our belief that the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, became fully human without giving up being fully God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

Each year during the Christmas season, we remember and celebrate this great mystery of faith. From the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) to the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, churches, homes, and communities are filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas joy. The story of the birth of Christ is told through the whole world. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Messiah, the Savior of the world.

- 2 How would you explain the meaning of the Incarnation? Tell a classmate.

Faith-Filled People

Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Evangelists

Matthew was a tax collector and one of the first Twelve Apostles. Luke was a physician and a companion of Paul the Apostle. It is only in the Gospel of Matthew and in the Gospel of Luke that we read the account of the birth of Jesus.

Activity Complete the sentences below. Then decode the secret message.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
m y s t e r f u l h a n p g o d

The Incarnation is the m y s t e r y
1 2 3 4 5 6 2

of the Son of God becoming f u l l y
h u m a n
10 8 1 11 12

Without giving u p being fully G o d
8 13 14 15 16

Decode the Secret Message

P r o c l a i m y o u r
13 6 15 9 11 1 2 15 8 6

f a i t h
7 11 4 10

71

Key Concept

Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read the Faith Focus.
- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Vocabulary and ask the students to pay attention to this word in the reading.
- ▶ Have the students silently read the two paragraphs.

Reinforce

- ▶ Remind the students that the truth that Jesus Christ is true God and true man is central to our faith.
- ▶ Brainstorm how Mary and the shepherds must have felt about the messages they heard from the angels.
- ▶ Distribute index cards and have the students create a word card for *Incarnation*.

Connect

- ▶ Have the students complete the activity and share their responses.
- ▶ Point out the Faith-Filled People feature.

Pray

Gather the class for prayer and ask a volunteer to pray aloud Luke 1:35. Begin and end prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

FAITH-FILLED PEOPLE

Saint Matthew and Saint Luke. The Gospel accounts according to Matthew and Luke include information about Jesus' infancy and childhood. Matthew's Gospel shows how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies, especially those of Isaiah. He also includes Jesus' genealogy, which is read during Advent. Luke's Gospel makes a special effort to show the extent of Jesus' outreach of welcoming all people, including those on the fringe of society. Luke wants all people to discover the joy of being welcomed and accepted by God—and to take up the challenge of becoming disciples of Jesus. Saint Matthew's feast day is celebrated on September 21; Saint Luke's is on October 18. For more information on these two evangelists, go to the Saints Resource at BeMyDisciples.com.

Key Concept

Mary is the Mother of God.

Pray

Invite them to quiet themselves for prayer. Then read aloud Luke 2:51.

Teach

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Focus.
- ▶ Remind the students that Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
- ▶ Divide the class into four groups.
- ▶ Assign one of the four paragraphs to each group and have the groups silently read the section.
- ▶ Have each group present what it learned to the entire class and clarify if necessary.

Reinforce

Emphasize that Mary is the Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus, who is true God and true man. She is the mother of us all because Jesus gave her this special role.

Connect

- ▶ Help the students understand that we can show our love for Mary by praying to her, by asking her for help, and by following her example of listening to God and doing his will.
- ▶ Ask volunteers to share one new way they could show their love for Mary.

FAITH FOCUS

Why do we call Mary the Mother of God?

Mother of God, Mother of All

The four Gospel accounts do not tell us much about the childhood of Jesus. His life was probably very much like the lives of other Jewish children in Nazareth. Mary and Joseph shared the faith of the Jewish people with Jesus. They taught him the customs and practices of their religion.

Mary is truly the Mother of God because Jesus is true God and true man. We remember and celebrate this truth about Mary each year on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This feast of Mary is a holy day of obligation for Catholics in the United States of America.

Mary is our Blessed Mother. She is the Mother of the Church. When Jesus was crucified, Mary, several other women disciples, and John were there with him.

As he was dying on the Cross, Jesus said to Mary,

"Woman, behold your son." Then he said to John, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

John 19:26-27

The Church, from the very beginning understood in these words that Mary is our mother, the mother of all Jesus' disciples, the Mother of the Church. We too are called to take Mary, our mother, into our homes and into our hearts as the disciple John did. We trust that Mary cares for us and wants us to grow closer to her son, Jesus.

- 2 How do Catholics show their devotion to Mary? How can you show Mary your love for her?



Mary and the Child Jesus, an icon at the Church of Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem, Israel

HUMAN METHODOLOGIES

Learning by Heart. The *National Directory for Catechesis* states that memorization "contributes to the individual's continued growth in understanding and living the faith" (29f). This would be a good time to review with the students how to pray the Rosary. You will find a simple explanation on page 372 of the student text. Remind them that to pray the Rosary they need to know certain prayers by heart. You might also review the Joyful Mysteries, several of which are treated in this chapter. Remind the students that the Joyful Mysteries relate to the birth and childhood of Jesus.

I FOLLOW JESUS

Each year the Church celebrates the events of Jesus' life. You can celebrate God's love for you, for your family, and for all people. The Holy Spirit invites you to celebrate that love through living a life of faithfulness and sharing your faith in Jesus with others each and every day.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Create a Web home page. Use words, pictures, or symbols that tell others about your faith in Jesus Christ.

MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will show that I am faithful to Jesus. I will _____



Pray, "Heavenly Father, help me to become a more faithful follower of your only Son, Jesus, my Lord and Savior. Amen."

73

TEACHING TIP

Imagining a Parish Banner. Divide the class into several small groups and provide each group with blank paper and fine-line markers. Ask the groups to imagine that they have been given the responsibility of creating a banner for the church sanctuary that illustrates the theme of this chapter: Jesus Christ, Son of God. Encourage them to include symbols on their Imaginary Web page that represent the titles we use to identify Jesus. Have them use the paper to sketch out their ideas. Afterward, ask each group to describe to the class the banner it would create.

Reinforce

Share with the students that at Christmas, when we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, we celebrate God's love for us.

Respond

- ▶ Brainstorm words and symbols the group can use to tell others about their faith in Jesus Christ. List the words and symbols on the board.
- ▶ Give the young people time to complete the Sharing the Good News activity.
- ▶ Allow time for everyone to share their web page designs.

Choose

- ▶ Invite the students to reflect on the My Faith Choice section.
- ▶ After a moment of prayerful reflection, have the students write their choices on the lines provided.
- ▶ Encourage the young people to put their choices into practice this week.

Pray

Allow a moment for the students to pray to God to become faithful followers of Christ.

Pray

Invite the students to proclaim the Glory Be together to begin class.

Recall

- ▶ Have the students identify three important main ideas from the lesson and compare them with the To Help You Remember statements.
- ▶ Have the students work with partners to complete the first part of the Chapter Review activity. When everyone has completed the activity, have volunteers share their responses with the entire class.

Reflect

Give the students time to respond to the Reflect question. When they are done, have one or two volunteers share their responses.

Share

- ▶ Assign the students partners to work with for the Share section of the Chapter Review. Encourage them to recall as much as they can about who Jesus really is.
- ▶ Conclude by asking: What is the most important lesson you learned in this lesson? Why is it the most important?
- ▶ Encourage the students to follow through with their faith choices this week.

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.
2. Jesus Christ is Lord. He is true God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who became true man without giving up being God.
3. The Virgin Mary is the Mother of God.

Chapter Review**Recall**

Write the title of Jesus next to its meaning.

Jesus	Christ	Lord	Messiah	Savior
Meaning				Title
1. Anointed One				Christ
2. Truly God				Lord
3. God Saves				Savior

Complete the following sentences.

4. Christ was called the Messiah who would save God's people.
5. Jesus' name means that he is the Savior of the world.

Reflect

Why do we call Mary the "Mother of God" when she is the Mother of Jesus?

Share

Describe the meaning of the word *Incarnation* with a partner. Share your thoughts with the class.

74

TEACHING TIP

Art Activity. As an alternate review activity, distribute drawing paper and markers to the students. Have them turn to page 69 in their books to the "Titles for Jesus." Challenge the young people to create a simple graphic organizer for these titles. Instruct them to draw a circle in the middle of the page and write the name Jesus in the circle. Then have the students show the connection between the name Jesus and Jesus' titles by drawing connecting circles or lines or in some other way adding the titles.

Jesus' Holy Name

Pray this prayer of petition from the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus. In this kind of prayer, we ask, or petition, God for his grace to live a life of faithfulness to him.

Leader: God, our loving Father, out of your love and mercy, you sent us your only Son. Send the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith in him.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Reader: Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born who is Messiah and Lord."

Luk 2:8-11

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Let us ask Jesus to help us know him better.
Jesus, Son of the living God.

All: **have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,

All: **have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd,

All: **have mercy on us.
Amen.**

LITURGY CONNECTION

Litanies. The litany is a form of prayer in which a leader offers a series of invocations, alternating with responses recited by the assembly. Litanies are sometimes prayed as a part of the celebration of certain feasts, in other liturgical gatherings, and as part of personal prayer. For example, the Litany of the Saints is sung or recited at the Easter Vigil/Mass. Since the form of the litany is simple, it is an easy form of prayer for young people to learn and pray. Mention other litanies such as the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus used in this lesson or the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We Pray

- ▶ Explain to the class that the prayer for this session is a litany. Explain that a litany is a type of prayer in which we repeat certain phrases, such as the titles for Jesus. There are litanies to Mary and to the Saints. Point out that in this litany we petition Jesus for the gift of divine mercy.
- ▶ Gather the students for prayer in the prayer space.
- ▶ Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Serve as the leader and pray together Jesus' Holy Name.
- ▶ End with the Sign of the Cross.

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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.

What have I learned about the students' knowledge of Jesus as true God and true man?

With My Family

This Week . . .

- ▶ In **Chapter 5**, "Jesus Christ, Son of God," your child learned:
 - ▶ The name "Jesus" means "God saves." It reveals to us that Jesus is truly the Savior of the world.
 - ▶ Titles for Jesus, such as Christ, Lord, and Messiah help us understand who Jesus is and the work God the Father sent him to do.
 - ▶ The mystery of the Son of God becoming fully human while remaining fully God is called the Incarnation.
 - ▶ Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is truly the Mother of God because Jesus is the Son of God.
 - ▶ Faithfulness is a quality that shows that we are cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 422-451, 456-478, 484-507, and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 77-87.

Sharing God's Word

Read together the Bible story about the birth of Jesus at the beginning of the Gospel according to Matthew and the Gospel according to Luke. Emphasize what the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth tell us about who he is and the work he was sent to do.

We 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.
 - ▶ The angel Gabriel told Mary to name her child Jesus. Names are very important. Talk about how each family member's name was chosen.

- ▶ Jesus showed his love for his mother. It's very important to show our love for family members. Be sure to do special things this week to show your love for one another.

Our Spiritual Journey

Showing reverence for the name of Jesus is an expression of our faith in him, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Bowing our heads slightly when we speak or hear the name "Jesus" is a long tradition of the Church. Encourage one another to use this expression of reverence and faith when you speak or hear the name "Jesus." In this chapter, your child prayed a prayer of petition. Read and pray together this prayer on page 75.



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

BeMyDisciples.com

TEACHING TIP

Jesus' Family Album. Emphasize the reality of the Incarnation by challenging the students to create a family album for Jesus. Distribute two sheets of paper to each student and instruct them to fold them in half to make a booklet. Have available markers or crayons. Have the young people create a family album for Jesus by drawing pictures of scenes of Jesus' life on Earth. Encourage the students to use their creativity to depict these scenes. They might include a drawing of the Magi posing in the stable as if for a photograph with Mary and Joseph, for example. When the albums are finished, invite the students to take them home and share them with their own families.

Enriching the Lesson

Make Acrostics

Purpose

To reinforce that the titles for Jesus express the faith of the Church (taught on page 69)

Directions

- ▶ Direct the students to write acrostics for one of Jesus' titles.
- ▶ Have the students work with partners to choose and write a title for Jesus vertically on a piece of paper. Using the letters in the title, have partners write a word or phrase that helps explain what the title for Jesus means. For example: for the a Messiah they might write "Anointed One."
- ▶ Have the partners share their acrostics with the entire class.

Materials

paper
pens or pencils

Making Bookmarks

Purpose

To reinforce that the Church names the mystery of the Son of God becoming man, the Incarnation (taught on page 70)

Directions

- ▶ Invite the young people to use religious Christmas cards to make bookmarks.
- ▶ Have the students cut out the Christmas scenes and mount them on pieces of card-size tagboard. Have the young people trim the tagboard so that there is only a small border around the artwork.
- ▶ On the back of each card have the students write a message that summarizes the Incarnation. For example, "Jesus is God's Son." "His Mother is Mary."
- ▶ Arrange to laminate the bookmarks and have the students use these bookmarks during the Advent season as gifts for their families or for children making their first Holy Communion this year.

Materials

religious Christmas cards
scissors and glue sticks
tagboard
markers and crayons

Creating a Time Line

Purpose

To reinforce the events in the life of Jesus (taught on page 70)

Directions

- ▶ Have the students begin to create timelines for the key events in the life of Jesus.
- ▶ In small groups, have the students begin timelines of the earthly life of Jesus beginning with the Annunciation.
- ▶ Each time the students learn something new about the earthly life of Jesus, have them add that event to their timelines.

Materials

white shelf paper
cardboard paper
towel tubes for storing
timelines
markers or crayons