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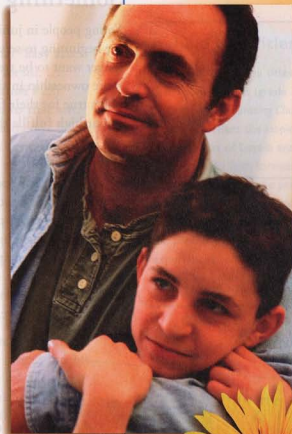
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Jesus, Our Hope



JESUS WAS HERE

✚ Visiting historic locations can be fascinating, especially when we pause to realize that a great person was once present where we are now standing. As we look back throughout Church history, we can see where and how Jesus was present to his people. Since Jesus is always present to his Church, we can see how his presence left his mark on men and women of every generation who sought to follow him. Here is a brief summary of how the Church has come to know and to speak about the presence of Jesus over the past 2,000 years.

THE APOSTOLIC AGE AND THE EARLY CHURCH

The risen Jesus had a profound impact on the life of a Jewish man named Saul in the first century. In the Acts of the Apostles 8:1–3, we learn that Saul, a Pharisee, was on a mission to rid the Jewish faith of anyone who claimed to be a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. Saul encountered the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, and his life was never the same. Going by his Roman name, Paul, he courageously and enthusiastically traveled thousands of miles to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Jesus, Our Hope

Jesus Was Here

This unit begins with an overview of how the Church, throughout history, has come to know and speak about Jesus, who is our hope.

Option A

Invite the young people to imagine that they are about to enter a time machine by which they will encounter people and events in one of five time periods in Church history.

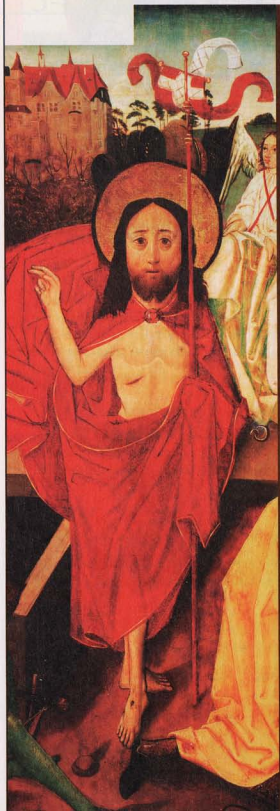
Distribute the Church history grids that the young people prepared as part of the opening activity for Unit 1. If you are beginning with this unit, see page 9 for directions for creating this grid.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the introductory paragraph. Then arrange the young people in five groups and assign each group one of the five time periods. Have them read about their assigned time period and then prepare a brief summary.

Ask each group to present their summary to the entire group and direct the young people to fill in their grids with the name of the event or person highlighted in each time period for Unit 2. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the concluding paragraph.

Have the young people write their names on their papers. Collect the papers and keep them for future units.

(continued on page 64)



Direct the young people to turn to the Church History Timeline on pages 318 and 319 and have them locate the time period during which the persons or events reported on are situated.

Proceed with the Engage step on page 65.

Option B

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Tell the young people that the Church, throughout history, has come to know and speak about Jesus, who is our hope.

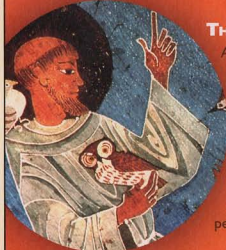
Invite each of five volunteers to read aloud one of the five paragraphs describing people and events throughout Church history. Ask others to summarize the paragraphs. Have a volunteer read aloud the concluding paragraph.

Direct the young people to turn to the Church History Timeline on pages 318 and 319 and have them locate the time period during which those persons or events are situated.

Proceed with the Engage step on page 65.

THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

As people continued to encounter Jesus through the early Middle Ages, they struggled to find the right words to speak about him. In order to find the right words to talk about Jesus, the Church had a series of councils between 325 and 681. The Council of Nicea in 325 taught that Jesus was truly God and truly man. The Second Council of Constantinople in 381 taught that Jesus, while retaining his divinity, became a full human. The Council of Ephesus in 431 declared that Mary is the Mother of God. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 proclaimed that Jesus had a divine and human nature. Thanks to these Church councils, we have the words we need to describe our understanding of Jesus.



THE MIDDLE AGES

After the Roman empire collapsed, people endured great hardship. Saint Francis of Assisi taught people to once again look to the example of Jesus, especially his death on the cross, in order to understand the role of suffering in our lives. He established a religious community that focused on life not in a monastery, but in the cities and villages, where people were struggling with everyday life.

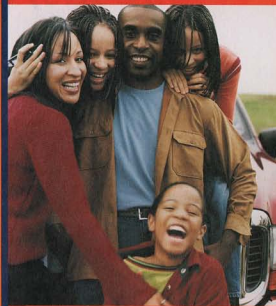
THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

With the discovery of the "New World," the Church dedicated great amounts of energy and resources to spreading the Good News. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, new religious orders were established with a commitment to missionary activity. Among these orders was the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits—founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

MODERN TIMES

At the Second Vatican Council (1963–65), the Church issued decrees calling for greater attention to evangelization—bringing the Good News to all people. In 1976, Pope Paul VI issued a document called *On Evangelization in the Modern World* in which he taught that the Church exists in order to evangelize. In his 1990 letter *Mission of the Redeemer*, Pope John Paul II called for a "new evangelization" so that the message of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed again to all cultures.

JESUS NEVER CHANGES



As we grow older, our understanding of our parents changes. During our infancy, we look to parents as people who respond to and fulfill all of our needs. During our childhood, we may see our parents as establishing and enforcing rules. When we become adults, we may see our parents as close friends. In a similar way, the Church's understanding of Jesus, who is with us always, has grown. From the experiences of men and women throughout the ages who have encountered the risen Christ, we too can come to know and understand Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Chapter 1: Getting to Know Jesus

3-Minute Retreat

As you begin to prepare this session, pause for a moment. Take several deep breaths and allow yourself to grow still. Be aware of God's loving presence within you.

John 15:12

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

Reflection

How very familiar to us are those words of Jesus! Perhaps they are so familiar that they have lost their meaning. Those words are grounded in Jesus' union with the Father and his relationship with the disciples. Jesus loved his disciples with the same love he experienced from the Father. To love as we are loved, while crystal clear to Jesus, can at times be vague to us.

We can love others because we have first been loved by God. It's one thing to know that in our heads. It's quite another thing to be convinced of it in our hearts. The key is to make time in our busy lives to stop and allow God to love us, to actually experience God's love for us personally. Loving others will flow naturally from our deep belief in God's personal love for us.

Questions

How can I allow myself to experience God's love today?

Is my experience of God more in my head or in my heart?

How might I begin to merge both ways of experiencing God?

Prayer

Speak to God, using these words or a prayer of your own.

Loving and gracious God, thank you for the love that you poured out on us in giving us your Son, Jesus. Help me to deepen my awareness of your love and to share it with those I meet.



*Love one another
as I love you.*

Knowing and Sharing Your Faith

Use the following background information on *Scripture and Catholic Tradition* to deepen your understanding of the content of this chapter.

Scripture and Tradition in Chapter I

The New Testament and our Catholic Tradition present us with many ways to talk about who Jesus is. Jesus is Son, which means he has a unique and eternal relationship with God, his Father. Jesus is Lord. He is God like the Father. Jesus is not only truly God; he is truly man. The mystery of the divine and human natures in the one Divine person of Jesus Christ is called the Incarnation. In Jesus' life, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, all of God's revelation reached its fullness.

Our limited language can never exhaust the mystery of God. Jesus, however, can help us deepen our personal relationship with God because he is God as well as one of us. We can begin to know God by looking at all that he created. All creatures bear some resemblance to God, their Creator, especially human beings who are created in God's image and likeness. The Church teaches that we should look upon every person, without exception, as another self. Because we are not born with everything we need for developing our physical and spiritual life, we need to receive the things we lack from others and to share our talents with them. We need each other. Our differences should not keep us apart but direct us to love each other. We all share an equal dignity as human beings. This requires that we work to reduce social and economic inequalities between us. Although loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves may seem difficult, we believe that what God tells us to do, he makes possible by his grace.

Scripture in Chapter I

Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19 tells the story of the conversion of Saint Paul. In *John 15:17*, Jesus tells the disciples his one command: love one another.

Catholic Social Teaching in Chapter I

Jesus told us to love one another. Love, or charity, is to be the distinguishing mark of Jesus' disciples. That is why Catholic Social Teaching links charity with solidarity. In solidarity we express our belief that, because we are so united with every human being, everyone is our neighbor in whom we see Christ. Even an enemy is our neighbor and should be loved with the same love that Jesus has for him or her.

WINDOW ON THE CATECHISM

The various titles that describe who Jesus is can be found in CCC 430–451. Ways of coming to know God and to speak about him can be found in CCC 31–43. The call for social justice based on the equality of all human beings is found in CCC 1928–1942.

GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

Catechesis as bringing us into communion with God and Jesus is found in GDC 143. The relationship between catechesis and the equality of all human beings is found in GDC 18 and 19.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

Catechesis as bringing us into communion with God and Jesus is found in NDC 19:B. The relationship between catechesis and the meaning of the human person is found in NDC 25:H.

*Jesus told us to
love one another.*

For Your Information

Following is background information for the content on the pages indicated.

The Four Gospels (pages 66–68)

Gospel means “good news.” The four Gospels present God’s saving action in Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Mark was written in Rome before the year 70. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke were written in the 80s and 90s and drew from the Gospel of Mark. They contain a common group of sayings of Jesus as well as material that is specific to them individually. The Gospel of John was written in its final form about the year 100. It is based on different traditions about the life of Jesus. Although each Gospel tells the good news from its own specific perspective, together they present the story of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Conversion (page 67)

In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus’ first words as he begins his ministry are “Be converted.” We usually translate the Greek word that the Evangelists used as “repent.” It means “turn your mind around,” which is the meaning of conversion. Conversion is a turning around and a returning to God and his loving friendship. Grace and conversion are intimately related. We could not turn around if God did not offer us mercy through his grace. But we can only turn around by admitting our sinfulness and repenting for all of the ways we have separated ourselves from God and our neighbors. Some people may experience a dramatic moment like Saint Paul when their life is turned around. For most of us, conversion is not so dramatic. But for all of us, conversion is never over. We constantly need to be turning toward God. Fortunately God’s grace is always there to help us.

The Incarnation (page 68)

Throughout the Old Testament, God reveals himself to us through deed and word. In the New Testament, God gives us his Word, namely, his only son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel of John describes the Incarnation of Jesus with this beautiful imagery, “And the Word became flesh / and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14) In the Nicene Creed we state our belief that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. The Word became flesh, without losing his divine nature, that we might know God’s love and become partakers of the divine nature. Belief in the Incarnation of Jesus is the distinctive sign of Christian faith.

Grace (page 70)

Jesus teaches us that we are his friends if we do what he commands us; namely, to love one another. To be in friendship with Jesus is to be in a state of grace. Jesus makes it possible for us to love others because through his grace—friendship—he has loved us first. To be in a state of grace, then, is to be aware of an acceptance of the life-giving relationship into which God invites us. There was a time in the Church when grace was described as something that we could receive in measurable quantities. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has returned to a biblical understanding of grace, which is God’s very life shared with us. When we say that God gives us the grace that we need for daily living, we are saying that he shares his very life with us through his Son, Jesus Christ. When we are aware of God’s grace in our lives, we are capable of reaching out to others because God has first reached out to us.



THE FOUR EVANGELISTS
Symbols of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John



Working with the Articles

Use the following Active-Learning and Community-Building Activity for working with the articles in this chapter: *Pictures of Jesus* (page 66) and *Relationships* (page 69).

Paired Interviews

The purpose of paired interviews is to have each young person identify the most important ideas in his or her assigned article and to interview a partner about the other article in this chapter. Each person collects main ideas from his or her partner and fills out the Paired Interview form on page 74.

1. Arrange the young people in pairs by using a matching activity with a deck of cards. After mixing up the cards, distribute them randomly to the group. Invite the young people to find someone with a matching suit (diamond, heart, club, or spade) to be their partner. For those with no match, have them pair up with the person who has the closest number to their own.
2. Each partner is to read either *Pictures of Jesus* (page 66) or *Relationships* (page 69).
3. Before reading, have the young people look at the Paired Interview form (page 74) so that they know what questions they will be asked by their partner about their article.
4. Give the young people 5–7 minutes to read silently their articles. Then allow 8–10 minutes to complete the interviews. The interviewer asks the questions and records the interviewee's answers.
5. Draw attention to the word *Lord*, which is defined in the Glossary.
6. After the interviews, allow 8–10 minutes for each pair to create an acrostic for the word INCARNATION, using ideas from both articles that describe our understanding of Jesus and our relationship with him. Provide plain white paper or construction paper for the acrostics. Example:

I s Lord of all the world
 N ew Testament teaches us about Jesus
 C rucified
 A scended into heaven
 R isen from the dead
 N ew life in the Holy Spirit
 A t the center of all creation
 T ruly God and truly man
 I s our teacher
 O ur relationship with Jesus connects us with others
 N eed to be in touch with God personally

7. Have pairs share their acrostic with the entire group. If possible, display the acrostics in the room. If a display is not possible, collect and display them in a special binder.
8. When the pairs are finished sharing, lead the young people through the sidebars and TidBytes of the chapter beginning with page 67.

Paired Interview

Your name _____

Your partner's name _____

Title of article read by your partner _____

Q&A

Ask your partner the following questions about the article he or she read and record his or her answers in the space provided.

<p>1. Explain what your article was about in a few sentences.</p>	
<p>2. What is one quote (sentence) from your article that you would pass on a gem to inspire the group? Why?</p>	
<p>3. What are some specific things your article helped you to learn or realize about the Catholic faith?</p>	
<p>4. Based on your article, create some specific things we, as Catholics, need to know do, or believe in order to live as followers of Jesus.</p>	

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Extending the Chapter

Use the following suggestions to extend the session (parish catechists) or to extend the chapter over 5 days (school catechists).

10 things you might . . . (page 65)

Arrange the young people in pairs and have them use the 10 categories from this TidByte to interview one another. Tell them to write the 10 categories on a sheet of paper and then record the answers during the interview. After everyone is interviewed, invite the young people to share something new they learned about their partners.

Bridge-Builder A (page 66)

Divide the group into two teams. Give each person a blank index card. Have all the young people write five little-known facts about themselves and sign their name (example: I have a pet gerbil; my middle name is Stanley; I was born in Utah; I hate cheeseburgers). Collect all the cards and keep separate stacks for each team. The object is to name the person on the card using as few clues as possible. Read aloud a clue from one team's card. Allow the other team to huddle for a few seconds before they call out their guess. Assign one point for each clue used. Take turns for each team. Continue until the identities of at least four members of one team are guessed. The team with the lowest score wins.

Bridge-Builder B (page 67)

Remind the group that, since we are made in God's image and Jesus had a human body, our bodies are to be honored. The "Signing of the Senses" is a beautiful way of blessing our bodies. Invite the young people to stand facing you and to bless

themselves by imitating you as you trace the sign of the cross over the area of the body named in the prayer. Begin each line by saying, *Receive the Sign of the Cross*

on your forehead, that you may learn to know Jesus and follow him.

on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.

on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.

over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.

on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.

411 (page 67)

The New Testament has four accounts of Saint Paul's conversion: Paul's own version in Galatians 1:15–17; and Luke's accounts in Acts 9:1–19; Acts 22:2–16; Acts 26:9–18. Arrange the young people in four groups and assign each group one of the passages. Have them read aloud the passage in their group and then, as a group, make a list of the key elements in that passage. Have the groups report on their passages and compare the different versions.

IT'S LIKE THIS (page 68)

Arrange the young people in four groups and assign each group one of the four

Gospels. Members of each group are to browse through their assigned Gospel to find stories that can answer the question, "what is Jesus like?" Groups can divide their assigned Gospel into sections so that each member looks through a smaller part. Allow time for the groups to complete their work. Then invite them to share their stories.

WISE GUYS (page 71)

Invite the young people to compare the words of Saint Ignatius of Loyola ("Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words") to the Letter of James 2:14–18. Invite a volunteer to read aloud this passage to the group. Then invite the whole group to turn to page 323 to review the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy—ways of showing love through deeds.

Bridge-Builder C (page 72)

Use this activity to introduce the importance of Christian hymns. Play a brief segment of a well-known song from the CD soundtrack of a popular musical movie with which the young people would be familiar. Explain that musicals suggest that some words need to be sung instead of spoken in order to fully express the feeling behind the words.

Use a simple activity to illustrate this idea. Find out who in the group has a birthday soon. Invite the group to say the words to the Happy Birthday song to this person. Point out how empty the words sound and feel. Then invite them to sing Happy Birthday to the person. Emphasize again that some words just need to be sung.

For planning Day 5 (school catechists) or for additional activities (parish catechists), see page PO31.

CATECHIST PREPARATION

Get Ready Guide

Chapter 1: Getting to Know Jesus

Chapter Theme:
Jesus teaches us to live in relationship with the Father and one another.

MATERIALS

Required Materials

- Bibles
- Writing materials
- Art materials
- Blank address labels
- Names of celebrities (one per young person)
- Index cards
- Deck of playing cards
- Hymnals or missalettes
- Emblems of sports teams

Optional Materials

- Index cards
- Video/DVD or CD soundtrack of a musical movie
- TV-VCR/DVD player or CD player
- Blackline Master 2-1

e-resources

www.FindingGod.org

FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATECHISTS

Day 1 Engage

Day 2 Explore: Articles

Day 3 Explore: Sidebars and TidBytes

Day 4 Reflect and Respond

Day 5 See page PO31.

PREPARATIONS

- Check the Extending the Chapter suggestions on page 65e to choose activities that best fit your time frame.
- Look over the Active-Learning and Community-Building Activity on page 65d.
- Bookmark your Bible at Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19 and John 15:17.
- Arrange with your catechetical leader to acquire hymnals or missalettes for the young people.

STEPS

OUTCOMES

At the end of the chapter, the young people should be able to

Engage (page 65)

- Getting to Know You

- relate getting to know a friend with getting to know Jesus.

Explore (pages 66–71)

Articles

- Pictures of Jesus
- Relationships

Sidebars

- Saul Is Called by the Risen Jesus
- Body and Soul
- Love One Another

- describe some of the various images that the New Testament teaches us about Jesus.
- explain that Jesus came to teach us how to live in relationship with the Father and one another.
- express an understanding that Jesus is truly God and truly man.
- relate the story of how Saint Paul was called by the risen Jesus.
- describe how accepting Jesus changes people's lives and calls us to love one another.
- define Incarnation and Lord.

Reflect (page 72)

Prayer

- Having Christ's Attitude

Sidebar

- Christian Hymns

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

Respond (page 73)

- What's What? • Say, What?
- So What? • Now What?
- Here's What

- identify practical ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

USING MUSIC

For suggestions of music that can be used in this chapter, see page 459.



Know You

Making friends is not always easy. Friendships take work. One of the ways we get to know people is by learning about them. What would you like to find out about someone you're trying to get to know better?



10

things you might want to know about a person

1. hobbies
2. sense of humor
3. talents
4. taste in music
5. favorite TV shows
6. clubs and activities
7. dreams for the future
8. favorite foods
9. friends
10. family members

Getting Started

Help the young people to begin today's experience of recognizing God in their daily lives by doing the following activity. On blank address labels, write the names of famous people with whom the young people would be familiar. Without letting them see their famous person's name, affix a label on each young person's forehead. To find their "new" identity, the young people walk around the room asking questions such as, "Am I an actor?" or "Do I have my own TV show?" that can be answered *yes* or *no*. Continue the activity for no more than five minutes and congratulate those who guessed their "new" identity. Explain that getting to know the identity of someone can be a challenge and that we sometimes rely on others to help us. Tell the young people that this chapter will explore how we can get to know Jesus better and how Jesus helps us to know the Father.

Getting to Know You

Ask a volunteer to read the text. Have the group brainstorm the typical things they might want to find out about someone whom they are trying to get to know better. Ten things are listed in the TidByte on this page. Make a list of their ideas.

10 things you might . . .

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this TidByte. Pick several of the categories and invite volunteers to share something about themselves with the group.

(To do more with 10, see page 65e.)

Bridge-Builder A

To extend the session (parish catechists) or to begin Day 2 (school catechists), consider using Bridge-Builder A on page 65c.

Working with the Articles

In this chapter the two articles are Pictures of Jesus (page 66) and Relationships (page 69). Use the Active-Learning and Community-Building Activity on page 74, Paired Interview, to engage the young people with these articles. See page 65d for full directions.

(For more information, see *The Four Gospels* on page 65c.)

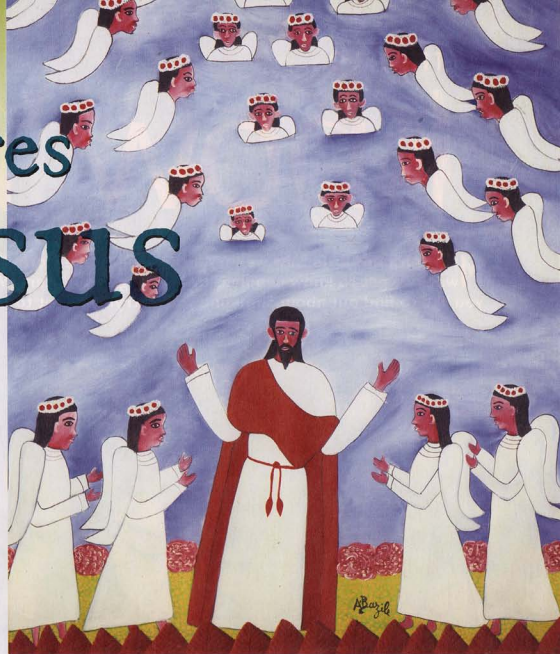
Pictures of Jesus

Mr. Harrison gave

his students a choice. They had spent weeks getting to know Jesus better. Eddie got up and reached for a test. But in mid-reach he was captured by the thought of talking to Jesus and sat back down. Soon all were engrossed in looking through books and drawing their pictures. The time flew by. It wasn't long before they were sharing what they had drawn.

"But beware," he said with a knowing look, "if you choose to draw it will require a visit to your heart. Reflect for a while on what you know about Jesus. Then draw a picture that reveals something about Jesus that helps you want to know him better."

Suddenly the class was still. The students found themselves reflecting on their own reasons for wanting to know Jesus better. Eddie got up and reached for a test. But in mid-reach he was captured by the thought of talking to Jesus and sat back down. Soon all were engrossed in looking through books and drawing their pictures. The time flew by. It wasn't long before they were sharing what they had drawn.



I wanted to show Jesus as the center of our faith and our lives.

TAMIKA

"I drew Jesus as an ordinary Middle Eastern man—a person who had the same problems as everyone else living then. He is dressed in the clothes of the time. In the background are several scenes: Bethlehem, where he was born; Nazareth, where he grew up; and Galilee, where he taught. He is holding a hammer in one hand because in his youth he was a carpenter, and he is holding a book in the other hand because he was a student of Scripture and later became a teacher."

Saul Is Called by the Risen Jesus

EMMA

"My picture is very different because I wanted to focus on Jesus as **Lord** and Son of God. I put stars and galaxies in the background to show that Jesus is the Word through whom all things were created. I put the cross behind him. But he is not nailed to the cross because he has already risen from the dead. I included next to him the images of the Father and the Holy Spirit, the other two Persons of the Trinity."

JORGE

"My drawing shows the major events at the end of Jesus' life. It is really four pictures in one. The first shows Jesus on the cross being crucified between two criminals. The second is of the risen Christ with the empty tomb in the distance. I drew this because I think about how early disciples experienced the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' Resurrection means the promise of resurrection for all believers. The third shows Jesus beginning to ascend into heaven, with the disciples looking up at him. In the last, the disciples are receiving the Holy Spirit from Jesus at Pentecost. These four pictures reveal a lot about why I want to get closer to Jesus."

JACOB

"Jesus is a teacher in my drawing. He is sitting on a mound. His disciples are at his feet listening. The scenes in the background show Jesus teaching his disciples by example during his ministry. This picture shows when John the Baptist baptizes Jesus how the Holy Spirit descends to show that Jesus is the Son of God. And here I show Jesus led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

continued on page 68 ▶



411

Saint Paul embarked on three missionary journeys that totaled more than 4,000 miles of travel. Including his shorter trips and his journey to Rome after his arrest, he traveled more than 6,000 miles in his lifetime. Imagine doing that in an age without cars or airplanes!

Many have found their lives changed after accepting Jesus as Lord. One of the earliest stories of such a change is found in the Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19—the story of Saul, who became Paul the Apostle. Saul was a faithful Jew and a brilliant scholar. As a scholar his desire was to protect the purity of the Jewish faith. In Jerusalem, during the years after Pentecost, Saul searched for and imprisoned any Jew who believed in Jesus.

One day Saul was on his way to Damascus hunting such Jews when a brilliant light knocked him to the ground. He heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked who was speaking. He heard the voice answer, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." Jesus told him to continue to Damascus and wait. Saul had been blinded by the light; his physical blindness showed that he was blind to the true identity of Jesus. So the man traveling with Saul led him to Damascus. Saul waited there for three days before a Christian by the name of Ananias came to him and laid his hands on Saul. Saul regained his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and was baptized.

The experience changed Saul's life. He discovered that Jesus is alive and is present in the Church and that when Christians suffer, Jesus suffers also. Saul, who became known as Paul, discovered that he was called by the Holy Spirit to a mission. Wherever he went he proclaimed Jesus' message. The same living Jesus calls us to recognize his presence in others.

God the Father and Jesus send the Holy Spirit to call us to help others see how much they are loved by God.

Bridge-Builder B

To extend the session (parish catechists) or to begin Day 3 (school catechists), consider using Bridge-Builder B on page 65e.

Saul Is Called by the Risen Jesus

Invite the young people to think of someone who has made a positive difference in their lives such as a coach, a teacher, a dance instructor, a band director, or a relative. Distribute index cards to each of the young people and have them complete this sentence: *The person I am thinking of helped me to _____.* Tell the young people that the names of the people they are thinking of will not be used, and they are not to sign their own names to the card either. When they are finished, collect the cards, mix them up, and read them aloud one at a time. Explain that getting to know certain people can really change how we live our lives.

Have a volunteer read aloud this sidebar. Have other volunteers summarize in their own words how Paul's life was changed by getting to know Jesus.

(For more information, see Conversion on page 65c.)

411

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this TidByte. Tell the group that the driving distance from Boston to Los Angeles is about 3,000 miles. Compare Paul's travels with this distance.

(To do more with 411, see page 65e.)

Body and Soul

Draw attention to the word *Incarnation*, which is defined in the Glossary. Invite a volunteer to read this sidebar aloud. Emphasize that since Jesus had a human body, we are to appreciate and care for our bodies. Explain that one of the best ways to become more aware of our bodies is to relax them. Lead the young people in a simple relaxation exercise. Invite them to get comfortable and to close their eyes. Ask them to inhale and to exhale slowly. Speak slowly and pause often as you invite them to first tense their muscles and then relax them in their eyelids, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, stomach, legs, and feet. Allow them to sit in silence for a moment or two before inviting them to open their eyes. Encourage the young people to do this on their own as a way of being better aware of the stress in their bodies.

(For more information, see *The Incarnation* on page 65c.)

FOOTNOTE

Have the young people read this TidByte independently and then invite volunteers to summarize it in their own words. Have the young people turn to page 323 and review the Corporal Works of Mercy with them.

(To do more with Footnote, see *Blackline Master 2-1*.)

IT'S LIKE THIS

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this TidByte. Ask the young people to think of someone whom they consider a good

(continued on page 69)

Body and Soul



You know what it means to have a body. Having a body can mean feeling the pounding of a headache or the constant itching irritation of poison ivy. But it also can mean feeling a calming, cool breeze on a fall evening. Having a body means being able to enjoy a cold drink on a hot summer afternoon . . . and then a little while later . . . being thirsty all over again. Having a body means being able to see a beautiful sunset, to hear the birds, to smell a flower, or to taste a strawberry.

God the Son experienced all these things because he became man. We use the word **incarnation** to say that God became man—that Jesus is God and man. Incarnation also means that Jesus, because he is a human being, has a human soul. Jesus is the Son of God, and he has a human body and soul—that is what the Incarnation means.

FOOTNOTE

Belief in the Incarnation makes a big difference in the lives of Catholics. Because the Son of God became flesh, we believe that our human bodies have honor and dignity. Our bodies are a reflection of the image of God. He loved us enough to send his only Son, Jesus, who became like us in all things but sin. Our belief in the Incarnation is the foundation of our concern for the physical needs of others. The Corporal Works of Mercy, such as feeding the sick and clothing the naked, are examples of the many ways that we can care for the physical needs of others.

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JOSEFINA

"I wanted to show Jesus as the center of our faith and our lives. Around him are the sun and the moon and the earth, which show that he is the Lord. Everyone is looking at him: people from the past—Shakespeare and Cleopatra—and people from the present—my brother and Mr. Harrison. My drawing has a frame showing symbols of our Catholic faith—water, oil, a dove, bread, and a cross. Everything we believe and practice as Catholics is centered on Jesus."

RICHARD

"You can tell what my drawing shows. I wrote it in large letters across the top: *Jesus is Lord*. There are people from all over the world—Europeans, Asians, Latin Americans. There are people of different races. There are people of different ages, different sizes, people who are rich, and people who are poor. All of them are on bended knee before Jesus the Lord. Every person's face is lit up with the light that comes from Jesus."

MR. HARRISON

Mr. Harrison's face was lit up too.

"I'm impressed," he said. "You've revealed so many heartfelt reasons to get to know Jesus better. Let's take a few minutes to look at our drawings and remember that Jesus is truly God and truly man. As man Jesus had to learn how to talk and read and write. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit in his life and his ministry. He was a teacher who taught not only with his words but also with the way he lived. He suffered, died, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. Jesus is the Lord of all." ✠

WANT TO SEE different examples of how Jesus has been pictured throughout history? visit www.FindingGod.org/teens.

IT'S LIKE THIS

Getting to know someone takes time. Getting to know someone really well takes even more time and some effort as well. Getting to know Jesus works the same way. Reading the story of Jesus in the Gospels is the first step in getting to know him. But to really know Jesus, we have to spend time with him, talk with him, and listen to him.



Relationships

EXPLORE

friend. Invite volunteers to share how long it took them to really get to know that person. Explain that there is always more to know about people, even a best friend, and that the same is true of Jesus. Tell the young people that they can keep getting to know Jesus better, but there will always be more that they can know about him.

(To do more with It's Like This, see page 65e.)

How many relationships do you think you have? How many people are a part of your life? See if you can name all of them.

RELATIVES

Start with your relatives. You could have any of the following relatives: parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews. You might know some relatives very well and others you might hardly ever see. There might be some you don't know at all. You probably have some you don't even know exist. They are all your relatives—once a cousin, always a cousin. Count them all, at least all of the ones you know about.

FRIENDS

After relatives, you have friends. Maybe your friendships are limited. Maybe you have lots of friends. You might be closer to some friends than you are to others. Maybe most of your friends are really more like pals that you do things with. Any way you look at it, all of them help to form the world that you live in.

Your family and friends are your closest relationships. They are the people through whom you get to know God better. It's easier to see the image of God in them because you care so much about them.



IM

This I command you: love one another.
(John 15:17)

ACQUAINTANCES

And what about acquaintances? You know, those people that you talk to, see regularly, but don't really know. You probably have acquaintances at school, in your neighborhood, and in your parish. And don't forget the people you recognize because you see them all the time, even though you might not know much more than their names. You feel connected to them

continued on page 70 ▶

IM John 15:17

Invite the young people to read this Scripture passage independently. Then tell the group that you are going to read the Scripture passage aloud several times and that, before each time you read it, you will invite them to picture different groups of people whom they are called to love.

Pause for a few moments and then invite the young people to picture the people they live with. Wait a few seconds and then read aloud the Scripture passage slowly and prayerfully. Pause for 5–10 seconds before the next invitation. Repeat these steps for each of the following groups of people that you invite them to picture: friends; classmates and teachers; people in their neighborhood, community, or parish; people around the world who are in need. After a final pause, invite the young people to spend a few moments taking the words of this Scripture passage to heart. Invite a few volunteers to recite the passage from memory before inviting the group to the next activity.

Love One Another

Invite the young people to brainstorm a few examples of people around the world who are in the news right now because of their special needs. (examples: survivors of natural disasters; refugees of war; and people suffering from an outbreak of disease) Explain that Jesus calls us to be in a relationship not only with God and not only with our families and friends but also with people all over the world.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this sidebar. Emphasize to the group that what God wants us to do, he makes possible by his grace.

(For more information, see Grace on page 65c.)

► continued from page 69

because you share something in common—the place where you see them. Sometimes with a little conversation, the connection grows. Then acquaintances become friends.

They are the people through whom you get to know God better.



You're also connected with the people in your city, state, and country. You don't know most of them, but you have things in common. You care about some of the same things. If you've ever been far from home and met someone from your hometown, you might have felt this connection.

THE WORLD

You guessed it! The world is filled with more people with whom you are connected. Through television and the Internet we are part of the lives of people all over the world. They are all our brothers and sisters because we are all children of the one Father. Everyone reflects the image of God. We need to stay connected to all of them, especially people who are in some kind of need.



Love One Another

Jesus told his disciples that they are his friends when they love one another. What did Jesus mean? Jesus meant loving the people we live with—parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins. We don't have to always like what they do or how they act. But we have to care about them always. Jesus also meant loving all people in our lives—friends, classmates, and neighbors. Sometimes people irritate us, but we are called to reach out to them too.

There are also all the billions of people whom we see on TV or read about in newspapers. The call to love all these people can seem a big, scary responsibility. But Jesus tells us in John 15:12–17 that it's possible for us to love all these people because he loved us first. Jesus called us “friends.” He has chosen us to care about people in the same way that he cares about people. Jesus doesn't give us a job without giving us the help we need. We can start by praying for one another.

This Way Out

So it's a fact—you are connected to everyone. And any relationship worth its salt is based on love, respect that goes both ways, and concern for the rights of everyone, just as Jesus taught us. It's no secret that when we serve others, especially people who are poor, homeless, sick, or dying, our relationships become stronger and deeper. By serving others, we serve God's kingdom.

God

We're not quite finished yet. The most important relationship we all have is our relationship with God. Because our God is a personal God, our relationship with him needs to be personal. When we have a personal relationship with God, we see his image reflected in everyone, including ourselves. God knew it might be hard for us to think of him as a personal friend. So to help us get to know him, God the Father sent his only Son to live as one of us. Jesus makes it easy to talk about feelings or about anything else in our lives. Think about it. When you talk with him about your feelings, you know that he will understand because he has experienced the same feelings. Jesus makes it easier for us to have a personal relationship with God.

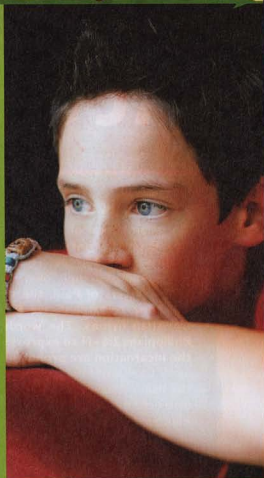
Jesus

Would you like to have better relationships with people? Try this—work on your relationship with Jesus. Meet up with him in your heart. Talk to him about your problems. He will help you figure out what to do with all of your relationships—with your family and friends and with all people who are your brothers and sisters. Get to know about his life, listen to his words, and let him talk to you. Spend some time with him and watch your relationships improve. You'll even see improvement in the relationship that you have with yourself.



WISE GUYS

"Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words."
(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)



How do you love someone you just don't like? The key is to remember that love is not a feeling—it is a commitment to the well being of another. You don't have to be filled with warm, fuzzy feelings to love someone. Think of someone you really can't stand. Then try looking at the person through God's eyes. Pray for that person. Remember that God loves him or her the same way that God loves you.

EXPLORE

This Way Out

Ask if any of the young people have ever had an x-ray taken. Explain that x-rays allow us to see things on the inside of our bodies that we are unable to see with our eyes. For doctors, an x-ray is like a special set of eyes. When it comes to loving people, sometimes we need a special set of eyes—God's eyes—because God sees the good that is within each of us. Invite the young people to read this TidByte independently and then have volunteers summarize it in their own words.

WISE GUYS

Ask volunteers to explain the following phrases: "talk is cheap," "walk the talk," and "actions speak louder than words." Explain that each phrase refers to the importance of backing up our words with actions. Write this sentence on the board: "To know but not to do is not yet to know." Explain that this is an ancient Chinese proverb that expresses the same message as the previously mentioned phrases. Tell the young people that they are about to read a Catholic way to express this message.

Invite a volunteer to read this TidByte aloud. Remind the young people that Saint Ignatius of Loyola lived in the 16th century and founded a religious order known as the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

(To do more with Wise Guys, see page 65e.)

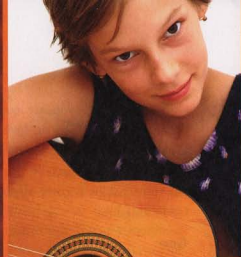
Bridge-Builder C

To extend the session (parish catechists) or to begin Day 4 (school catechists), consider using Bridge-Builder C on page 65e.

Christian Hymns

Invite a volunteer to read this sidebar aloud. Then distribute a copy of a hymnal or missalette to each young person and invite them to pick a church hymn that best represents who they are and how they feel about God at this moment in their lives. Tell them that they do not need to know the melody and that they will not be asked to sing. Have them design a small poster with the title "If I Were a Church Hymn..." on it followed by the title of the hymn they selected, a verse or refrain from the song, and their name. Invite them to decorate their poster. Then invite volunteers to report on their selections, explaining why they chose that particular hymn. Display the posters if possible.

Having Christ's Attitude

**CHRISTIAN HYMNS**

Christian praise of God in song goes back to our Jewish roots and the singing of the Psalms in the Temple. The early Christians also composed their own songs of praise. In the letters of Paul, the first writings of the New Testament, we find words from Christian hymns. The words Paul uses in Philippians 2:6–11 to express the mystery of the Incarnation are probably taken from an early Christian hymn. Christian hymns, like the Psalms, have always been forms of both instruction and prayer. In Colossians 3:16 Paul writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Jesus, true God, became true man.

Our call to be followers of Christ means that through our words and deeds, we proclaim our belief in him. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, describes what it means to have the same attitude as Christ.

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:5–8)

Picture yourself in a favorite quiet place. As you look around, Jesus comes to join you. The two of you sit quietly together. You may want to talk with him about what you just heard from Saint Paul's letter. What are some of the words in the letter that described Jesus' attitude?

Spent a few moments reflecting with Jesus about your own attitude. What are some things you notice about your attitude toward your family? your friends? yourself?

If you need help knowing how to make your attitude more like his, ask Jesus to help you.

Rest quietly with Jesus and simply enjoy being together.

Thank Jesus for coming to join you.

End with the Sign of the Cross.

Having Christ's Attitude

Invite the young people to get ready for prayer. Pause in silence for 10–15 seconds. Read the first paragraph and slowly pray the words of the Scripture passage. Then slowly and prayerfully read the next paragraphs, pausing after each sentence to give the young people time to reflect. Pause in silence at the end to allow the young people to spend some time alone with God. After a few moments of silence, invite them to the next activity.

For the sections **What's What?** and **Now What?**, read aloud the directions and have the young people work on the sections independently. When they are finished, invite volunteers to share their responses.

So What?

Read aloud this section and then allow a few moments for the young people to individually reflect on its meaning.

Say What?

Ask volunteers to define the words from memory or to use the Glossary, and then to use each word in a sentence.

Here's What

Bring in pictures of emblems of sports teams and ask for volunteers to identify the teams. Explain that the emblems distinguish teams from one another. Explain that for Christ's disciples, our distinguishing mark is not an emblem but an action, namely charity. Invite a volunteer to read aloud this section. Ask a volunteer to summarize it in his or her own words.

Closure

Invite the young people to pray in thanksgiving for what they have learned. Pause briefly and then pray: **Loving God, thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus, so that we can grow closer to you. Help us to love all people as Jesus taught us. Amen.** Conclude by encouraging the young people to perform an act of charity so that others might recognize them as a disciple of Jesus.



Chapter 4: Jesus, God and Man

What's WHAT?

■ Main points from this chapter are started below. Complete each sentence. Refer to the articles and side bars for help.

- Everything we believe and practice as Catholics (is centered on Jesus).
- We use the word *Incarnation* to say that (God became man—that Jesus is God and man).
- Saul regained his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and (was baptized).
- When we have a personal relationship with God, we see his image (reflected in everyone, including ourselves).
- Jesus told his disciples that they are his friends when (they love one another).

So WHAT?

■ Being in touch with God can help you understand yourself better. *Think about it. Pray about it.*

Say WHAT?

Incarnation • Lord

Now WHAT?

■ Jesus is at the heart of our lives as Catholics. What will you do this week to express your growing relationship with Jesus?

Here's WHAT the Catholic Church Teaches

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical letter *On Social Concern*, writes about the connection between charity and solidarity—the understanding that all people are united by common rights and responsibilities. This connection is a distinguishing mark of Christ's disciples. He reminds us that through solidarity and charity we recognize Christ in our neighbor. "In the light of faith, solidarity seeks to go beyond itself, to take on the specifically Christian dimension of total gratuity, forgiveness and reconciliation. One's neighbor is then not only a human being with his or her own rights . . . but becomes the living image of God the Father, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and placed under the permanent action of the Holy Spirit. One's neighbor must therefore be loved, even if an enemy, with the same love with which the Lord loves him or her; and for that person's sake one must be ready for sacrifice, even . . . to lay down one's life for the brethren." [On *Social Concern*]

Use the following Active-Learning and Community-Building Activity for the articles in the Explore step of this chapter: Pictures of Jesus (page 66) and Relationships (page 69).

Paired Interviews

The purpose of paired interviews is to have each young person identify the most important ideas in his or her assigned article and to interview a partner about the other article in this chapter. Each partner collects main ideas from his or her partner by filling in the Paired Interview form. See page 65d for full directions.

If needed, have the young people tear out this page to use with this activity. When they are finished, have them reinsert this page into their books or collect the pages so that you can redistribute them for the Respond step of the chapter.

When the group is finished with this activity, lead the young people through the sidebars and TidBytes of the chapter.

Paired Interview



Your name _____

Your partner's name _____

Title of article read by your partner _____

Q&A

Ask your partner the following questions about the article he or she read and record his or her answers in the space provided.

1. Explain what your article was about in a few sentences.

2. What is one quote (sentence) from your article that you would put on a poster to inspire the group? Why?

3. What are some specific things your article helped you to learn or realize about the Catholic faith?

4. Based on your article, name some specific things we, as Catholics, need to know, do, or believe in order to live as followers of Jesus.