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BACKGROUND

The Mysteries of
Christ's Life

When you speak the name Jesus Christ, which memories does it evoke? Most of our attention will likely focus on the events surrounding his birth, death, and Resurrection. The Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery of Christ are indeed the central mysteries of the Church's faith in Christ, but Christ's whole life on Earth reveals the mystery of God's love and invites us to believe in and share in that love.

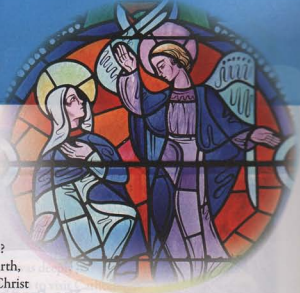
The Mystery of Redemption

"Christ's whole life is a mystery of redemption. Redemption comes to us above all through the blood of the cross, but this mystery is at work throughout Christ's entire life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 517). Reflecting on the other mysteries of Christ's life is also important as we try to come to know and love him and grow as his disciples.

The Hidden Life of Christ

For most of his life on Earth, Jesus was hidden from view. It is reasonable to assume that he led a life very similar to those of his contemporaries during the early years. He woke up, worked, ate meals with his parents, and gave little evidence of greatness (see *Matthew 13:55*). Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph and observed the laws of the Jewish religion.

His home at Nazareth, with its routines of family life, work, and parental instruction, is something with which we can easily identify. Jesus was a young boy. He was, in some ways, much like us or the young people sitting in a sixth-grade classroom who are advancing in "wisdom and age and favor before God and man" (*Luke 2:52*).



The Public Ministry of Jesus

It is generally acknowledged that the event that initiated Jesus' public ministry was his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. There the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus "like a dove," and the Father's voice declared, "This is my beloved Son" (*Matthew 3:17*).

The theme of Christ's solidarity with humanity in all our pain and loss echoes, like a bold chord, throughout his short ministry. Jesus reached out to everyone and preached a kingdom where we are all restored to God's image and likeness. He made it clear that the kingdom belongs to the poor and the lowly who accept his kingdom with humble hearts. It belongs to people who struggle to turn their lives and wills over to God's provident care. He worked miracles not to impress people, but to invite people to faith in God and to demonstrate the power of divine love at work in the world amid hunger, injustice, poverty, illness, death, and sin.

Sharing Your Faith

For Reflection

How do I respond to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

How does my reflection on the mysteries of Christ's entire life on Earth influence my daily decisions?

Teacher to Teacher

Planting the Seeds of Faith

Saint Paul the Apostle wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Saint Paul's description of his ministry describes your work as a catechist in many ways. You plant the seeds of faith; someone else waters them; God, in his good time, brings the harvest. Growth in faith in Jesus Christ is more than simply learning more about Jesus; it is encountering Christ. It is growing in friendship and intimacy with him through study and prayer. It is growing in a relationship with Jesus that becomes so central to who you are that it gives direction to all that you say and do.

Modeling a Life of Faith

As Mary is the model of faith for all Christians, you are a model of faith for your students. Your actions, as well as your words, manifest your faith and the difference living a life of faith makes in a person's life. The students will see your love and patience, and your compassion and understanding as signs of God's loving patience, compassion, and understanding of them. They will come to trust in God's love when they trust your love for them.

The Church Teaches...

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

It is important that catechists introduce their students to the Person of Jesus so that they may develop a personal relationship with him and grow in intimacy with him.

Further Reading and Reflection

For more on the teachings of the Church on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 422-570; and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 77-87.

Teacher Prayer

Holy Spirit,
bless the young people
this week. Help them understand
and share
more deeply and more
abundantly in the Paschal Mystery.
Amen.

Lesson Planner

Chapter 5 Son of God, Son of Mary

Goal To learn more about the meaning of the Incarnation

LESSON PART	PROCESS	MATERIALS and RESOURCES
DAY 1 EXPLORE Focus To explore the faith and humility of Mary Pages 65–67	<p>► Proclaim and discuss Luke 1:35, 38 (The angel Gabriel visits Mary).</p> <p>► Learn why Mary is the model of discipleship</p> <p>Disciple Power: Humility</p> <p>Activity: Write a prayer of praise to God for his blessings.</p>	Bible Pencils or pens Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Role-playing Saying “Yes” to God
DAY 2 DISCOVER Focus To discover the mystery of the Incarnate Word who is Savior and Messiah Pages 68–69	<p>► Discover a deeper understanding of the Incarnation.</p> <p>Scripture: The Word became flesh (John 1:14).</p> <p>Faith Vocabulary: Incarnation</p> <p>Catholics Believe: The Rosary</p> <p>Activity: Find Scripture stories that illustrate Jesus’ humanity and divinity.</p>	Bibles Pencil or pens
DAY 3 DISCOVER Focus To discover how sin and evil affected our relationship with God Pages 70–71	<p>► Discover the meaning of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Savior.</p> <p>Scripture: Who people say the Son of Man is (Matthew 16:14); You are the Messiah (Matthew 16:16).</p> <p>Faith Vocabulary: Christ, Lord</p> <p>Faith-Filled People: Saint Lawrence</p> <p>Activity: Complete a word search for titles of Jesus.</p>	Pencils or pens Bibles Art paper Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Writing in Journals
DAY 4 DECIDE Focus To decide on a way to build the Kingdom of God Pages 72–73	<p>► Learn the mysteries of the Rosary.</p> <p>Activity: Design a poster to encourage students to participate in the Month of the Holy Rosary.</p> <p>Activity: Write a story about Mary based on Scripture.</p> <p>My Faith Choice: Choose how to be humble this week.</p>	Pencil or pens Enriching the Lesson: Teacher Guide, page 131 Designing Symbols for Mary Remembering Mary All Year Additional Activities Booklet: Activities 5a and 5b or see BeMyDisciples.com
DAY 5 CONCLUDE Focus To pray to Mary the Mother of God Pages 74–76	<p>► REVIEW Review concepts: Recall, Reflect, and Share.</p> <p>► PRAY Hail, Holy Queen</p> <p>► Preview the With My Family page and the theme of the next chapter.</p>	Bible, candle, cross Pencils or pens Grade 6 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 Mary exemplifies the virtue of humility.



DISCOVER that God the Son became human to reconcile us with God.



DECIDE on how you can commit to living with humility.

CHAPTER
5

Son of God, Son of Mary

- 2 When someone asks you to do something, how do you respond?

Let us listen to what Saint Luke tells us about Mary's response to the angel's message to her:

"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. . . ." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Luke 1:35, 38

- 2 Why do you think Mary responded yes to God?

What is the name that the Church gives to this event of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary?

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HUMAN METHODOLOGIES

Learning by Discipleship. The *National Directory for Catechesis* states that Mary is the first disciple and a model for all followers of Christ (NDC 298). This week, as you discuss Mary's faith and trust in God, consider conducting a walking tour of the parish grounds, looking for statues and other depictions of Mary. Ask the students what these works of art tell us about our Blessed Mother and how we can grow as disciples by following her example. Conclude the tour by gathering at a favorite statue. As the students stand or kneel, invite them to offer silent prayers asking Mary to help them grow in discipleship. Pray the Hail Mary together.

Pray

- ▶ Gather students for prayer. Begin and end with praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Lead the class in praying the Hail Mary.
- ▶ Conclude with:
Father, may Mary be a source of joy through all ages. Amen.

Reflect

- ▶ Ask the opening questions and invite responses.
- ▶ Invite a student to read the Scripture passage aloud. Spend time discussing the questions following the Scripture passage on the page.
- ▶ Inquire: What if God called on you to accept something that you never thought possible? How would you respond? What is God inviting you to do today? Discuss with the students.
- ▶ Explain that when we honor Mary in prayer, she can help us focus on Christ, her son.
- ▶ Ask students which details they recall about the Annunciation.
- ▶ Have a volunteer read aloud the story of Annunciation from Luke 1:26–38.
- ▶ Tell the young people that on the next page they will learn more about how Mary responded to God's call.

Focus

Call attention to Looking Ahead to highlight what they will explore, discover, and decide in this chapter.

Introduce

- ▶ Point out that Mary can help us learn how to love as God loves.
- ▶ Have a volunteer read aloud the text on the page. Prepare a female student to take the part of Mary and proclaim the Scripture passages at the appropriate times.
- ▶ Inquire: How would you have responded if you were Mary?
- ▶ Have the students talk about the discussion question.
- ▶ Have the students read silent Mary, a Humble Disciple on page 67.



Disciple Power

Humility

Humility helps us see and accept the truth about God and ourselves. A humble person acknowledges that God is the source of life and author of all that is good. Humility is often described as "poverty in spirit" when the humble person completely trusts in God.



The Annunciation
by Margaretson William Henry

66

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

Mary, the First and Model Disciple

In the Gospel of Luke, the archangel Gabriel, was sent to a place called Nazareth. Gabriel was to give a message to a young woman named Mary. She was not yet married, but she was engaged to a man named Joseph.

The angel appeared to Mary. He said,

"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

LUKE 1:28

Mary was greatly troubled by Gabriel's greeting. She wondered why Gabriel had come and why he said that she was favored by God. Then the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

LUKE 1:30-33

At the announcement of his birth, Mary was the first person to know that God will send his only Son. Mary accepted God's special role for her. Mary said,

"I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1:38

- 2 Do you have the courage to accept God's will for you? Why or why not?



DISCIPLE POWER

Humility. Many people want recognition for their achievements. Being recognized for one's achievements can be a good thing, yet when we desire to be the center of attention, we lose sight of the purpose for achieving good. Motivation of a humble person comes from the desire to honor and love God. Invite volunteers to share examples of people who are humble, quiet servants, doing good without seeking praise or reward. Examples might include parents, grandparents, teachers, catechists, or a helpful neighbor. Ask students to name acts of service that they might do this week to honor God, and challenge them to act with a humble servant's heart.

Mary, a Humble Disciple

Imagine Mary's surprise and confusion when God invited her to be the Mother of his Son. Mary did not understand why God had chosen her yet she was open to what God asked of her (see Luke 1:38).

Full of humility at what God was asking from her, Mary set out to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. It was not an easy journey from Nazareth to the home of Elizabeth. When Mary arrived she was perhaps once again surprised when the much older Elizabeth greeted her.

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. . . . Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Luke 1:42, 45

Mary responds to Elizabeth with great faith. Mary proclaims,

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Luke 1:46-47, 49

Mary told Elizabeth that all blessings come from God. She realized that her being "blessed" in the eyes of Elizabeth and future believers was not of her own doing. Hers was the response of a true and faithful Israelite, one who knows her part in the Covenant that God made with Abraham and Moses: "God alone is God" (see Psalm 62:2). Mary's humble "yes" model for us what it means to be a true disciple of her Son, Jesus. She is the model for the whole Church of how to follow Jesus.

2 How would you explain that Mary was a humble person?

Activity Reflecting on Mary's faith and humility, write a short prayer of praise to God for how he has blessed you this week.

67

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Gabriel the Archangel. In ancient Jewish literature, a hierarchy of angels was described as inhabiting God's heavenly court. The archangels do God's bidding as his messengers and carried out his will when people needed to be punished. Gabriel is mentioned in both the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament and in the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament as being one of these archangels. His name means, "God is my strength."

Reinforce

- ▶ Remind students that Mary is a perfect model of faith.
- ▶ Invite students to examine the image of Mary on the page. Ask them to describe what characteristics of Mary are represented.

Connect

- ▶ Have students complete the activity on the page in groups. The prayers of praise will be used at the end of this chapter for a closing prayer.
- ▶ Ask students what it means to be humble. Have them read the Disciple Power box.
- ▶ Point out that Mary is a perfect model of one who is humble.
- ▶ Ask the students: How would you explain that Mary was a humble person? Are you a humble person? In what ways? Conclude with a discussion on ways we can show humility.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer and have them take turns reading aloud their prayers of praise.

Key Concept

In the Incarnation Jesus, the Son of God, took on flesh and became human in all things except sin.

Pray

Have the students make the Sign of the Cross and spend several moments in silence, praying to Jesus.

Teach

- ▶ Write the Faith Focus question on the board.
- ▶ Point out the definition in the Faith Vocabulary box.
- ▶ Write the word *theotokos* on the board. Ask the class to read the first two paragraphs to learn the meaning of this term.
- ▶ Have the students read the rest of the page silently to themselves.
- ▶ Ask: What does the Prologue or opening passage, of John's Gospel remind you of? Point out that the Gospel of John opens up similarly to the Book of Genesis. Explain that John is revealing that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.
- ▶ Ask the discussion question and allow the students time to talk about Jesus' dual natures.
- ▶ Divide the class into two groups. Invite a group to read about Jesus as the New Adam. Invite the second group to read about the human and divine natures of Jesus.

FAITH FOCUS

What is the meaning of the Incarnation?

FAITH VOCABULARY**Incarnation**

The Incarnation is the belief of the Church that the Son of God became fully man in all ways except sin, while remaining fully divine.

Jesus the Christ

God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son. She is the handmaid of the Lord, who was a virgin her whole life.

The Incarnation

The Virgin Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the Son of God. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, who took on flesh and became fully human in all things except sin. This great event is called the **Incarnation**. Thus the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, is truly the *Theotokos*, the Mother of God. The Greek word *Theotokos* means "God-bearer."

In the opening passages of the Gospel of John, we read,

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

God has revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition that his only begotten Son assumed our human nature while remaining fully God. This means that Jesus is both true God and true man.

- 2 What does it mean to know that Jesus is both God and human?



Jesus the Christ – the Incarnation

TEACHING TIP

Theotokos. There are many beautiful icons of the Theotokos. In preparation for this week's lesson, take time to do an Internet search for pictures of these icons. Pay particular attention to details such as the placement of the hands, the direction in which the eyes of both Mary and Christ are gazing, the facial expressions, and other symbols hidden in the details of the icon. In the most common iconic portrayals of the Theotokos, for example, Mary's right hand points to Jesus. In this simple gesture, she is telling us that Jesus is the way and we are to follow him. Both she and Jesus are looking at us, the observers of the icon. Looking at an icon with this attention to detail is actually referred to as "reading the icon."

We look at the parts of an icon and their relationship to each other, to determine the meaning of the whole icon, just as in reading, we look at the individual words and their relationship to each other to determine the meaning of a sentence or paragraph.

The New Adam

The early Church called Jesus the New Adam. The Incarnation was the beginning of the new creation, the beginning of restoring God's plan of creation. Jesus, the New Adam brings eternal life.

The Word of God became a man so that we could be redeemed and share in the divine life. In him, God's plan of Salvation and Redemption came true. Because Jesus is fully divine, he brought God's forgiveness and healing to those in need. He taught us how God wants us to live and how to love all people.

Because Jesus was fully human, he experienced joy and sadness, peace and suffering because he was fully human. He thought with a human mind, acted with a human will, worked with human hands, and loved with a human heart. Jesus is a Divine Person with both a human and divine nature. This is a great mystery of faith.

How does God's plan of Salvation and Redemption affect you?

Catholics Believe

The Rosary

The Church honors Mary as Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7. Playing the twenty mysteries of the Rosary helps us to reflect on the main events, or mysteries, of Salvation. This kind of meditative prayer helps put us in touch with the heart of our faith in Christ.



Key Concept

Jesus is the New Adam who establishes God's new Creation.

Reinforce

Allow time for the students to complete the activity and to share their ideas.

Connect

- Point out the image on the page.
- Ask: How does having an image, like an icon, help you to focus better on God, especially in prayer?
- Have students complete the Scripture activity on the page with partners. *(Possible answer: It can help you to concentrate and to avoid distractions as you pray.)*

Pray

Gather the students for prayer and select three volunteers to pray brief spontaneous prayers thanking Jesus for being the New Adam.

- Consider by asking each group to discuss how they would respond to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"
- Have the students complete the word search activity to reinforce the titles used to describe Jesus.
- If time allows, have each of the four groups decorate a piece of art paper with the words of their responses and share with the class.

Pray

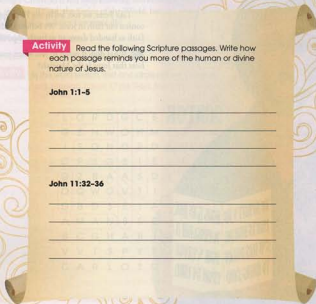
Gather the students for prayer and select a volunteer to read aloud 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

TEACHING TIP

Exploring the Gospels.

Arrange the class in four small groups. Assign each group one of the Gospels and distribute Bibles. Invite each group to look through its Gospel for passages that show Jesus' human or divine nature. Direct the groups to pick two passages that they will share with the rest of the class. After the groups have shared their examples, you may wish to discuss the similarities and differences of the passages the groups chose.

After the groups have shared their examples, you may wish to discuss the similarities and differences of the passages the groups chose.



Activity Read the following Scripture passages. Write how each passage reminds you more of the human or divine nature of Jesus.

John 1:1-5

John 11:32-36

Jesus Is

- **Jesus is Lord.** In Sacred Scripture, the word "Lord" is used for God. Jesus is the Son of the living God. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and is intimately one with the Father in the Holy Spirit (see John 12:44-45; 1 Corinthians 12:3).
- **Jesus is true God and true man.** The Son of God became true man without giving up his divinity. The Son of God became like us in all things but sin. We call this the mystery of the Incarnation (see John 1:14).
- **Jesus is the One whom God promised** to send to deliver his people and to lead them to live the Covenant faithfully. The name of Jesus means "God saves." Jesus is the Messiah and Savior. The title Messiah, or Christ, means "Anointed One."
- **Jesus Christ is the one and only Mediator,** or "go-between," who links God and the human family. He alone reconciles the human family with God (see 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 9:15-28).

Being a Christian is not only knowing and believing that Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, the Savior of the World, but also living as his faithful disciples, as Saint Lawrence did.

Who do you say Jesus is?

Faith-Filled People

Saint Lawrence

Lawrence, deacon and martyr, served the Church during the persecution under Emperor Valerian (A.D. 257-260). Lawrence had the responsibility to care for the "treasures" of the Church. He was ordered to bring these treasures to his sentencing for execution. Lawrence arrived accompanied by a large number of blind, sick, and poor people. He declared, "Here are the treasures of the Church."

Activity

In the word search, find and circle names for Jesus. Lord, Messiah, Savior, Christ, God, Man, Son, Mediator, God Saves

L	O	R	D	G	C	B	M	T	Z	Y	C
G	Z	N	W	O	H	M	E	S	U	M	J
I	S	O	N	D	R	D	S	C	A	E	E
C	P	S	G	S	I	E	S	H	Q	D	L
G	Z	B	A	A	S	D	I	R	E	I	I
O	Q	W	G	V	T	I	A	K	T	A	Z
D	B	D	S	E	I	A	H	U	V	T	S
A	M	A	N	S	O	H	C	A	O	A	S
B	C	G	H	A	B	T	R	Y	B	R	S
V	T	S	P	Y	R	S	U	S	E	J	
C	A	R	L	O	S	Q	A	N	U	E	L

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Key Concept

The titles for Jesus tell us who he is.

- ▶ Have the students work in four groups. Assign one of the four bulleted statements about Jesus to each group. Have each group read their statement and discuss what they understand about the content and select one person to report back to whole group.
- ▶ Distribute Bibles and have each group read the Scripture passages that relate to their statements.

Reinforce

- ▶ Remind the students that Jesus is the Savior of all people. Point out that while Jesus lived on Earth, not everyone came to believe this.
- ▶ Read the Faith-Filled People box on page 70 to highlight someone who did come to believe that Jesus is the Savior.

Connect

- ▶ Conclude by asking each group to discuss how they would respond to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"
- ▶ Have the students complete the word search activity to reinforce the titles used to describe Jesus.
- ▶ If time allows, have each of the four groups decorate a piece of art paper with the words of their responses and share with the class.

Pray

Gather the students for prayer and select a volunteer to read aloud 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Engage the students in creating riddles. Ask each student to write a description of a Christ-like person for the rest of the class to identify. To set a realistic limit on the possibilities, use a list the class generates. The list should include names of some of the Apostles as well as Saints the class has studied. Emphasize that students should describe both character traits and physical characteristics.

Key Concept

The mysteries of the Rosary help us reflect on the life and work of Jesus.

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and have the students bow their heads. Pray aloud:

Mary, lead us to your Son, Jesus.
Amen.

Teach

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Focus question.
- ▶ Have students quietly read the text on the page. As they read, ask them to note how Mary points us to Christ.
- ▶ Divide the class into five groups, assigning each group one of the five Joyful Mysteries. Have each group share why this mystery is considered "joyful."
- ▶ Explain that many believe praying the Joyful Mysteries provides the spiritual strength of humility. Ask the students why they think this is so. (*They show the example of Mary's trust in God.*)

Reinforce

Invite the students to read the Catholics Believe box. Explain that the Church honors Mary throughout the year. List the major Marian feasts on the board. See the box on this page.

Connect

Have students complete the activity on the page and share their work.

FAITH FOCUS

What was Mary's role in God's plan of Salvation?

**The Mysteries of Salvation**

Mary is the first disciple of Jesus. She is the first and greatest Saint of the Church. Mary always points us to Christ. We can look to Mary to teach us and help keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Mary gazed on the human face of her son, Jesus, and saw God. She kept in her heart the beautiful mystery of her son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We are to honor Mary as our mother too, and our hearts are to be like hers.

The Church has given us the Rosary to help us join with Mary and always keep our lives centered on Jesus. There are twenty mysteries of the Rosary. The word *mysteries* points to the mystery of Salvation. There are five Joyful Mysteries, five Sorrowful Mysteries, five Luminous Mysteries, and five Glorious Mysteries. Here is a list of the Joyful Mysteries:

1. The Annunciation (see Luke 1:26-38)
2. The Visitation (see Luke 1:39-49)
3. The Nativity (see Luke 2:1-14)
4. The Presentation in the Temple (see Luke 2:22-38)
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus After Three Days in the Temple (see Luke 2:41-52)

Because of Mary's unique role in God's plan of Salvation, at the end of her earthly life, she was taken up, body and soul, into Heaven. This is called Mary's Assumption. The Church encourages us to pray the Rosary in her honor. It is one way we can bless and honor God with Mary. The Church celebrate October as the Month of the Holy Rosary.

- 2 How would you explain to someone the role Mary plays in God's plan of Salvation?

Activity

Design a poster encouraging classmates to participate in the Month of the Holy Rosary. Include events, and reasons that will motivate students to take part.

THE TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Promoting Knowledge of the Faith. In addition to the Marian holy days (January 1, August 15, and December 8) and Marian feasts (October 7, May 31, and December 12), the events of Mary's life are celebrated on many other days during the liturgical year. List the following feasts and dates on the board. Have the students research one of the Marian Feasts of the Saints Resource at BeMyDisciples.com: the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8), Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15), The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (November 21), The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25), The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saturday after Corpus Christi), and the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 22). Ask the students to write a one-paragraph summary of what they learned about the feast day that they chose.

I FOLLOW JESUS

Mary teaches us how to be humble disciples of Jesus. She is the virgin Mother of Jesus. Because Jesus is the Son of God, Mary is the Mother of God.

THE STORY OF MARY

Review what you learned about Mary in this chapter. Use the Gospel stories and mysteries of the Rosary to assist you. Write your story, give it a title, and illustrate it.

MY FAITH CHOICE

Having reflected on Mary's humility, I will try to be humble this week. I will



Pray, "Heavenly Father, I praise you for giving me this opportunity to act with a humble heart. Amen."

SACRED TRADITION

Marian Devotion: The Rosary is the most popular Catholic devotion honoring Mary. Although the exact origins of the Rosary are not certain, the Dominicans, followers of Saint Dominic, have traditionally been known for promoting it. Until 2002, when Blessed Pope John Paul added the five Luminous Mysteries, there were fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. At that time the Pope explained the meaning of the "mysteries" of the rosary. He wrote: "In the course of those mysteries we contemplate important aspects of the person of Christ as the definitive revelation of God." When we pray the Rosary, we both honor Mary and join her in giving honor and praise to God for the gift of Salvation in Christ.

Reinforce

- ▶ Discuss how Mary is the perfect model of discipleship for us.
- ▶ Brainstorm as a class various actions that demonstrate the virtue and attitude of humility.

Respond

Invite the students to complete the story activity. Encourage them to sketch an illustration for their story. You may wish to provide a small piece of poster board or white art paper for this activity and display their work.

Choose

Invite the students to complete My Faith Choice.

Pray

Remind the students to pray the prayer to ask God to help them act with a humble heart.

Pray

Invite the students to begin class by remembering that God is always present, loving and caring for them. Pray the Sign of the Cross together, slowly and reverently.

Recall

- ▶ Ask the students which images best represent from what they recall included in the chapter.
- ▶ If they do not recall all of the bulleted summary statements under the To Help You Remember section, then be sure to review them with the students.
- ▶ Have students review the chapter by filling in the crossword puzzle.
- ▶ When finished, have volunteers share their answers.

Reflect

Invite the students to complete the Reflect section individually.

Share

- ▶ Divide the class into pairs to work on the Share section.
- ▶ When the class has finished both sections, review their responses.

Connect

Have students complete the activity on the page and share their work.

TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son.
2. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity who is the Messiah, Christ, or "Anointed One." He is true God and true man.
3. The Rosary is a prayer in which we reflect on the Mysteries of Salvation.

Chapter Review

Recall

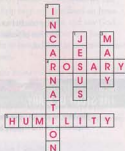
Complete the crossword puzzle.

Down

1. The Son of God; the Messiah and Savior
2. The belief that the Son of God became man
3. The Mother of Jesus; the Mother of God

Across

4. The prayerful meditation on events in the life of Jesus and Mary
5. The virtue related to "poverty in spirit"



Reflect

Explain how Jesus is the New Adam for you.

See page 69

Share

Explain how people today are still experiencing the results of the first sin. Share God's plan for Salvation in your own words to your class.

See page 71

SPECIAL NEEDS

Learning About Jesus Through Art. Provide support for students who face reading challenges by showing different pictures of Jesus drawn from a variety of sources. Point out how some artists emphasize Jesus' humanity and others emphasize his divinity. Engage the students in a discussion about how we can learn about who Jesus is from the ways in which artists have depicted him. Discuss what each artist or illustrator might have had in mind about Jesus when creating the picture.

Have students work in small groups to create a collage of pictures of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saturday after Corpus Christi) and the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 22). Ask the students to write a one-paragraph summary of what they learned about the feast day that they chose.

Hail, Holy Queen

We conclude the praying of the Rosary by praying the prayer, *Hail, Holy Queen*. Catholics have been praying this prayer since the 1100s. Originally written in Latin, it is now prayed around the world. Here is the *Hail, Holy Queen* in Polish and English. Pray the *Hail, Holy Queen* together in the language you know.

Group 1: The angel spoke God's message to Mary.

Group 2: and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy;
Hail, our life, our sweetness,
and our hope.**

To you do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile
show unto us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet
Virgin Mary.

Group 1: "I am the lowly servant of the Lord:

Group 2: let it be done to me according to
your word."

All: Witaj Królowo, Matko Miłosierdzia,
życie, słodyczy i nadziei nasza, witaj!
Do Ciebie walcimy
wygnani, synowie Ewy,
do Ciebie wzdychamy jęcząc i płacząc
na tym łez podole.
Pazło, Ojędzianko nasza,
one miłosierne oczy Twoje na nas
zwróć,
o Jezusa, błogosławiony owoc
żywota Twojego,
po tym wygnaniu nam okaż,
O kaskawa, o łitościwa, o słodka
Panno Maryjo!



We Pray

- ▶ Gather the class to conclude the chapter with prayer.
- ▶ If rosaries are available, distribute one to each student.
- ▶ Choose one of the Mysteries of the Rosary to pray. See page 372 for a list of the Mysteries. You may consider the following:
Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday), Luminous Mysteries (Thursday), Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday), and Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday).
- ▶ Together pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
- ▶ Consider singing or just listening to a traditional Marian hymn to close the lesson.

TEACHING TIP

Music in the Classroom. In addition to biblical texts, holy images, and traditional prayers, music also reveals much about what we believe as Catholics. Consider using a traditional Marian hymn ("Immaculate Mary," "Sing of Mary," or "Hail, Holy Queen") to close this week's session. Choose a hymn found in your parish hymnal or missalette so that the students can look at the text of the song that you choose. Ask the students to share what the text teaches us about Mary's life. Resource: *Be My Disciples* music program, Grade 6 CD.

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.

▶ Divide the class into pairs to work on the Silent section.

Before Moving On ...

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

How well do I allow silent time for children to reflect on what I am teaching?

With My Family

This Week ...

In Chapter 5, "Son of God, Son of Mary," your child learned:

- ▶ God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God, who became one of us without giving up being God.
- ▶ In Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Mary, God's promise and plan of Salvation are fulfilled.
- ▶ In praying the Rosary, we can honor Mary and meditate on the life of Christ.
- ▶ Mary is the first and model disciple of her Son. She demonstrates the virtue of humility in her words and deeds, acknowledging that all her blessings are from God.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 422-570, and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 77-87.

■ Sharing God's Word

Read together Hebrews 2:9-18. Emphasize that Jesus is Lord, yet became human even unto death. In Christ, we are adopted children of God. Christ has reconciled us with God, who promises us eternal life if we live according to the Gospel.

■ 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:

- ▶ Talk about some of the choices your family has made. How are these choices signs of your faith in Jesus Christ? Reflect on your celebration of the Christmas season. Decide as a family what Christian choices you can make amid the popular consumerism of the season.

- ▶ Humility can be a difficult virtue for preadolescent sixth graders, who are trying to maintain independence and autonomy. Discuss practical ways your family can live this virtue. Remind your child that humility is not a sign of weakness, but of a strong faith and relationship with God.

- ▶ Pray the Rosary as a family at home, especially on a feast of Mary, making sure each family member has his or her own rosary. Also participate in a family Rosary at your parish. If and when it is prayed.

■ Our Spiritual Journey

Praying the Rosary helps us see how Mary always points us to Jesus. In this chapter, your child prayed part of the Rosary. Read and pray together the prayer on page 75.



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

BeMyDisciples.com

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Praying the Rosary. The month of October is the month of the Rosary. Build on today's lesson by encouraging parents to pray the Rosary with their children, especially during the month of October. Suggest that they continue this tradition during the month of May and on Marian feast days throughout the liturgical year. Provide parents with those dates, as listed in the "Tasks of Catechesis" box in this chapter on page 126. A list of Marian feasts can also be found at *BeMyDisciples.com*. Send or e-mail directions for praying the Rosary to the parents, or refer them to *BeMyDisciples.com*.

Enriching the Lesson

Role-playing Saying "Yes" to God

Purpose

To reinforce the Gospel account of the Annunciation in Luke 1:26–38, especially Mary's response of faith (taught on pages 66–67)

Directions

- ▶ Focus on the response of Mary to Gabriel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Point out that we call this "Mary's yes to God."
- ▶ Have the students work in small groups to create role-plays using real-life situations that illustrate saying yes to God.
- ▶ Invite the groups to present their role-plays.
- ▶ Discuss the role-plays with the entire class.
- ▶ Encourage the students to pray and put their trust in God when they make decisions to live their faith.

Materials

none

Designing Symbols for Mary

Purpose

To reinforce the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary taught on page 72.

Directions

- ▶ Have the students work individually to list the Joyful Mysteries that they learned in this chapter.
- ▶ Invite them to create symbols for one of the mysteries or for Mary as a disciple of Jesus.
- ▶ Have the students share their symbols with the class.

Materials

construction paper
markers or crayons

Writing in Journals

Purpose

To reinforce Saint Peter's response to Jesus when Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (taught on page 70)

Directions

- ▶ Discuss with the class ways that they believe young people today would respond to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"
- ▶ Next have the students write their own personal responses to Jesus' question.

Materials

journals or paper
pens or pencils

Remembering Mary All Year

Purpose

Have the students research a feast day of Mary either in books or online and prepare a class celebration related to the feast.

Chronological list of Feast Days of Mary

- | | |
|--|---|
| January 1—Mary, the Holy Mother of God | September 8—Birth of Mary |
| February 2—Presentation of the Lord | September 12—The Most Holy Name of Mary |
| February 11—Our Lady of Lourdes | September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows |
| March 25—Annunciation | October 7—Our Lady of the Rosary |
| May 31—Visitation | November 21—Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| June 27—Our Mother of Perpetual Help | December 8—Immaculate Conception |
| July 16—Our Lady of Mount Carmel | December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| August 15—Assumption | |