

# Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 7

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- Jesus met many people in different circumstances. He welcomed them all, urged them to believe, and encouraged them to change their lives. (CCC, 871)
- Some of Jesus' disciples became his Apostles, his closest followers. These twelve men traveled to preach the Good News and the coming Kingdom.
- As the Apostles' friendship with Jesus deepened, so did their understanding of who he was and what he taught. (CCC, 787, 788)
- After Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost, the early Christians gained the courage to witness to others. (CCC, 126, 1226)
- The first members of the Church demonstrated Christian friendship in how they worshipped together, followed Jesus' example, and cared for each other. (CCC, 751, 849)

## Catechist Background

"And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me."—John 17:22-23

**Reflect** What do you think it would have been like to have known Jesus during his time on Earth?

As disciples of Jesus we learn the teachings of Jesus. We contemplate his suffering, Death and Resurrection, and respond with a lived faith. Our focus on Jesus' mission and ministry may not leave us much room to ponder other aspects of Jesus' life on Earth—what Jesus liked to do to relax or what made him laugh.

The Gospels give us some details about that life. Jesus enjoyed the companionship of his friends. He loved to eat with groups of people. He went to weddings and cried at the death of his friend, Lazarus. Jesus offered his friends the gift of presence. We can only imagine what it must have been like to share joys and struggles with someone who truly listened and responded with love.

Jesus' life helps us to remember that our relationships are an important way that we share his love with others. We are a blessing when we are present to others. In fact, being present to someone is the first step on the journey to inviting them to know Christ. The next time you gather with friends and/or acquaintances, imagine Jesus sitting in your midst. It may change the way you see those sacred moments.

**Reflect** What do you enjoy in your leisure time, and how is that a blessing for you?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

Jesus, help me to follow the examples of your first disciples and friends. Like Mary Magdalene, help me to be steadfast and loyal. Like Simon Peter, help me to rise up when I fail. I ask these things in your holy name. Amen.

### **Sharing the Message**

#### **How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics**

Close friends are very important to eighth-graders. They form strong bonds within their peer groups, and learn a great deal from one another. This experience will help them relate to the bonds Jesus had with his Apostles, as well as the feelings they must have felt when Jesus was tortured and crucified.

### **Teaching Tip**

Have the young people consider their closest friends. Ask them to write about one of those friends and what they have learned from him or her.

### **Sharing the Message with Eighth Graders**

The role of the peer group is very important for most eighth-graders. Sometimes finding their place in the group means emphasizing their own image or interest at the expense of others.

- Insecurity can lead some young people to be highly critical and even cruel to those who are at the lower end of the adolescent social structure. It is important to help such critical teens remember the value of kindness and charity.
- Encourage the youth to think about some of the things they can learn from Jesus' example about listening to others and acting in a more loving way.

### **Chapter Connections**

#### **Tasks of Catechesis**

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Education for Community Life

### **NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition**

#### **Knowledge of the Faith**

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

#### **Communal Life**

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

**Catholic Faith Literacy**

Ascension, disciples, Pentecost

**Catholic Social Teaching**

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saints Prisca and Aquila on page 140. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 140, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 7 for the prayer on page 141.

**Music Option**

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
  - "You Stand Knocking," Live, Page 141

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 7

## Invite Page 131

### Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

### ♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response. Have the youth move from the prayer space back to their seats.

Explain that Jesus wants to have a relationship of love and friendship with us.

*Say:* Let's listen to God's Word and hear Jesus speak of the complete unity he shares with his Father.

### † Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

### Have you ever thought...

*Say:* Jesus invited everyone to change their hearts and return to the Father. We should look to Jesus as an example of how to treat others in our lives.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 134-135

### Objectives

- Explain why Jesus was criticized for associating with sinners and the sick
- Explore the Scriptures to see how Jesus interacted with the people he met

Discuss the opening question with the group.

### **The People Jesus Met**

Invite volunteers to read the paragraphs on pages 134 and 135, highlighting how Jesus sought to bring the ways of Heaven to Earth.

Point out that Jesus provides a model for us in how we treat others.

- Jesus welcomed everyone.
- He loved and forgave his friends even when they let him down.
- Ask the youth how we can help bring the Kingdom of God to Earth.
- Remind them that some individuals were upset with Jesus because he spent time with different types of people and welcomed everyone to share in God's Kingdom.

Make a two-column chart on the board or on chart paper. Ask the young people to describe some of the types of people who received Jesus' care. Write their responses in the first column of the chart.

- Have the youth describe how Jesus responded to each type of person he encountered. Note responses in the second column of the corresponding row.

### **Work with Words**

Write the Catholic Faith Words on the board or on chart paper.

- Remind the young people about their earlier discussion of these words.
- Have a volunteer read aloud the definitions from the box.

### **† Scripture**

Ask the young people to read the passages from Mark and Luke.

Discuss with them why Jesus ate with tax collectors, the sick, and sinners.

### **The Twelve Apostles**

Review the chart listing the names of Jesus' Apostles.

Tell the youth they can find more information on the Apostles on page 363 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of their books.

### **Activity**

Allow the young people time to read and reflect on the activity.

### **Quick Review**

Share that Jesus encountered many different people in different circumstances during his ministry. He welcomed them, urged them to believe, and encouraged them to change their lives. Those who did became his disciples.

## **Discover (2) Pages 136-137**

### **Objective**

- Recognize that as the Apostles' friendship with Jesus deepened, so did their understanding of who he was and what he taught

Invite the youth to think about the opening question as they read the text.

### **Jesus' Closest Friends**

Point out that although Jesus was welcoming to everyone, he had close friends just like we do.

Direct the young people to read the text to find out who Jesus' closest friends were.

- Ask: Who were some of Jesus' friends?
- As the youth call out the names, invite a volunteer to write them on the board or on chart paper. **Peter, James, John, Mary Magdalene**

### **Peter and Mary Magdalene's Actions**

Review with the group the statements in the chart.

\* Direct the youth to identify the statements that describe Peter's actions and those that describe Mary Magdalene's actions.

- Ask them to write one question they would have for Peter or Mary about Jesus. Invite volunteers to share their responses.

### **† Scripture Background**

#### **Pentecost**

Pentecost is the Church's celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. It is often called the birthday of the Church because it was after receiving the Holy Spirit that the Apostles were strengthened to go out and spread the Good News of the Risen Christ.

- In John 20:19–23, we read how the Risen Jesus visited the disciples behind locked doors. Jesus says, "Peace be with you" and he breathes on them and says "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- In Acts 2:1–13, Pentecost is described using the images of a strong wind filling the house and tongues of fire resting on each of the Apostles.

### **Friends from Bethany**

Ask the youth to read this text on more friends of Jesus. • Invite them to consider what the close friends of Jesus were like.

- Have them list both the positive and the negative qualities demonstrated by Jesus' friends (from pages 136 and 137).
- Ask them what it means to see people as Jesus saw them.
- Write their responses on the board or on chart paper.

**Activity**

Have the young people read the question and the instructions. • Invite them to share some of the reasons they gave.

**Quick Review**

Explain that the Apostles were Jesus' closest friends. As they traveled with him, they witnessed how his actions lived out his teaching about God's love. The Apostles preached with Jesus and shared the Good News of the coming Kingdom.

**Extend the Lesson**

Use **Activity Master 7: Clique or Community?** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

**Discover (3) Pages 138-139****Objectives**

- Identify how the early Christians changed after Jesus' Ascension and then Pentecost

**Teaching Activity: Jesus' Followers**

Young people will learn how the community of early Christians modeled true Christian friendship. Participants will play a game to identify Jesus' friends and followers.

**Before the Lesson****Materials Needed**

✦ Go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) and download the Jesus' Followers Game and Catholic Faith Words  
safety pins, tape

**Preparation**

- Do an Internet search for some images of the early Christian community. Some relevant images might be: an early Christian house church, symbols of bread and wine, coins, a plate of vegetables, and a scroll with wavy lines.
- Print and post the images of the early Christian community of early around the room.
- Do an Internet search for an image of each one of these followers of Jesus: Saint Peter, Saint Paul, Lydia, Prisca, and Phoebe
- Select six volunteers prior to the start of the activity. Give each one of the volunteers one of the images and the descriptions of their assigned person.
- Inform them that they will be reading descriptions of Jesus' followers to the larger group. After the group has made their guesses, the volunteer will then reveal the identity of Jesus' follower(s) by showing the image of that person.

### **Activity Directions**

*Say:* Forty Days after the Resurrection we celebrate the day that the Risen Jesus left the Apostles and disciples and returned to Heaven in their sight. Does anyone remember what we call this event? **Ascension**

If no one in the group can remember draw nine blank spaces on the board and let the youth guess the letters until someone guesses Ascension.

Post the Catholic Faith Word page for *Ascension* on the board or wall and ask a volunteer to read aloud the definition.

*Say:* Can you imagine the sadness that the disciples must have felt because Jesus was gone? Yet, they knew that he had promised to send the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came as tongues of fire and made the disciples a united community. The people who heard the Apostles' preaching and chose to follow Jesus gathered in communities.

Point to each of the images of the community of early Christians that are hung around the room as you explain what they mean. Begin by pointing out the image of the early Christian house church.

*Say:* They opened their homes to each other to discuss Jesus' teachings.

Point out the image of the bread and wine.

*Say:* They broke bread together as Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Point out the image of the coins and vegetables.

*Say:* They shared their food, possessions, and money.

Point out the image of the scroll.

*Say:* They motivated each other to tell others about Jesus and his message. Ask the six volunteers to come forward and pin the image and name of Jesus' follower to their backs. Ask them to keep their backs turned and away from the rest of the group. Hand each volunteer the description of Jesus' follower that they represent.

*Say:* Jesus' followers helped each other in every way possible. They shared more than just material possessions; they helped one another with their spiritual needs, too. They demonstrated true Christian friendship: trust, loyalty, generosity, hospitality, concern, joy, and hope. Let's play a game to identify who some of these people were.



Ask the first volunteer to begin by reading the bulleted clues, one at a time, until the group yells out the correct answer. If they don't guess, correctly, ask the volunteer to turn around and reveal the name and image of Jesus' follower.

Repeat this game until all of Jesus' followers have been identified and revealed.

*Say:* Jesus' followers were incredible men and women who believed and lived his message so passionately that they risked and sometimes lost their lives. We can learn true Christian friendship from them by the way they worshipped together, followed the example of Jesus, and took care of one another.

***Descriptions:***

***1. Saint Peter***

***2. Saint Stephen***

***3. Saint Paul (Saul)***

***4. Lydia,***

***5. Phoebe***

***6. Saint Prisca***

**Live Pages 140-141**

**Objectives**

- Discuss the value of friendship
- Explore the faith lives of Saints Prisca and Aquila
- Offer the prayer using God's Word

Have the young people silently reflect on the different relationships in their lives and pray for God's blessing on them.

**Our Catholic Life**

Ask the youth to silently read this section.

- As a group, discuss ways you can share Jesus' friendship with other people.
- Invite the youth to silently reflect on the questions at the end of this section.

**People of Faith**

Explain to the young people that Saints Prisca and Aquila were friends of Saint Paul and devoted followers of Jesus.

- Review the People of Faith paragraph with the youth.
- Share with the group the additional points from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on the meaning of Christian friendship.

Here are some additional details about Saints Prisca and Aquila to assist you in presenting this section:

- Share that Prisca and Aquila met Saint Paul in Corinth, Greece.
- Paul stayed in Corinth for about a year and a half. When he set sail for Syria, the couple sailed with him.
- When they reached Ephesus, Paul left them there. We hear no more about them after that, but it is believed they returned to Rome and were martyred there.

### **Activity**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the activity instructions.

- Invite the youth to share their lists with a partner.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "You Stand Knocking," downloaded from **[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)**.

### **Chapter Review**

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

# Chapter 7 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Encountering Christ</b> Page 131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Psalm 119:1</b> Pray the opening prayer.</li> <li> <b>John 17:20–24</b> Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.</li> <li>• Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Discover, 45 minutes</b>		
<b>The People Jesus Met</b> Pages 134–135 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain why Jesus was criticized for associating with sinners and the sick</li> <li>• Explore the Scriptures to see how Jesus interacted with the people he met</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about the way Jesus treated people he met.</li> <li> Read <b>Mark 2:16, Mark 10:46–52, Matthew 12:9–14, Luke 7:36–50.</b></li> <li>• Review the names of the Apostles.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Young people will compare and contrast themselves with different people in their lives.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
<b>Jesus' Closest Friends</b> Pages 136–137 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that as the Apostles' friendship with Jesus deepened, so did their understanding of who he was and what he taught</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain that the Apostles were Jesus' closest friends.</li> <li>★ Write a question to ask Peter or Mary about Jesus.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Identify people today who would have been friends of Jesus.</li> <li>• <b>Activity Master</b> Clique or Community?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper Activity Master 7
<b>The First Church Members</b> Pages 138–139 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how the early Christians changed after Jesus' Ascension and then Pentecost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching Activity</b> Participants will play a game to identify Jesus' friends and followers and learn how the community of early Christians modeled true fellowship.</li> </ul>	Images of the Early Christian Community, Jesus' Followers Game, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> tape
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the Our Catholic Life questions.</li> <li>• <b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Saints Prisca and Aquila.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> List and rank important characteristics of friendship.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Celebration of the Word</b> Page 141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint two leaders and four readers.</li> <li>• Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	"You Stand Knocking"

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

disciple, Apostles, Ascension

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 142

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Clique or Community?

Consider a group that you or your family are part of and describe what makes it a positive experience of community for you. It could be a parish group, a group in your neighborhood or school, or even friends from an old neighborhood.

Think about some of the cliques in school or in your neighborhood and then describe the characteristics they have in common.

Label the following words as characteristics of either a “clique” or a “community.”

Powerful \_\_\_\_\_

Trusting \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiving \_\_\_\_\_

Controlling \_\_\_\_\_

Respectful \_\_\_\_\_

Open \_\_\_\_\_

Exclusive \_\_\_\_\_

Under the column titled “Community,” place the words you used in this activity to describe community. In the second column titled “Cliques,” place the words you used in this activity to describe cliques. Some words may fit under both columns.

Community	Cliques
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Match each description in Column A with the correct name or term in Column B.

## Column A

## Column B

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| ___ 1. Saints Prisca and Aquila were friends of                                | a. Lazarus    |
| ___ 2. Brought back to life by Jesus   | b. Stephen    |
| ___ 3. Followers of Jesus who shared in his work and ministry in a special way | c. Saint Paul |
| ___ 4. First martyr killed for believing in Jesus                              | d. Ascension  |
| ___ 5. Jesus returned in glory to his Father                                   | e. Apostles   |

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

6. \_\_\_ went to pray with Jesus the night before he was arrested.
- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Peter, Matthew, and John      | c. All except Judas       |
| b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John | d. John, James, and Peter |
7. \_\_\_ was the first person Jesus appeared to after he rose from the dead.
- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. Mary, his Mother | c. Paul           |
| b. Peter            | d. Mary Magdalene |
8. The disciples became a united community after the Holy Spirit came to them in the form of \_\_\_\_.
- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a. a dove          | c. a burning bush |
| b. tongues of fire | d. an angel       |

Write a response to each of the statements on the lines below.

9. Name three ways the early Christian community demonstrated true Christian friendship.

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10. Give an example of how true Christian friendship is lived in your community.

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## Jesus' Followers Description #1

- I was imprisoned but escaped when an angel caused the doors to my cell to open and my chains fell off.
- I was the first to speak after receiving the Holy Spirit.
- I had a brother who also followed Jesus.
- I was with Jesus from the beginning of his public ministry.
- I denied Jesus 3 times.

## Jesus' Followers Description #2

- I was chosen by the Twelve Apostles to help the people in the community.
- My work was to help with getting and giving food especially to widows and children.
- I was one of the first deacons.
- I was stoned to death for my belief in Jesus.
- I prayed for the forgiveness of those who threw the rocks at me.

## Jesus' Followers Description #3

- I was a Jewish Pharisee.
- I wanted to rid the Jewish religion of Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah.
- I came to know Jesus when he appeared to me on the road and asked me why I was persecuting him.
- I changed my life and became known as the Apostles to the Gentiles.
- I wrote many letters to help people have faith in Jesus. These letters can be found in the New Testament.



## Jesus' Followers Description #4

- I lived in Phillipi, a Roman city in Macedonia in the first century.
- I was a business woman.
- I sold the most expensive color cloth—purple.
- I asked Paul and Silas to stay with me.
- I even let them stay with me when they were released from prison.

## Jesus' Followers Description #5

- I was a friend of Saint Paul.
- I am an important Greek woman who was a leader in the Church of Cenchreae—a village near Corinth in Greece.
- Saint Paul trusted me to deliver his letter to the Romans.
- Saint Paul's letter to the Romans is very important as it helps explain the meaning of Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

## Jesus' Followers Description #6

- I am a Roman who moved to Corinth, a large seaport town.
- I was a tentmaker.
- I am married to a man named Aquila.
- Saint Paul came to Corinth and lived with us for a year and six months.
- Our home was the place where the followers of Jesus gathered. We were called people of “the Way.”

# Catholic Faith Words

**Ascension** the event of the Risen Christ being taken up into Heaven forty days after his Resurrection.