

Fourth Grade: Lesson 3: Being a Disciple of Jesus

Lesson Objective:

The personal love and sacrifice of Jesus explored in lessons 1 and 2 fills the children with wonder and awe and opens their hearts to conversion. The outcomes in this lesson explore the notion of conversion and discipleship and invites the child to make a choice to live as a disciple of Christ. It is important to spend time in discussion exploring concrete examples of behaviors, thoughts, and attitudes that reflect discipleship in the day-to-day life of a 4th grader.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify conversion as turning away from sin and turning toward God (CCC 545, 1036; Mark 1:14-15, Acts 3:19-20).
- Be invited to make a choice to invite Jesus into their lives (Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-28).
- Discuss what discipleship looks like for a 4th grade student (Matt 5:13-14, Luke 9:23-25, John 8:31-32).
- Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, crayons, pencils,
- Copies: Whatever you choose for opening activity, Commitment Prayer for each student, Being a Disciple of Christ, Scripture Reflection Page and or Prayer Journal.

As Students Enter Class:

- One idea is to have a word search ready for students to work on while waiting for others to arrive. (Ex: Adam and Eve, The Fall is mentioned in Lesson 2).
- Think and Sketch – Pose the following question: What does it mean to be a Disciple of Jesus? Encourage students to sketch, draw, or write their thoughts to this question.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to join you at the prayer space. Ask a student to choose a traditional Catholic prayer to recite. (One idea is to have prayer titles written out and placed in a small bag or basket and have a student pick one).

- If you selected an activity that students responded to, offer a few minutes of sharing time.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 3 Video	<p>This video is 5:40 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: It reminds us that sin separates us from God and others. The Good News is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so we can be with God forever. When we decide to live good and holy lives for Jesus, we become Disciples. When we choose to turn away from sin and toward God it is called conversion. We chose to invite God into our lives and hearts. Let's hear what Jesus has to say about conversion.</p> <p>Holy Scripture Reading: <u>Mark 1:14-15</u>: The time has come and the Kingdom of God is near. Turn away from sin and believe in the Good News.</p> <p>When we are committed to living a life with Jesus, God helps us with the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Consider providing time for individual quiet prayer (spontaneous prayer) asking God to forgive the times we haven't lived up to His plan for our lives. Ask Jesus into your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.</p> <p>Next, pray The Commitment Prayer together. If you are not showing the video, see attached prayer. Pass out one to each student.</p> <p><u>Holy Scripture Reading:</u> Mark 8:34-37 (pg. 1545) Forget yourself and carry your cross, follow me. If you save your own life, you will lose it. But if you lose your life for me, you will save it. If you are ashamed of me and my teaching, then I will be ashamed of you when I come with the glory of my Father and the Holy Angels.</p>

<p>Try an engagement strategy: Pass the beanbag or give a piece of candy</p>	<p><u>Discussion/Reflection:</u> What does it mean to forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me? Some prompts: Does it mean you are selfless? Serve others? What are our crosses? They are the burden of sin or bad behavior. Do you have ways in which you need to be a kinder person?</p> <p>What do we need to do to build a relationship with Jesus? Daily prayer, reading the Bible and thinking about what you read, attending Sunday Mass...) Commitment takes EFFORT. What would your life look like with Jesus at the Center of it? Provide time for quiet reflecting; offer paper to students who want to sketch, draw, or write down their thoughts.</p> <p>You can also try some guided meditation using the following prompts: Is Jesus...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A part of your life • One of the many things in your life • The center of your life <p>Where do you want Jesus to be in your life? How might you live your life so that Jesus is at the center?</p>
<p>Being a Disciple of Christ Activity</p>	<p>Suggestion: Assign group students for each Bible passage (depending on your class size). Read the directions and allow students to sit on the floor or move spots at their tables. Using the Jigsaw strategy, students will become 'experts' on their assigned passage and teach it to the class.</p>
<p>Video: Challenge Yourself to Become Better</p>	<p>This video is 7:25 in length. It is an engaging video with a young male presenting. You can choose to show the entire video; if you want to show a part of it, then consider showing the first 3 minutes and 30 seconds.</p> <p>Highlights: Engaging in worship helps us to see what God sees as a community. We are here to</p>

	encourage one another (community). We need to recognize that we are NOT ALONE on this journey. Ongoing conversion is an ongoing act of will to choose Jesus Christ as our Savior (not just a nice guy).
Know, Love, Serve Song	This song is .48 in length; it is a Christine in Action video. Encourage students to join in the singing and movements. You may want to show this one twice to encourage the movements.
Intro to the Activities	This video is .41 in length and encourages students to read and reflect on Sacred Scripture. What is God telling you about being His Disciple? What does God tell you about turning away from sin? Is Jesus at the center of your life? What might you need to change in order to grow in Christ?
Choosing to Live as a Disciple Activity	Suggestion: Read through the prompts on this page and guide students to select 2 or 3 of the questions to answer for themselves. Tell them they don't have to share their responses but you will open up a few minutes of class time for those who want to share. If students seem hesitant, share one answer of your own to provide encouragement.
Scripture Reflection Page	What is the Holy Spirit telling you? If you are running short of time, consider using this as an opening for Session 4. Another suggestion is to do the Jigsaw strategy (like we did above) and assign groups of students to answer one of the prompts; then all groups will share what they read and reflected upon.
Prayer Journal	This can be an ongoing booklet you use in class. If you did not do the above Scripture Reflection page, then consider offering some prayer journal time.

Wrap Up and Closing Prayer	<p>This lesson contained some very important concepts of our Catholic Faith. One fun way to review the lesson objectives is to provide an oral fill in the blank sentence activity that moves at a faster pace. For example: Conversion is moving _____ from sin and moving _____ God. (away/toward). Today we reflected upon this: Is God at the _____ of our lives? (center) How can we build our discipleship towards Jesus? If students need nudging, consider passing out a piece of candy to those who answer.</p> <p>Invite students to the prayer space and end class with a spontaneous prayer of thanks, thanking God for sending us Jesus and the Holy Spirit, whom we can look to for guidance and we work toward choosing God to be at the center of our lives.</p>
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