

Fifth 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. This lesson explores the notion of conversion and discipleship and helps the child understand that living a life of discipleship doesn't happen automatically but results in a choice to follow Christ. Children will be invited to make that choice in this lesson. In addition, it is important to spend time discussing concrete ways in which missionary discipleship is lived in the day-to-day life of a fifth 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).
- Recognize that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (Mark 8:34-35).
- Be invited to make a choice to accept Jesus' gift of salvation by inviting Him into his or her life (Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-28).
- Discuss what discipleship and virtuous living look like for a 5th grade student (Matt 5:13-14, Luke 9:23-25, John 8:31-32).
- Recognize that by virtue of their Baptism, they are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share the "good news" with others (Matt 28:19-20).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer Space items, pencils, pens, crayons, prayer journals
- Copies Needed: Commitment Prayer for each student, prayer journal page if you do not use a booklet, Good News Activity Prayer Card, Prayers of the Catholic Church, Printable Prayer Hand

As Students Enter Class:

- Today students will be reminded that we have a choice to accept Jesus in our heart and into our lives. One suggestion is to provide students with a blank sheet of paper, have them draw a heart, and then inside the heart they can write or draw ways they show they choose Jesus. (You could also have one larger size cut out of a heart already done for students to use).
- Another idea is to encourage students to look at some Saint Holy Cards. Ask them to think about ways that saint may have shown Jesus

that they chose Him above all others. This could also be written down or drawn as described above.

Beginning of Class:

- As you invite students around your prayer table, one thought is to pray something like this: Jesus, I choose you above all and I invite you into my life. Please keep me on your path. When I stray and sin, help me to remember to come to you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confess my sins so as to start anew.
- Or, if you used the Saint Holy Cards, students could offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for the Saint they looked at. For example: Jesus, thank you for St. Michael the Arch Angel. He chose you above all others and he defends us in times of need.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 5 Video	<p>This video is 5:37 in length.</p> <p><u>Highlights:</u> Last week we learned that sin has consequences and one consequence is that it separates us from God. It also hurts others, and ourselves in different ways. BUT we have <u>good news</u>: Jesus died on the cross for our sins. His death (you may remember this from last year) is the perfect sacrifice. It allows us to spend eternity in Heaven with God. When we decide to live good, holy lives for Jesus, then we are his Disciples. Choosing to follow Jesus means turning away from sin. We also learned about the word, conversion. <u>Conversion</u> means turning away from sin and toward God.</p> <p>Read Mark 1:14-15. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"</p> <p>Then Carla invites students to pray with her. First, prompt students to think about the ways they struggle and have not lived up to God's plan. Then, ask Jesus into your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you accept Jesus into your heart. She</p>

<p>If you are using weekly prayer journals, students could draw or write their reflections on these prompts.</p>	<p>provides a small amount of quiet time to reflect before praying The Commitment Prayer.</p> <p>Invite students to open their Bibles to Mark 8:34-37, page 1545. After reading, provide students with prompts for reflection, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to forget yourself and carry your cross? • What does selfless mean? • Crosses are the burdens that we each have in our lives. It could be a sin or bad behavior that needs to be corrected. • What does it mean to follow Jesus? • Do you make him the center of your life? <p>Additional prompts from the video:</p> <p>Is Jesus.... a part of your life? One of the many things in your life? The center of your life?</p> <p>Where do you want Jesus to be in your Life How might you live your life so that Jesus is at the center of your life?</p>
<p>Becoming a Disciple of Christ Video</p> <p>Suggestion: Show as much as you feel gets the point across. One option is to stop at 3:15. If your students are engaged, then show the whole video.</p>	<p>This video is 7:26 in length. The presenter is a young man who shares his love of the Lord and his passion comes across in his presentation.</p> <p>Highlights: We worship as a community to build one another up. We are not alone in our faith. We share and receive gifts from others. Jesus is our savior. When we see as God sees, we will be as God made us to be. But we have to listen to Him. How do we do that? Prayer, meditation, adoration. Through ongoing conversion, we choose to convert our hearts over to Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Who is this Jesus that we are spending quality time with? What's the point? He is more than just some nice guy, moral teacher, or friend. Jesus Christ is our Savior. He has a kingdom for the weak; that's us. Jesus is our Messiah and saves us from our sin. Through ongoing conversion, we recognize Jesus as our Savior, and continually do so.</p>

Disciple of Christ song	<p>This video is 4:23 and has very nice visuals that accompany the song. You can use this song in a few ways. Two ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Listen to it one time. Then play it a second time, encouraging students to sing along. 2) Use this song for a guided meditation activity. Students can listen and then share their thoughts afterward. Consider allowing students to draw or write what comes to mind as they listen. Then they share their thoughts.
Movement Break	<p>This is a good time to have a movement break. Suggestion: Have students stand and toss a bean bag or small object around. Encourage students to share something new they have learned so far, a question they have, or anything else related to class. Look back at today's learning objectives, and incorporate some questions and answers related to the learning outcomes.</p>
Reflection and Intro into the Activities	<p>This video is 2:50.</p> <p>Highlights: Jesus's great gift of salvation requires a response on our part as his believers and followers. Through our Baptism, we recognize that by virtue of Baptism, we are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share the "good news" with others.</p> <p><i>FYI: Catholic.com definition of virtue:</i></p> <p><i>The word "virtue" is used as a synonym for goodness or sobriety or some likable personality trait, but the Church uses the term in a much more precise way. Virtues are special graces given by God to the soul for the accomplishment of particular objectives. They inhere in the soul and are subject to strengthening or weakening. The Church distinguishes between two general categories of virtues: theological and moral. Faith, hope, and charity are called theological virtues because they are the most important characteristics in a Christian's life, as Paul explains in Romans 5:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 13:13. They pertain (exclusively, in the case of faith and hope,</i></p>

	<p><i>and primarily, in the case of charity) to one's relationship with God. Faith is the grace of believing in God's love for us and in his revealed truths (Lk 1:45, Jn 11:25-26, Eph 2:8). Hope is the grace of trusting God will be true to his promise to save us from eternal death if we turn to him in repentance (Rom 5:2, 8:25; Heb 6:17-20; 1 Pt 1:3-5). Charity is a two-fold grace with the primary effect of moving the will to love God fervently and above all things and with the secondary effect of intensifying love for our neighbor (Dt 6:4-6; Mt 22:36-40, 25:31-46; Mk 12:28-31; Rom 13:8-10; 1 Cor 13:1-13).</i></p> <p>Read Matthew 28:19-20 together. (Go then to all people everywhere and make them Disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)</p> <p>Stop and Discuss: What does it mean to follow Jesus? What does virtuous living look like. (The video has nice visuals accompanying the questions). What challenges do you have with living a virtuous life?</p> <p>Read Matthew 5:12-16 together. You are the salt for the human race. Analogy: What happens when salt becomes saltless? It can't become salty again. It has to be thrown out. Discuss: Why did Jesus use this analogy to explain His thinking? You are the light for the whole world and your light must shine for all people to see? Discuss this analogy as well. Encourage students to see that as the salt and light of the world, we must live and follow Jesus's commandments. By doing this, we grown in friendship with God. Remember to pray and ask Jesus to help you know what to say to others so we can be the salt and light of the world.</p>
Commitment Prayer	Consider gathering students around your prayer space, pass out a Commitment Prayer Card to each student, and pray the prayer together.

Good News prayer Card Activity	<p>Think of someone in your life that needs to hear the Good News (Jesus is our Savior and has come to save us from our sins and to help us enter into heaven to live eternally with God). Write a prayer asking God to help you share the Good News with that person.</p> <p>Provide time to share when this activity is done; however, this could be very personal to some so don't require students to share.</p>
Prayers of the Catholic Church Handout	<p>Students can take these home or you may want to keep them to use for future lessons and send them home at a later date.</p> <p>Give students some time to look over the prayers. Remind students that we have traditional Catholic Prayers and we memorize many of them. But also, we have spontaneous prayers (for thanksgiving, for asking for something, for praying for someone who is ill, ...)</p>
Prayer Journal Pages *See note below*	If you are using a prayer journal, you can provide quiet time for students to write in their journal or choose one of the 4 pages provided for reflection.
Printable Prayer Hand	*Suggestion: Pass this out before offering prayer journal time. Review the information in the hand and then provide quiet time for prayer journaling.
Closing Activity	<p>Gather students around the prayer table with their Prayers of the Catholic Church Handout. Invite one student to select a prayer to recite together.</p> <p>Remind students that every time spent in prayer helps them grow in friendship with our Lord. This, in turn, allows them to be God's salt and light on this Earth.</p>