

Jesus Is Our Friend

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 2, Kindergarten

Lesson 2 Goal

- Your child will express understanding of Jesus as a friend who wants to know and love us.

Key Points

- Jesus is God the Son.
- Jesus wants to know us and be our friend.



Parent Reflection

Jesus was with God in the beginning, and is himself God (John 1:1–2). Scripture tells us that God the Father sent Jesus, his Son, to us “so that we might receive adoption” as his children (Galatians 4:4–5).

A God who reaches out to us in such a personal way is truly worthy of our awe and our praise. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, discusses the great humility of Jesus Christ, “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” (Philippians 2:6–7). This is a God to whom we can relate.

Jesus took the lowest place in humanity so that all people would find him approachable. In fact, it is he who first approaches us so that we are no longer slaves to our sin but rather friends of God (John 15:15). Jesus wants a personal relationship with each of us. We find our friendship with God through both our individual walk with him in prayer and daily life and our relationship with the Church, which is the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12–20).

Reflection Question

In what ways do I see Jesus as a friend?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- heart-shaped cutout
- safety scissors
- drawing paper
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together

a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Prepare a heart-shaped cutout using drawing paper.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “In our prayer we will talk to Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son. Isn’t that a wonderful thing to know about Jesus?”

“Jesus knows many things about you and me. Jesus is fully God, but he is also fully human. Because Jesus is also human like us, he understands when we feel sad, or silly, or mad. Jesus knows what it is like to be sick or hurt or hungry. He knows all about us! And he loves us!”

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Dear Jesus, you love us so much! And you are with us when we _____.”

(Encourage your child to think of different

experiences and emotions to finish the prayer (example: “when we are happy,” “when we play”) Take two or three turns completing the sentence.)

“Thank you, Jesus, for your love. Please bless us today as we learn about you. Teach us to be loving too. Amen.”

Discovering

Jesus and the Children. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and the children.

Ask your child, “How can we tell or show Jesus ‘thank you’ for loving us?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Let the Children Come to Me. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils.

Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. “Jesus Loves Me” Hearts. Give your child a heart-shaped cutout. Read the words on the heart to your child. Invite him or her to decorate the heart using markers or crayons.

If there is time, give your child a few moments to reflect. Invite him or her to imagine being one of the children with Jesus.

Ask how it would feel to be with Jesus like the children were. Encourage your child talk about what he or she would say to Jesus.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Paul. Show your child the picture of Saint Paul on the Family Activity page. Then read more about Saint Paul to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ “Did Saint Paul know Jesus when he was on earth?” (No.)

▶ “At first Saint Paul was not Jesus’ follower. What made him come to understand that Jesus had come from God?” (He met Jesus in a vision.)

▶ “What did you like best in the story of Saint Paul?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray the Our Father with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead it not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Saint Paul

Meeting Jesus

Paul lived during the time that Jesus had lived, died, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven, but he did not meet Jesus during that time.

Paul was a smart, well-educated Jewish man. When he believed in something, he believed it strongly and acted on his beliefs. He heard about the people who were followers of Jesus and he watched them. Paul decided they were wrong. He worked very hard to have many of Jesus’ followers arrested! This was called “persecution.”

One day, on his way to arrest more followers, he saw a big flash of light. He fell to the ground. He heard a voice telling him to stop hurting Jesus’ followers.

Paul could not see because of the light, but he

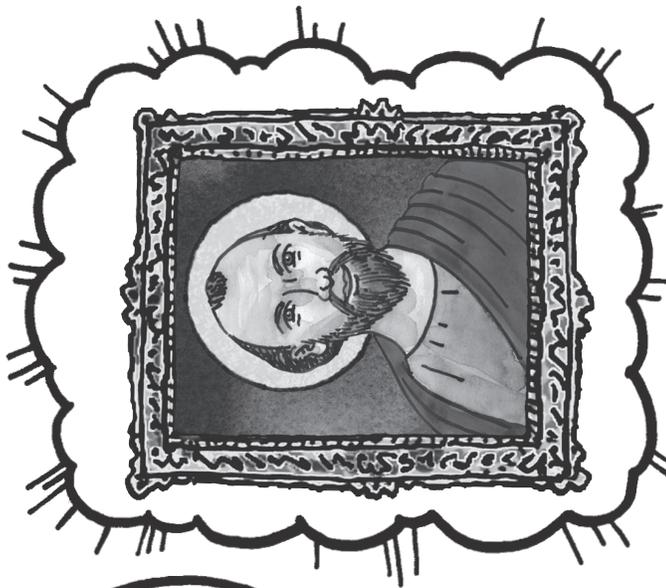
said, “Who are you, sir?”

The voice answered, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

Paul was shocked. He knew Jesus had died. Yet he had heard the voice! This changed Paul. Now he believed that Jesus was not only a good person, but God too!

Of course, Paul now believed strongly in Jesus. And of course, he acted on his new beliefs. Paul traveled the rest of his life, teaching, starting churches, and writing letters to Jesus’ followers. Sometimes he was arrested; sometimes he was hungry. But he was able to encourage many people to love and live as Jesus taught. For this reason, he is called the greatest Christian missionary.

DRAW



**Saint
Paul,
pray for us!**